THE MANILLA CALLER

"No Time For Glory"

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Soldiers with 3-320 Field Artillery Regiment, 101 Airborne Division sling load an M777A2 Howitzer to a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter from the 1-137 Aviation Battalion, Ohio Army National Guard as part of training support for the 37 InfantryBrigade Combat Team, OHARNG Annual Training August 13, 2015 at Camp Grayling, Michigan.

Story by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Johnson, 37th IBCT

CAMP GRAYLING, Mi.— As part of the Army Total Force Partnership, active duty units are pairing with Army National Guard brigades, including the Columbus, Ohio-based 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, across the country as a means of ensuring the 'one team, one fight' model of strength and cohesion. The ATFP is a training model in which the U.S. Army pairs active duty divisions with Army National Guard Brigades utilizing both units' equipment, soldiers and training grounds. Each year, the U.S. Army selects five of the 28 National Guard brigades to participate in this program.

During an annual training event for the Ohio Army National Guard's only infantry brigade, the 37th IBCT, they were paired with 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. It is a historic pairing, in that during World War II, the two units worked together closely in battle; the 37th was then a division.

Now, as the army moves forward and adjusts to meet its needs, the units are together again. During the 37th IBCT's annual training, the 3rd Infantry Brigade sent two battalions to support the training mission. There were more than 500 soldiers from 2-507th Infantry Battalion, 101st Airborne Division serving as oppositional force, simulating what the enemy's tactics and procedures would be on the battlefield.

"The soldiers in 3rd brigade have requirements they have to meet for training. The 37th IBCTs annual training for 2015 requires oppositional force," said Col. Craig W. Baker, commander of the 37th IBCT. "So, the 101st offered an entire battalion as OPFOR to support our entire operation. They used every opportunity they could to hit their squad and platoon level training requirement targets, but they also provided OPFOR for the entire training operation."

As one infantry battalion acted as the enemy for the 37th, another battalion, the 3-320th Field Artillery Regiment, was there to support fire missions. They brought their heavy weapon systems such as M777A2 and M199A3 Howitzer. Their mission was to suppress the 'enemy,' while the line infantry units moved through their platoon and company training lanes during the 37th IBCTs eXportable Combat Training Capabil-

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COMMANDER'S CORNER:

Family, friends and Soldiers of the 37th IBCT, thank you for everything you did during our 2015 Annual Training. This was one of the greatest Annual Training periods I have been a part of in my 15 years in the Ohio Army National Guard.

For me, it was a steep learning curve that I greatly enjoyed. As I traveled around Camp Grayling to visit our Soldiers training in the field, I saw a lot of hard work and dedication. I could not have asked for more.

We met all of our training objectives and then some. From our logisticians to our infantry Soldiers, the training was outstanding. I have never seen a Brigade Support Area like I saw this year. It was amazing and the support provided for the brigade was unmatched. Our medics provided great health care and support to our entire brigade as well as two active duty battalions from the 101st Airborne Division. Our infantrymen had some of the best training I have seen outside of an active duty training center. Our staff put up an amazing fight during the Warfighter exercise and developed standardized procedures and techniques that will serve us well as we move to our training at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky next July.

Thanks to all of our Families for the support and for allowing us to get some of the best training available around the world.

-Col. Baker

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:

Greetings to all of you, this is Chaplain (Maj.) Otis Thomas sending you today's devotional. I pray that this message will be a blessing in your life. Have a blessed day and be encouraged.

Psalms 20:7

7. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

My Trust is in the Lord

The psalmist David knew what kings and their people usually trusted in: human strength and military power. In today's society, one could say, "Some trust in nuclear weapons and some trust in tanks." It is part of human nature to put our trust in such things—we all desire safety and security. We all desire to have the upper hand in the fight. Can you imagine going to battle on foot vs. the enemy who is equipped with horses and chariots? The enemy would have the ability to move swifter, faster, stronger, and be equipped with more protection. Who wouldn't desire these assets at their disposal?

If we zoom out, this principal can be applied to many facets of life: Some trust in money and our economy. Some trust in their job or career. Some trust in their education. It may appear rational to put your trust in military power and one's capabilities, however David reminds us

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COMMAND SGT MAJOR'S CORNER:

We completed Annual Training 2015 at Camp Grayling, and I was extremely impressed with the professionalism, dedication and commitment this brigade projected.

The soldiers and non-commissioned officer of this brigade were committed to excelling in the execution of War Fighter and eXportable Combat Training Capability or XCTC. These are two of the most realistic training exercises conducted in the United States Army, and they tested the resolve and technical abilities of every soldier and NCO in this brigade. I have the highest level of confidence in this brigade, and know that we far exceeded the desired standards in every battalion.

There is a reason the 37 Infantry Brigade Combat Team is the No. 1 IBCT in the Army National Guard by measured metrics. This No. 1 ranking is a direct result of the character and professionalism of the NCOs and soldiers in this brigade.

—Command Sgt. Maj. Watson

Continued from Chaplain

that the only One we should put our trust in is the Lord. The author of this text conveys that he will remember the name of the Lord our God. "The name of the Lord" conveys the attributes and the character or God. King Solomon said, "the name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it and they are safe." The character and faithfulness of God – was stronger to David and Israel than thousands of chariots or horses.

Consider the following:
David acknowledges how easy it is to forget, and how counterintuitive to human nature it is to trust God instead of human strength and resources. God desires that we put our trust in Him. He desires that we trust Him with every aspect of our lives. I admire the life of Job, because when everything was taken from him (his wealth, his family, his health, his security) he still put his trust in God. If we look within, we will see where our trust lies.

Do you trust God, or is your trust in God contingent upon everything going well? Do you trust God when things go bad? Do you trust God when things go well? Do you trust God more than your military and financial resources? I encourage you to always remember the name of Lord our God. We serve a God who is able to fight our battles.

Prayer
God of all creation, I thank you for a new day of life. You are the God who fights my battles. I ask that you would help me to trust you more. Help me not to rely on my own strengths and abilities, but help me to rely on you. I realize that you are more power than thousands of chariots or horses. In your precious name we pray. Amen.

-Chaplain (Maj.) Otis Thomas

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ity exercise.

"XCTC is an exportable training model, basically for infantry platoons and cavalry platoons to maneuver through platoon sized training lanes, where they attack objectives; defend their posts as part of a model training point. So, it's all at a platoon level and below sized elemental training," said Baker, a Pickerington, Ohio native. "The critical component to this entire partnership is communication. I know that may come across as cliché, but it is critical because we have to work together to ensure our training requirements are met and identify how we can help each other and how can we improve our units and prepare for mobilizations and deployments for whatever missions come up."

During the two weeks the active duty and National Guard units worked together in this partnership, they developed a strong working relationship that will continue to strengthen their forces and their training, tactics and procedures in

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the Army.

"The (101st Airborne) Division's commanding general has stated this partnership is his priority and he will do whatever he has to do to support the 37th and the other National Guard brigades, because he believes in the ATFP," said Baker. "Hopefully with this ATFP, the National Guard can give back to the active duty component and make it worth their time working with us, which I believe it can, it will and it does. They get to come up to Camp Grayling, which is the largest training area east of the Mississippi, with a nice impact area for large artillery.

"Being able to utilize different training areas prove to be great training for all involved, because it's new area and new land that the soldiers have to pull out maps and use their compasses to navigate unfamiliar territory the way they would in a different country when sent down range. The training we are providing one another is next to none and will only strengthen the U.S. Army as a whole," he said.

1-126 Mortars

Story by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Johnson

CAMP GRAYLING, Mi.—The call "FIRE!" rings through the air, soldiers with Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Battery, 1-126th Cavalry Regiment, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Ohio Army National Guard, scramble to direct mortar fire onto the specific target and demolish the "enemy" August 12, 2015 at Camp Grayling, Michigan as part of their annual training exercises.

Using the M933 High Explosive Cartridge, 120mm mortar round, soldiers brushed up on their fire mission skills used in battle at one of the National Guard's largest impact training areas here.

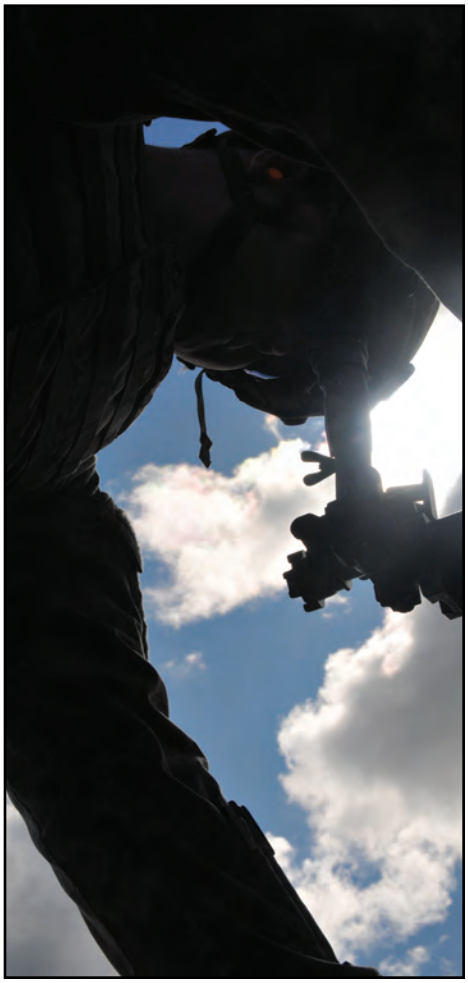
"Our scouts call into our Fire Direction Command and the (indirect fire infantrymen) input the information onto our weapon systems and calibrate them to the target," said Sgt. Bradley Plaska, A. Company, 1-126th Cavalry, and a Levington, Mi. native. "The training that the 1-126th allows for the mortar platoon is critical to our sharpness in skills. The soldiers train nine to ten months out of the year, setting up the mortar systems, calibrating them and practicing dropping rounds. It helps to training on the systems more than just once a year, because our skills are perishable."

There are many elements involved in mortar fire, not just the mortar teams themselves. They are assisted by forward observers in the military who are the ones who observe the target and give the information to the mortar firers as to where to fire, Plaska said.

Staff Sgt. Mickey Bost, a fire support noncommissioned officer with 1-126th, and a Detroit, Mi. native lead his team of observers in assisting the firing of the systems.

"We, the forward observers, find a target on a map and send the information to the mortar team so they know where to lay the fire down range," Bost said. "Once they receive the information from us, they can register their systems to get them zeroed in and calibrated on the target. The purpose of the firing mission is to lay down suppressive fire in support of the line infantry units who are moving on ground toward the objective or enemy."

1-126 Mortars

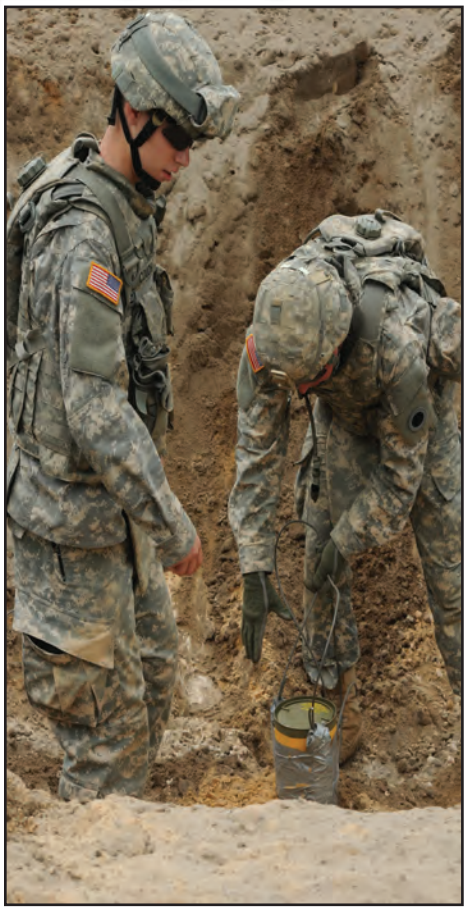


3-320 Field Artillery

Active duty Soldiers with 3-320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbel
1-137th Aviation Battalion August 13, 2015 at Camp Grayling, Mi. The field artillery unit practiced attac
weapon system to a UH-60 helicopter. The 3-320th was at Camp Grayling to provide fire mission suppor
Combat Training Capability exercise spanning a two-week period. The two units works seamlessly as one

3-320 Field Artillery

ll, Ky. conduct sling load training in conjunction with an Ohio National Guard aviation unit, the hing their M777A2 Howitzer weapon system to a UH-47 Chinook and their M199A3 Howitzer t to the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, OHARNG during the latter brigade's eXportable e unit, in order to successfully carry out combat training mission scenarios.

A Co. STB Engineers

Soldiers with Alpha Company, 37th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 37 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Ohio Army National Guard train together during annual training August 10, 2015 at Camp Grayling, Mi. The brigade spent about two weeks training and refreshing their skills, fully utilizing the training facilities such as a large impact zone, several ranges specifically designed for the many respective military occupational specialties in a brigade combat team. Here, the engineers placed shape charges and detonated them, followed by larger explosive devises containing 40lbs of Composition C-4. The company rotated through different roles in the detonation process, allowing for full training time and enhancement of skills.