1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment assigned to experiment with ITN are from the toughest battlefields conditions. The paratroopers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, participate in an exercise at Delta Ana Range, N.M., Oct. 25. Beyerlin is an Infantry Soldier whose twin brother also is an Infantry Soldier. Beyerlin is considered a mounted Infantry Soldier who operates the Bradley and his brother is a dismounted Infantry Soldier who would perform missions such as room clearing.

The paratroopers from 3rd BCT, 82nd ABN division are participating in a series of exercises that approximate real combat against a future conflict. The paratroopers are putting American Soldiers an edge over adversaries in November. NIE 18.2 has brought more than 2,600 paratroopers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division to Fort Bliss for operations. This initiative, called the Integrated Tactical Network, is a feature at Network Integration Evaluation 18.2, which has been ongoing for the past three weeks and will continue until the second week in the Fort Bliss training area for the past three weeks and will continue until the second week in November. NIE 18.2 has brought more than 2,600 paratroopers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division to Fort Bliss to test new technologies designed to give American Soldiers an edge over adversaries in future conflicts. The paratroopers are putting the equipment to the test during training exercises that approximate real combat against a near-peer adversary.

The paratroopers from 3rd BCT, 82nd ABN were assigned to experiment with ITN are from the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, serving as opposing forces, ready a tethered drone for launch at Fort Bliss Oct. 30. The drone is a feature of the Integrated Tactical Network that extends the range of the system’s radios.

Army puts the digital revolution in the hands of Soldiers

By Maj. Rich Marsh

U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command

Since the first iPhone debuted in 2007, people around the world have communicated with one another through voice, text, picture and video using no more than the tap of a finger. Despite the information advantage such intuitive access to information would provide tactical units on the battlefield, network design restrictions have hindered the Army’s efforts to provide it. But since 2017, the Army has made rapid progress with a new initiative to bring the on-demand information enjoyed by smartphone users to American Soldiers in the toughest battlefields conditions.

This initiative, called the Integrated Tactical Network, is a feature at Network Integration Evaluation 18.2, which has been ongoing in the Fort Bliss training area for the past three weeks and will continue until the second week in November. NIE 18.2 has brought more than 2,600 paratroopers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division to Fort Bliss to test new technologies designed to give American Soldiers an edge over adversaries in future conflicts. The paratroopers are putting the equipment to the test during training exercises that approximate real combat against a near-peer adversary.

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“Red Devil” paratroopers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, serving as opposing forces, ready a tethered drone for launch at Fort Bliss Oct. 30. The drone is a feature of the Integrated Tactical Network that extends the range of the system’s radios.

Control, Communications –Tactical (PEO C2T) and Network Cross-Functional Team (Network CFT) to refine the ITN concept and

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make its capabilities perform the way their fellow Soldiers need them to on the battlefield.

In 2017 the stage was set for the Red Devils to take the lead on ITN when the Army concluded that the current system for connecting Soldiers via a digital network, known as Net Warrior, was not useful at the company level. “Nobody was using the Net Warrior device,” said Maj. Andrew Miller, a Red Devil who later served as the Program Manager for ITN since 2017. The linear network on which the device was designed was vulnerable to failure when a single critical component went down. Furthermore, it was classified, which closed it off to all but the most restricted sources of information. This limited its utility for Soldiers.

Unlike the average smartphone user, the Army does not get to make use of an existing network of cell phone towers. It has to create its own communications network designed with innovations that let it function in an environment where adversaries would be able to intercept communications and interfere with its digital satellite connections. It would also need a network that could resist the abilities of near-peer adversaries to live electronic attack. For the past week, the Red Devils have employed ITN while participating in a battalion-sized airborne operation at Fort A.P. Hill in April of this year. In July, the Red Devils exercised ITN once again, this time in Europe, where, following an airborne insertion, they were able for the first time to integrate their data with that of units from three separate brigades and present it all continuously on a single digital map.

Now at NIE 18.2, the Red Devils are testing ITN against its most difficult challenge: electronic and cyber warfare. Fort Bliss, by virtue of its vast size and years of investment by the Army, is unique in its ability to subject communications systems like ITN to live electronic attack. For the past week, the Red Devils have employed ITN while under powerful electronic jammers and other devices on Fort Bliss. In doing so, they have developed new techniques for using the system and have provided important insights for the ITN team.

Following NIE 18.2, the plan will not slow down for the ITN team. They will integrate lessons learned from NIE 18.2 in preparation for the next iteration of NIE experiments. The Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. James McConville, directed the Army to conduct an experiment with an entire airborne brigade combat team in the summer of next year, followed by experiments with armored and Stryker brigades in 2020. Along the way, the Army will continue to refine the system to account for new problems that emerge as it scales up to a higher echelon. In this way, the Army will make sure ITN truly brings digital, expeditionary, and resilient communications to Soldiers at the tip of the spear before it fields the system en masse.

ITN realizes the next direction Secretary of the Army Mark Esper has charted for the Army’s modernization effort. “ITN embodies the new direction SecArmy is taking to a reimagining of the Army’s communication domain,” Gallivan said. “This is all about building readiness. It is all about enabling the success of each other.”

The Red Devils paratroopers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, are guiding the ITN team as they work to integrate lessons learned from NIE 18.2 into the broader Army modernization effort.

GALLIVAN

Fort Bliss has new animal control contract

By Adrian Troyo
Directorate of Public Works

The Fort Bliss Directorate of Public Works would like to inform all residents about a new animal control service for Fort Bliss. The animal control contract was awarded to Tigua Animal Control Group, and the contractor began taking calls Nov. 1 to perform service to the installation. The contract is only for domestic animals such as dogs and cats that are found on Fort Bliss, but does not cover the housing residential areas.

For service please call Tigua Animal Control at 525-6513 (24 hours a day and seven days a week). If contractor was not able to answer, leave a detailed message that includes the exact location where the animal was last seen and the contractor will respond according to the required response times during normal hours or after hours.

The contractor will operate from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday and arrive within one hour after notification. For after working hours, 6 p.m. to 11 a.m. Monday to Sunday, the contractor will arrive within two hours after notification.

If the contractor is unable to contact the owner by phone, the contractor will transport the animal to the City of El Paso Animal Services Shelter, 5001 Fred Wilson Ave., during the shelter operating hours of 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Sunday. For animals with no microchip, the contractor will transport the animal to the city shelter on the same day or keep the animal overnight if the city shelter was already closed.

For any questions regarding this service contract, contact Fort Bliss Tigua Animal Control at 525-5897.

For all other calls involving non-domesticated animals or dead animals found on Fort Bliss, please call the 911 emergency number. The 1st Armored Division/1st Armored Corps Directorate of Emergency Services dispatches at 911 or 744-2115 regarding all dangerous animals found on Fort Bliss.

Other important numbers include: the animal control contracting officer’s representative at 568-4676; PRIDE at 642-5477; Ballfoot Beary Community at 564-0459; and the City of El Paso Animal Shelter at 512-PAWS (7297).
Faithful Patriot
1st AD Sust. Bde. heads to the border

Unit Briefs

National Cemetery to honor vets, families: To celebrate Veterans and Military Families Month, Fort Bliss National Cemetery will hold the following community events honoring veterans and their families throughout November: Set up an avenue of flags at Fort Bliss National Cemetery at 6:30 a.m. Friday and at 8 a.m. there will be a wreath-laying ceremony in honor of Veterans Day. At 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, help remove the flags. Outreach teams from the cemetery will also visit the Vet Center in El Paso Wednesday, as well as Nov. 16 and 19-21. 564-0201

Legal office closures: The Fort Bliss Legal Assistance and Claims Offices, located on the first floor of Bldg. 113 on Pershing Road, will close 1-4:20 p.m. Nov. 16 for a unit function. It will also be closed Friday and Monday, and Nov. 22-23 for holiday observances.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: At 5 p.m. Dec. 7 at Center Chapel One, join the Office of the Installation Chaplain and unit ministry teams from across our post for pictures with Santa, refreshments, cookies, a 1st AD band performance, music from Bliss Elementary School and more.

By David Burge
Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

A Patriot launcher, radar unit and other equipment rumble through the desert. A handful of German soldiers quickly dismount. They set up their Patriot equipment and start scanning the sky for threats in the Fort Bliss training area.

It is all part of a training exercise done at the German Air Force Air Defense Center.

“With our training, we are laying the foundation for the units in Germany — to prepare them for their missions they have to do,” said Lt. Col. Ingo Scharschmidt, the commander of the GAFADC.

The German Air Force at Fort Bliss has been downsizing in recent years, but continues to conduct an important training mission — at least for a few more years.

First Lt. Deniz Wintermeyer is one of eight German officers who are going through the Germans’ officers course at Fort Bliss.

“They have since moved on to Fort Bliss, where they will do 4½ months of additional training and advanced coursework. That includes plenty of time out on the vast Fort Bliss training area, setting up and operating the Patriot.”

Wintermeyer said Fort Bliss has several big advantages that make it a great place to train.

“The wide-open training area allows you virtually all aspects of the Patriot, including turning on its radar system, he said. “When you radiate, you have to have a big area,” he said. “You have this big desert, no hazards, no people disturbing your training.”

Master Sgt. Juergen Ladich has been stationed at Fort Bliss many times during his career and is currently a trainer at the GAFADC.

He said that the wide-open training area provides a world of possibilities.

“Fort Bliss is unbelievable,” he said. “It opens up all the possibilities and you can use (the Patriot) system to its best.”

At the GAFADC, anywhere from 350 to 400 German officers and noncommissioned officers come to Fort Bliss each year and train on the Patriot air defense system. The Germans also offer their soldiers a series of advanced courses in integrated missile defense.

The Germans have about 90 soldiers and 20 civilian employees at Fort Bliss, manning the center.

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German officers practice setting up and using the Patriot air defense system in a Fort Bliss training area Oct. 16.
WBAMC prayer breakfast boosts ‘holistic’ readiness

By Marcy Sanchez
WBAMC Public Affairs

The Army’s number one priority is readiness, with readiness being based on four pillars of manning, training, equipping and leader development.

While some aspects of readiness are more easily measurable, such as equipment, intangible components include medical, emotional and spiritual readiness to prepare and posture Soldiers to fight and win the nation’s wars.

In keeping with the Army’s priorities, William Beaumont Army Medical Center’s Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care hosted a prayer breakfast at the WBAMC Dining Facility Oct. 24.

The breakfast welcomed all WBAMC staff members, patients and visitors in discussing the importance of pastoral care in the Army and more explicitly, in the medical community.

“We want Soldiers to be holistically well. We take care of medical readiness and we take care of the spiritual (component) as well,” said Capt. Cynthia Turner, chaplain clinician, Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care, WBAMC. “(The prayer breakfast) is to keep the staff spiritually fit to keep them in the fight. If you are balanced and in a good spot (spiritually), you render good care.”

Approximately 50 staff members joined Brzezinski and members of WBAMC’s Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care, while feasting on breakfast items from WBAMC’s St. Martin Dining Facility. Brzezinski was preceded by representatives from the El Paso VA Healthcare System, which works closely with WBAMC medical operations, and 1st Armored Division Soldiers from Fort Bliss.

“We’re affected with what’s going on around us so bringing awareness to our leadership (is also the focus of the prayer breakfast),” said Turner. “It’s more to help chaplains stand up, and let (leaders) know we’re here. (Chaplains) are not here to convert but to encourage along the way.”

In correlation with Pastor Appreciation Month, which is celebrated in October, Brzezinski’s message related to chaplain appreciation and raising awareness of their roles in clinical settings.

“The best honor a chaplain can receive is to be recognized as a great chaplain, just as Soldiers are honored to be considered good Soldiers,” said Brzezinski. “Not only do (Army Medicine clinical chaplains) have to do the soldiering part, we also have to do the clinical care part for others.”

According to Turner, chaplains in the Army focus on three tenets: honoring the dead, caring for the wounded and nurturing the living. Specialized training provides Army Medicine chaplains the tools necessary for their jobs.

“What (Army Medicine chaplains) do is sit bedside during people’s darkest times,” said Turner. “We do something unique that behavioral health can’t provide and vice versa.”

“A lot of times we get caught up in the world ... We let anxiety get to us, and we may forget there is a plan and everything is going to be OK. We all need a way to reset.”

>> Col. Erik Rude

Col. Erik Rude, commander, WBAMC, speaks during the WBAMC’s Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care prayer breakfast at the WBAMC Dining Facility Oct. 24.
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7413th TMC provides care, prevents harm of Fort Bliss Soldiers

By Sgt. Christopher A. Hernandez
Modulation and Deployment, DPTMS Fort Bliss

McGREGOR RANGE, N.M. – Within the assortment of buildings that have uniform structural design here, a painted red cross prominently signifies the aid station. Maintained by Army Reserve Soldiers of the 7413th Troop Medical Clinic, El Paso, the aid station manages and facilitates medical care and prevention for Soldiers training and rotating through Fort Bliss.

According to Maj. John Bricker, a medical-surgical nurse for the 7413th TMC and officer in charge of the McGregor Range Aid Station, the unit has been working steadily since their activation in the beginning of March here.

“We’ve seen over 2,600 Soldiers since March, for various things such as colds, flu and 224 musculoskeletal injuries,” said Bricker. “For McGregor alone, we’ve also seen 252 cases in the respiratory category, such as asthma and cold-related issues.”

The 7413th TMC, consisting of El Paso Soldiers and out-of-state augmentees, were spread out to multiple sites in Fort Bliss in support of the Mobilization and Deployment Brigade, Directorate of Planning, Training, Mobilization and Security and its mission.

“There are 37 of us right now, but we don’t all work here at the McGregor Range Aid Station,” said Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Ortiz, a licensed vocational nurse for the 7413th TMC and detachment noncommissioned officer in charge for the McGregor Range Aid Station. “Besides here, we have Soldiers working with Fort Bliss dental, in preventative medicine, providing assistance in the Soldier Resiliency and Readiness Center, and working in the Soldier Family Health Clinic.”

In addition to its rudimentary services and provisions, the McGregor Range Aid Station harbors additional capabilities to augment its functions.

“We’ve considered a Role +1 clinic because of the addition of our X-ray machine and lab capabilities,” said Staff Sgt. Luis Flores, a radiology specialist for the 7413th TMC. “I take a lot of radiological exam requests here, and they pertain mainly to upper and lower extremities, as well as chest X-rays.”

Seven months into their own mobilization, Soldiers of the 7413th TMC adapted to their multifaceted operation by regularly cross-training with each other.

“We do a lot of ‘left seat, right seat’ training with each other,” said Flores. “That is, everyone here has an idea what to do even though it’s not their military occupational specialty, and they’re able to jump in to assist. It really streamlines our health and patient care.

“Everyone knows their roles, and everyone steps up when they need to,” Flores said.

The 7413th TMC not only provides medical care, but also prevents diseases and other illnesses with their preventive medicine group. Maj. Jeff Finley, an environmental science and engineering officer for the 7413th TMC, said he and his Soldiers operate in tandem with their active-duty counterparts to maintain scrutiny of the Fort Bliss training ranges.

“At least once a week, we go and collect water samples for that,” said Finley. “I really want to give credit to my team out here, as this is the best unit that I ever had the opportunity to serve with,” said Finley.

“They’re a great group, and I give them kudos for that.”

“We try to keep Soldiers healthy and ensure that their minor issues don’t escalate into major ones that would keep them from being deployed,” said Crespin. “Also, it’s so Soldiers don’t have to drive an hour and a half to main post and back, which can cause them to lose significant training for their deployments. Just having this easy access for them gets them back quicker to their jobs.”

“The 7413th TMC remains steadfast in their mission until their successors, the 7412th TMC, arrive in March 2019 to take their place. “I really want to give credit to my team out here, as this is the best unit that I ever had the opportunity to serve with,” said Finley. “They’re a great group, and I give them kudos for that.”

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>> Lt. Col. Francisco Crespin

Lt. Col. Francisco Crespin, a family medicine physician for the 7413th TMC and the medical director of the McGregor Range Aid Station, the unit’s bevy of functions tie into their main objective—to enhance readiness and reduce detriment of Soldiers in deploying units.

“We try to keep Soldiers healthy and ensure that their minor issues don’t escalate into major ones that would keep them from being deployed,” said Crespin. “Also, it’s so Soldiers don’t have to drive an hour and a half to main post and back, which can cause them to lose significant training for their deployments. Just having this easy access for them gets them back quicker to their jobs.”

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Soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade prepared at Fort Bliss Friday to support Operation Faithful Patriot. The Soldiers will provide logistics support to the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol along the Southwest border.

1: Soldiers from the 153rd Field Feeding Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st AD Sust. Bde., prepare to depart Fort Bliss to the Southwest border in support of Operation Faithful Patriot Friday.

2: Soldiers from the 47th Heavy Composite Truck Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st AD Sust. Bde., and 377th Transportation Company, 142nd CSSB, load equipment and resources.

3: Soldiers prepare to depart Fort Bliss to the Southwest border in support of Operation Faithful Patriot Friday.

4: Soldiers prepare to depart Fort Bliss to the Southwest border in support of Operation Faithful Patriot Friday.

5: Soldiers load equipment and resources as they prepare to depart Friday.

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