

82nd Airborne Division

The 82nd Airborne Division is the only Airborne Infantry Division of the United States Army specializing in joint forcible entry operations. The 82nd Airborne Division was constituted in the National Army on August 5th, 1917, and was organized on August 25th, 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the unit acquired the nickname "All American," which is the basis for its famed "AA" shoulder patch.

Mission Statement: On order, the 82nd Airborne Division rapidly deploys within 18 hours of notification, conducts forcible entry parachute assaults and secures key objectives for follow-on military operations in support of U.S. national interests.

Links to Key Imagery:

Photo:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6636082/paratroopers-jump-into-estonia-during-swift-response-21>

Paratroopers with the 82nd Airborne Division jump into Estonia during Exercise Swift Response 21. Swift Response 21 is a joint, multinational Airborne Exercise involving more than 7,000 Paratroopers from 10 NATO nations.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6507132/3rd-bct-paratroopers-jump-into-jrtc>

Paratroopers from 3BCT, 82nd wait to exit a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III over Geronimo Drop Zone at Fort Polk, Louisiana, February 1, 2021.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6414625/paratroopers-3rd-brigade-combat-team-82nd-airborne-division-execute-operation-panther-storm>

Paratroopers assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division conduct a heavy drop and fire mission on Salenro Drop Zone during Exercise Panther Storm II. Panther Storm is an exercise that provides Paratroopers the opportunity to train in joint forcible entry operations and follow-on combat training.

Video:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/829516/falcon-brigade-platoon-live-fires>

Paratroopers assigned to 2-325 AIR White Falcons and 37th Engineer Battalion, conduct platoon live fire exercises.

A platoon live fire exercise is a complex event with maneuver, support-by-fire, indirect and combat engineer assets. To be successful on the battlefield, the commander must know the capabilities of weapons and soldiers. They should use LFXs to train under warlike conditions.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/828891/fire-support-coordination-exercise-fscx>

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, execute a Fire Support Coordination Exercise (FSCX). The focus of the exercise was to train company leaders on the synchronization of movement and maneuver with fires. The exercise replicated a

shaping operation to reduce enemy mechanized forces near the objective. Commanders deployed direct and indirect assets, such as mortars, mounted, artillery, and apache helicopters. This exercise reinforces risk estimate distances with the respective indirect fire weapons to mitigate fratricide. This training makes Falcon Brigade a more lethal force ready to fight against any enemy, at any time, any place.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/821032/team-live-fire>

Paratroopers assigned to A. Co., 2-325th Airborne Infantry Regiment conduct a team live fire exercise. Team live fire training is a step towards more complex maneuvers such as squad attack and platoon attack.

Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue Bio

Major General Donahue was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry Branch in 1992 from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Major General Donahue served as a platoon leader in Korea, Fort Polk, Louisiana and the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. Following promotion to captain, he served as a rifle company commander in 5th Battalion, 87th Infantry in Camp Kobbe, Panama.

He then served as an assistant operations officer, rifle and headquarters company commander in 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Major General Donahue subsequently moved to Washington, D.C. and served as Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Following his time at the Pentagon, he served as assistant operations officer, squadron operations officer, squadron executive officer, troop commander, selection and training detachment commander, operations officer, squadron commander, and deputy brigade commander (support) within US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



After attending Harvard University as a US Army War College Fellow, he returned to Fort Bragg and commanded a brigade within USASOC. He was then assigned as the Director of Operations for the US Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). He then served as the deputy commanding general (maneuver) of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO where he deployed in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. Major General Donahue then served as the Infantry School Commandant and Director of the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team at Fort Benning, GA.

He then served as the Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counter-Terrorism, J-3, for the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. He most recently served as the Commander, Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. He has deployed 17 times in support of operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, North Africa, and Eastern Europe. His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Naval War College, and the US Army War College Fellowship at Harvard University.

Command Sgt. Maj. David Pitt Bio

Command Sergeant Major David R. Pitt assumed the position of senior-enlisted advisor of the 82nd Airborne Division July 10, 2020. CSM Pitt is a native of the Bronx New York. He enlisted in the Army October 1992 and attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at FT. Benning, GA. His first assignment was A Co 2/505 PIR where he served as a rifleman. His other assignments include Scout assistant team leader; XVIII Airborne Corps Commander Driver; Drill Sergeant D CO 2/60th Infantry Battalion FT. Jackson, SC; Long Range Surveillance Team Leader E Co 102 MI BDE 2ID Camp Hovey, Korea; Rifle Platoon Sergeant B Co 2/505 PIR; Anti-Armor Platoon Sergeant D CO. 2/505 PIR; Scout Platoon Sergeant HHC 1/505 PIR; First Sergeant A CO 1/505 PIR; HHC Special Troops Battalion 3BCT; Senior Military Instructor at Florida A&M University; Command Sergeant Major 1-335 Infantry Camp Atterbury Indiana; Command Sergeant Major Garrison FT. Polk Louisiana; Talent Manager 11/19Z HRC FT. Knox Kentucky; Sergeants Major DAMO-TR G-3/5/7 HQDA Pentagon.



CSM Pitt is a graduate of all levels of the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education System, Nominative Leaders Course, Sergeants Major Course class #62, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Drill Sergeant School, Ranger School, Long Range Reconnaissance Course, Air Assault School, Garrison Leaders Course, Airborne School, Jump Master Course. CSM Pitt earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Excelsior College.

CSM Pitt's awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (3 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (7 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (9 AWD), National Defense Service Medal (2nd AWD), Iraq Campaign Medal (4 CS), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 5), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (Numeral 3), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Award, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, British Parachutist Badge, Order of St Maurice (Bronze Award) and is member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.



82nd Airborne Division Task Organization



(19,000)



HHBN
HSC
SISCO
BAND

1st BCT



1-504th PIR
2-504th PIR
2-501st PIR
3-37rd CAV
3-319th AFAR
127th BEB
307th BSB
HHC, 1BCT

2nd BCT



1-325th AIR
2-325th AIR
2-508th PIR
1-73rd CAV
2-319th AFAR
37th BEB
407th BSB
HHC, 2BCT

3rd BCT



1-505th PIR
2-505th PIR
1-508th PIR
5-73rd CAV
1-319th AFAR
307th BEB
82nd BSB
HHC, 3BCT

82nd CAB



1-17th CAV
1-82nd AV
2-82nd AV
3-82nd AV
122nd ASB
HHC, CAB

82nd DIVARTY



1-319th AFAR
2-319th AFAR
3-319th AFAR
HHB

82nd SBDE



189th CSSB
264th CSSB
82 STB

History of the 82nd Airborne Division

America's Guard of Honor:



Task Force 2-504 at Camp Taji, Iraq, in January of 2020, after the Division's first no notice IRF activation since Operation Just Cause 30 years earlier.

The 82nd Airborne Division has had a storied 80 year lineage of one of the United States' only Airborne Divisions capable of deploying anywhere in the world within 18 hours or less. Today it remains the only Division in our Army capable of doing so, maintaining the Immediate Response Force (IRF) capability that has recently been employed around the world in support of combat operations, response to natural disasters, Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) and Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA). Since the winter of 2020, the IRF has been activated three times in support of multiple mission sets. In January of 2020, 2-504 PIR, the Immediate Response Battalion (IRB1) deployed no notice to two locations in Iraq in response to an attack on the United States Embassy in Baghdad. The IRF1, the entirety of the 1st Brigade Combat Team (1BCT) followed within the coming days, occupying critical locations across the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). Following the Devil Brigade's return from Iraq and the CENTCOM AOR, Task Force 2-504 was again deployed to Washington D.C. on June 1, 2020 in response to civil unrest within the National Capital Region (NCR). The Immediate Response Company, Charlie Company, 2-504 PIR, departed within 8 hours of notification, followed swiftly by the rest of the IRB1 and elements of the Brigade Headquarters. The IRF role of our Division was tested on August 12, 2021 when the 1st Brigade Combat Team, the "Devils in Baggy Pants," along with the Division Headquarters and enablers from across Fort Bragg and the XVIII Airborne Corps were alerted to support Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) in Kabul, Afghanistan. Simultaneously 2nd BCT, the Falcon Brigade, fulfilled the critical role of the Outload Support Element and the 3rd BCT, the Panther Brigade, rapidly assumed the IRF1 and prepared to follow the Devil Brigade if called upon. During Operation Allies Refuge, the IRF and forces from across the Department of Defense enabled the evacuation of over 100,000 personnel from the Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in under 15 days.



MG Christopher T. Donahue, Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, loads the last C-17 out of HKIA on 30 August 2021.

History of the 82nd Airborne Division

The Origins of the Division:

Although the 82nd Airborne Division is well known for its World War II and recent IRF deployment history, it also has a proud World War I heritage that began the proud history and storied tradition of the Division. The 82nd Infantry Division was formed August 25, 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Since members of the Division came from all 48 states, the unit was given the nickname "All-Americans," hence its famed "AA" shoulder patch.

In the spring of 1918, the Division deployed to France. During nearly five months of combat the 82nd fought in three major campaigns and helped break the fighting spirit of the German Imperial Army. The 82nd was demobilized after World War I. For more than 20 years the "All-American Division" would live only in the memories of men who served in its ranks during the Great War.

At the onset of World War II, the 82nd Infantry Division was reactivated on March 25, 1942 at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana under the command of Major General Omar N. Bradley. On August 15, 1942, the 82nd Infantry Division became the first airborne division in the U.S. Army redesignating as the 82nd Airborne Division.

In April 1943, 82nd Airborne Division Paratroopers set sail for North Africa under the command of Major General Matthew B. Ridgway to participate in the campaigns Sicily and Naples. With the Division's first two combat operations were parachute assaults into Sicily and Salerno, Italy on July 9 and September 13, 1943.

In January 1944, the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which was temporarily detached from the Division to fight at Anzio, earned the nickname "Devils in Baggy Pants." The nickname was taken from an entry made in a German officer's diary.

While the 504th was detached, the remainder of the 82nd was pulled out of Italy in November 1943 and moved to the United Kingdom to prepare for the liberation of Europe.

With two combat jumps under its belt, the 82nd Airborne Division was now ready for the most ambitious airborne operation of the war, Operation Neptune, the airborne invasion of Normandy. The operation was part of Operation Overlord, the amphibious assault on the northern coast of Nazi-occupied France.

In preparation for the operation, the division was reorganized. Two new parachute infantry regiments, the 507th and the 508th, joined the division. Due to its depleted state following the fighting in Italy; the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment did not take part in the invasion.

On June 5-6, 1944, the paratroopers of the 82nd's three parachute infantry regiments and reinforced glider infantry regiment boarded hundreds of transport planes and gliders and, began the largest airborne assault in history. They were among the first soldiers to fight in Normandy, France.

By the time the All-American Division was pulled back to England, it had seen 33 days of bloody combat and suffered 5,245 paratroopers killed, wounded or missing. The Division's post battle report read, "...33 days of action without relief, without replacements. Every mission accomplished. No ground gained was ever relinquished."

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Following the Normandy invasion, the 82nd became part of the newly organized XVIII Airborne Corps, which consisted of the 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions.

In September, the 82nd began planning for Operation Market-Garden in Holland. The operation called for three-plus airborne divisions to seize and hold key bridges and roads deep behind German lines. The 504th now back at full strength rejoined the 82nd, while the 507th went to the 17th Airborne Division.

On September 17, the 82nd Airborne Division conducted its fourth combat jump of World War II into Holland. Fighting off ferocious German counterattacks, the 82nd captured its objectives between Grave and Nijmegen. The gateway to Germany would not open in September 1944, and the 82nd was ordered back to France.

On December 16, 1944, the Germans launched a surprise offensive through the Ardennes Forest which caught the Allies completely by surprise. Two days later the 82nd joined the fighting and blunted General Von Runstedt's northern penetration in the American lines.

Following the surrender of Germany, the 82nd was ordered to Berlin for occupation duty. In Berlin General George Patton was so impressed with the Division's honor guard he said, "In all my years in the Army and all the honor guards I have ever seen, the 82nd's honor guard is undoubtedly the best." Hence the "All-Americans" became known as "America's Guard of Honor."

The 82nd returned to the U. S. January 3, 1946. Instead of being demobilized, the Division made its permanent home at Fort Bragg, N.C., and was designated a regular Army division on November 15, 1948. Life in the 82nd during the 1950s and 1960s consisted of intensive training exercises around the world. In April 1965, the "All-Americans" were alerted for action in response to the civil war raging in the Dominican Republic. Led by the 3rd Brigade, the 82nd deployed to the Caribbean in Operation Power Pack. Peace and stability was restored by June 17, when the rebel guns were silenced.

Three years later, the 82nd Airborne Division was again called to action. During the Tet Offensive, which swept across the Republic of Vietnam in January 1968, the 3rd Brigade was alerted within 24 hours, the brigade was enroute to Chu Lai. The 3rd Brigade performed combat



PFC Vernon Haught, Fox Company, 325th GIR, on the frontlines of Bastogne uttered a now storied statement to a 7th Armored Division Soldier on 23 December 1944.

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duties in the Hue-Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector. Later the brigade was moved south to Saigon, and fought battles in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border. After serving nearly 22 months in Vietnam, the 3rd Brigade troopers returned to Fort Bragg on December 12, 1969.

During the 1970s, Division units deployed to the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Greece for exercises in potential future battlegrounds.

The Division was alerted three times. War in the Middle East in the fall of 1973, then in May 1978, the Division was alerted for a possible drop into Zaire, again in November 1979, for a possible operation to rescue the American hostages in Iran.

On October 25, 1983 elements of the 82nd were called back to the Caribbean to the tiny island of Grenada. The first 82nd unit to deploy in Operation Urgent Fury was a task force of the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

On October 26 and 27, the 1st Battalion, 505th Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry, with support units deployed to Grenada. Military operations in Grenada ended in early November.

Operation Urgent Fury tested the Division's ability to deploy as a rapid deployment force. The first aircraft carrying division troopers touched down at Point Salinas 17 hours after notification.

In March 1988, a brigade task force made up of two battalions from the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment conducted a parachute insertion and airland operation into Honduras as part of Operation Golden Pheasant. The deployment was billed a joint training exercise, but the paratroopers were ready to fight. The deployment of armed and willing paratroopers to the Honduran countryside caused the Sandinistas to withdraw back to Nicaragua. Operation Golden Pheasant prepared the paratroopers for future combat in the increasingly unstable world.



The 3rd Brigade elements outside of Hue, Vietnam, located at their Headquarters named after fallen Paratrooper Joe Rodriguez in March of 1968.

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On December 20, 1989, the "All-Americans," as part of Operation Just Cause, conducted their first combat jump since World War II onto Torrijos International Airport, Panama. The paratroopers' goal was to oust a ruthless dictator and restore the duly-elected government to power in Panama. The 1st Brigade Task Force made up of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, parachuted into combat for the first time since World War II. In Panama, the paratroopers were joined on the ground by 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment which was already in Panama. After the night combat jump and seizure of the airport, the 82nd conducted follow-on combat air assault missions in Panama City and the surrounding areas.



A deployed Paratrooper reads how four of Manuel Noriega's aides are arrested after combat operations began in Panama.

The victorious paratroopers returned to Fort Bragg on January 12, 1990.

Seven months later the paratroopers were again called to war. Six days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, the 82nd became the vanguard of the largest deployment of American troops since Vietnam in Operation Desert Shield.

The first unit to deploy to Saudi Arabia was a task force comprising the Division's 2nd Brigade. Soon after, the rest of the Division followed. There, intensive training began in anticipation of fighting in the desert with the heavily armored Iraqi Army. The adage, or battle cry picked up by the paratroopers was, "The road home...is through Baghdad."

On January 16, 1991, Operation Desert Storm began when an armada of Allied war planes pounded Iraqi targets. The ground war began almost six weeks later. On February 23, the vehicle-mounted 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers protected the XVIII Airborne Corps flank as fast-moving armor and mechanized units moved deep inside Iraq. A 2nd Brigade task force was attached to the 6th French Light Armored Division becoming the far left flank of the Corps.

In the short 100-hour ground war, the vehicle-mounted 82nd drove deep into Iraq and captured thousands of Iraqi soldiers and tons of equipment, weapons and ammunition.

After the liberation of Kuwait, the 82nd began its redeployment back to Fort Bragg with most of the Division returning by the end of April.

Following the Division's return and subsequent victory parades, the troopers began to re-establish some of the systems that had become dormant during their eight months in the desert. Top of the list was the regaining of individual and unit airborne proficiency and the continuation of tough and realistic training.

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In August 1992, the Division was alerted to deploy a task force to the hurricane-ravaged area of South Florida and provide humanitarian assistance following Hurricane Andrew. For more than 30 days, Division troopers provided food, shelter and medical attention to a grateful Florida population, instilling a sense of hope and renewed confidence in the military.

On the 50th anniversary of the Operation Market-Garden, the 82nd again answered the nation's call and prepared to conduct a parachute assault in the Caribbean nation of Haiti to help restore democracy. With the troopers aboard aircraft heading towards the island, the defacto regime capitulated, and the Division was turned back to Fort Bragg.

The 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers were among the first ground troops sent into the war-torn Kosovo region of the Balkans in the summer of 1999, when the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment moved in from neighboring Macedonia. They were followed shortly by the 3d Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, who themselves were followed by the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment in January 2001 as part of regular peacekeeping operation rotations.

When America was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, President George W. Bush called upon the U.S. military to fight global terrorism. Division Paratroopers deployed to Afghanistan and the Central Command Area of Responsibility to support combat operations.

In June 2002 the 82nd Airborne's Task Force Panther, comprised of elements from the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and other 82nd units, deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Task Force Devil, comprised of the 504th PIR and other 82nd elements, replaced Task Force Panther in January 2003.

In February of 2003, 2nd Brigade, deployed along with the Division Headquarters to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Division conducted sustained combat operations throughout Iraq and the Central Command area of operations. In May 2003 the Division Headquarters returned to Fort Bragg. The 2BCT remained in Iraq attached to the 1st Armored Division and continued to conduct combat operations. The Division Headquarters along with 3 BCT and elements of the Division Artillery, Division Support Command, Aviation, and separate battalions returned to Iraq in August of 2003 to continue command and control over combat operations in and around Baghdad. In January 2004 the 1st BCT deployed to conduct combat operations in OIF. 2BCT redeployed to Fort Bragg, N.C., in February. The Division Headquarters was relieved by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Division in March of 2004 and the remaining 82nd forces in Iraq redeployed to Fort Bragg, NC by the end of April 2004. For the first time in two years all of the Division's units were returned to home station.

In September 2004, the 82nd's Deployment Ready Force -1, 1-505 deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 6 supporting Joint Task Force -76 and the Afghanistan elections. The battalion redeployed in October 2004 to Fort Bragg.



A Paratrooper prepares for a patrol in the CENTCOM AOR in 2003.

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In December 2004, the 82nd's 1-17th CAV, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 325th, deployed to Iraq to provide a safe and secure environment for the country's first-ever free national elections. Thanks in part to the efforts of 2nd Brigade Paratroopers, more than eight million Iraqis were able to cast their first meaningful ballots. They started their redeployment to Fort Bragg in March 2005.

In July of 2005, the 82nd's Task Force 1-325 and support elements deployed to Afghanistan in support of the Afghanistan national elections. They started their redeployment to Fort Bragg in November of 2005.

In September 2005, the 82nd Task Force 2-325 and task Force 3-504 deployed to Iraq in support of the Iraqi national elections. The units redeployed in December 2005 and January 2006 respectively.

More than 3,600 Paratroopers from the 82nd, conducted a no-notice deployment in support of Joint Task Force Katrina for Operation All American Assist on September 3, 2005. While supporting relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the Task Force led daily search-and-rescue operations in high-water areas, resulting in more than 900 people and countless pets rescued. Additionally, they evacuated almost 5,000 residents from throughout New Orleans and the surrounding area.

In October 2005, the 1-504 deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They redeployed in February 2006

In June 2006, the Division was reorganized into a modular division structure. The Division's major subordinate units now include the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade and Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion.

In January 2007, 2BCT deployed to OIF as the lead brigade of General Petraeus's Surge Strategy to reclaim Baghdad from insurgents. 1BCT deployed to Iraq to provide theater security throughout the country.

The Division Headquarters and Division Special Troops Battalion (Task Force Gladius) and other Division elements deployed to Afghanistan in early 2007 for a 15-month assignment as Combined Joint Task Force 82 and the U.S. troop contribution to NATO's International Security Assistance Force. During Operation Enduring Freedom VIII, CJTF-82, commanded by Major General David M. Rodriguez, served as the National Command Element for over 27,000 U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians in Afghanistan.

In late 2008, the Division stood up its sixth brigade, 18th Fires Brigade, a field artillery unit.

In 2009, 2BCT assumed the role as the ground component of the Global Response Force for the Department of Defense.

Also in 2009, 3BCT deployed to Iraq on a 15-month rotation. The 82nd Airborne Division received orders from Forces Command on March 2, 2009, to prepare for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They departed in May 2009 for Regional Command – East, Afghanistan, and accepted the transition of authority from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) on June 3, 2009. The 82nd's 4BCT, along with 700 additional training and support personnel, arrived in country, August 2009, and took up positions in RC – West and South. CJTF-82's

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mission was to support the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in rebuilding the region's security forces, and social institutions, including governance, economics, and infrastructure, while neutralizing an insurgency hindering regional stability. This would prove to be no easy task, as RC-East's operational area was 124,675 square kilometers that included 14 provinces, and 570 miles of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

1BCT deployed in 2009 to the Al Anbar Province in Iraq to serve as the Army's first fully-functional Advise and Assist Brigade.

In January 2010, 2BCT and executed a no-notice deployment to Haiti as America's Global Response Force. The 2BCT conducted a humanitarian relief mission, providing food, water, medical aid and supplies to the Haitian people, following the earthquake that devastated the island nation. Elements of the Division had boots on the ground in less than 12 hours.

In May 2011, 2BCT deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. It was the last brigade combat team to pull out of Iraq, they successfully relinquished responsibility of the Anbar Province to the Iraqi government and then they returned home to Fort Bragg, N.C., December 2011.

Called to Afghanistan in March 2012, 1BCT took the leading role in what is described as the last major clearing operation of the war in the eastern province of Ghazni. Along the main thoroughfare between Kabul and Kandahar, they drastically reduced the incidence of roadside bombs within their southern Ghazni area of operation and disrupted the flow of arms and enemy-combatants through insurgent safe zones that bordered the highway corridor. During the six-month deployment, conducted nearly 3,500 patrols, killed or captured 400 enemy combatants, found nearly 200 roadside bombs and weapons caches, and engaged the enemy over 170 times.

In February 2012, 4BCT deployed to Afghanistan for a third time to Kandahar Province, the birthplace of the Taliban, to combat the core of Afghan insurgency and aid Afghan Security Forces to gain a stronghold in the territory as part of Operation Righteous Endeavor.

In September 2012, 4BCT redeployed to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Division Headquarters returned from their year-long deployment to Afghanistan in October 2012. They served as the RC South headquarters with nearly 10,000 Paratroopers throughout Afghanistan, from Kandahar in the south all the way to Afghanistan's eastern border.

When history looks back on Afghanistan in 2012 there will be one undeniable fact - the All American Paratrooper was once again on the ground, working "shoulder to shoulder" with those in need.

In December 2013 4BCT deployed elements of 2-508 to Afghanistan to train Afghan security forces. One month later, in January 2014, the brigade deployed 1-508 to conduct base and convoy security in Afghanistan.

These deployments marked the last for 4BCT, which inactivated May 14, 2014. Paratroopers from 1-508 PIR realigned to become part of 3BCT. 2BCT assumed command of 2-508 PIR.

In September 2014, the 82nd CAB once again deployed to Afghanistan providing crucial air medevac support, air assault capabilities and overhead reconnaissance with air weapons teams to coalition ground forces throughout the country.

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In December 2014, 3BCT's 1-505 PIR deployed to Iraq to provide security to U.S. personnel and a fixed site with American interests. One month later, 1,000 additional paratroopers from the brigade deployed to advise and assist Iraqi forces with the planning and execution of the counter offensive against the Islamic State.

In spring 2015, the Division headquarters received notice that it would deploy to Iraq to replace 1st Infantry Division as the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command – Iraq. The Division staff commanded by Major General Richard Clarke deployed in June to support Operation Inherent Resolve.

82 CAB redeployed from Afghanistan in May 2015. A few months later in September, 3BCT returned to Fort Bragg.

A small group from the 82nd Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade's 18th Human Resources Company deployed to Afghanistan in March 2016, tasked with operating several Army post offices and conducting mail delivery operations across the country.

The CAB's 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment deployed to South Korea in June 2016, partnering with allies there and serving as part of a deterrent against North Korea's aggression on the peninsula. The squadron was the Army's last OH-58D Kiowa Warrior squadron. The unit also was the last to fly the helicopters in Afghanistan and the last to fly en masse in the U.S.

On 27 November of 2016, a contingent of 2BCT was deployed to Iraq to help counter the ISIS offensive on the city of Mosul. This was later supplemented by another deployment in March of 2017 to supplement the Brigade's Advise and Assist role in theater.

1BCT deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel from June of 2017 to March of 2018. The Brigade deployed mainly to various RCs across Afghanistan, but also had elements that supported operations in Kosovo and other outstations in Eastern Europe.

3BCT conducted the 82nd Airborne Division's last planned deployment to Afghanistan, serving from July 2019 to February 2020 across multiple Regional Commands in country. During their operations forward, the order was given to begin retrograde operations in Afghanistan. Paratroopers from across the Brigade led some of the initial pushes to begin consolidating U.S. assets at Bagram Airbase as other bases began to be transitioned to Afghan Security Forces.

2BCT also deployed to the CENTCOM AOR in 2021, from October 2020 to February 2021. The nine month deployment supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the name given to the international coalition to keep ISIS defeated, spanned from Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and Jordan.

2021 has been a busy year for the 82nd Airborne Division and its more than 19,000 Paratroopers, Soldiers and their families. The Division participated in numerous combined arms training events, to include multiple joint forcible entry operations from Defender 2021 in Europe, to conducting airborne operations with our Colombian counterparts. The Division maintained a high level of readiness across our formations through rigorous and realistic training events from the ranges of Fort Bragg, to the training areas of the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC). From the "20-Minute Stress Shoots," to multiple live fire exercises at every echelon, our Paratroopers highlighted just how capable our formations are. Our Paratroopers excelled at perfecting the art and science of maneuver, integrating and echeloning lethal and non-lethal

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assets, and showcasing that every Paratrooper has a vital role regardless of Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) once the green light turns on. The concept of the Little Group of Paratroopers (LGOP) remains alive and well, maintaining the proud 104 years of our history and storied traditions that define who we are. Our Paratroopers “lived the legacy” every day and maintained a high state of readiness during uncertain times. Our Paratroopers continually showcased that our Division could jump, fight and win against any threat. As highlighted from our proud history and storied traditions, the 82nd Airborne Division continues to maintain its high state of readiness as “America’s Guard of Honor,” and stands ready to be anywhere in the world within 18 hours or less.