

# THE STATIC LINE



Volume 2, Issue 9 | March 9, 2012



**3RD BCT COMMAND TEAM**  
COL Michael Fenzel  
CSM Nicholas Rolling

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
SGT Joseph Guenther  
SPC Terrance Payton

**COVER PHOTO**  
Pfc. Jeremy Shivick, an infantryman with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, qualifies with a randomly assigned M4 as part of the 82nd Airborne Division's Trooper of the Year Competition. Sgt. Jason Thomas, an infantryman of the same company was a competitor for the division's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Competition. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Terrance Payton)

# BROTHERS IN PANTHER BRIGADE TOGETHER AGAIN AT FORT BRAGG

Story by [Spc. Terrance Payton](#)

Paratroopers with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division returned home throughout February, concluding a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The recent redeployment ceremony at Green Ramp, was one of many held to welcome home nearly 700 Paratroopers as they reunite with family and friends.

Among the returning Troopers were brothers, Sgt. Bryan Vinson and Spc. Duane Vinson, who are both infantrymen and assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 505th PIR.

Duane, who is a squad automatic weapon gunner, was excited to deploy with his brother whom he looks to as a role model.

“We were extremely close growing up,” said Bryan, a team leader in 3rd platoon. “We grew up playing sports and always looking out for each other. Honestly, we’ve almost been inseparable.”

The boys, who are from Hendersonville, Tenn., said that they share a special relationship with their father who spent time in the Army as a cavalry scout and is also named Duane.

“He made sure that we stayed close to each other. He taught us a lot about being men and a lot about being soldiers,” said Duane.

“He understands the kind of bond that you share with fellow soldiers,” said Bryan. “To see him

and be able to share our experiences with him; he has an understanding of what were talking about, that’s what so great about him being prior service.”

Bryan, who has been at Fort Bragg for about a year longer than his brother, said that he worried about his younger brother.

“As an older brother I naturally feel protective of him,” said Bryan. “I never really understood how my parents felt about me being here or deploying until he came here and we were deploying together.”

Their parents had natural concern for the boys while they were gone. They said that their father dealt with the deployment well, and helped their mother deal with the absence of her sons.

“My mother was nervous but she was almost happy that we would be deploying together,” said Duane. “She felt that if we deploy together that there would be chances that we would see each other and be able to watch out for each other.”

The brothers said they saw each other about five or six times during the nine-month deployment as they both were in northern Afghanistan.

“We really didn’t have the capability to contact each other. It was more knowing when our teams were going to certain areas that we would cross paths,” said Duane.

“It was almost exciting because sometimes we would go out and not know that the other would be somewhere and run into each other,” said Bryan. “It was a real uplifting thing to see him.”



Brothers, Spc. Duane Vinson (left) and Sgt. Bryan Vinson (right), returned to Fort Bragg after a nine-month deployment.

“It was like a piece of back home over there. I could tell him stories like old times,” said Duane. “It definitely helped.”

Duane said that they already had a great relationship but the deployment brought them even closer.

“We grew up in a good family and have been extremely close our entire lives,” said Bryan. “We already had a strong bond, but being here together and deploying together that bond has increased tenfold.”

“Yeah I have my biological brother here with me but none of this deployment would have been possible without the guys in our company, leaders and the guys who followed us,” said Bryan. “We were out there together but those guys looked after us. We couldn’t have done any of this deployment or this job without the support of any of those people.”

# 2-505TH PARATROOPERS COMPETE AT DIVISION

Story by Sgt. Joseph Guenther



Pfc. Jeremy Shivick, an infantryman with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, runs the 2-mile event of the Army Physical Fitness Test at Towle Stadium as part of the 82nd Airborne Division's Trooper of the Year Competition March 6, 2012. Shivick was the first to complete the run at 12 minutes, 37 seconds. The competition will take place all week and will include events such as marksmanship, land navigation, and a final board.

Two Panther Paratroopers, Pfc. Jeremy Shivick and Sgt. Jason Thomas, both with 1st Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, are representing 3rd Brigade Combat Team at the 82nd Airborne Division's Trooper of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Competition.

After winning their respective brigade Trooper of the Year and NCO of the Year boards Monday, they moved on the following morning to weigh in at the division's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion before marching to Ritz Epps Physical Fitness Center to conduct the push-up and sit-up events of the Army Physical Fitness Test.

The 2-Panther Paratroopers outshined the rest of the division on the APFT after Thomas achieved the highest score, and Shivick completed the run in the fastest time of 12 minutes, 37 seconds.

The remaining events included land navigation, in which they both finished first, a written test, marksmanship qualification, and a final board.

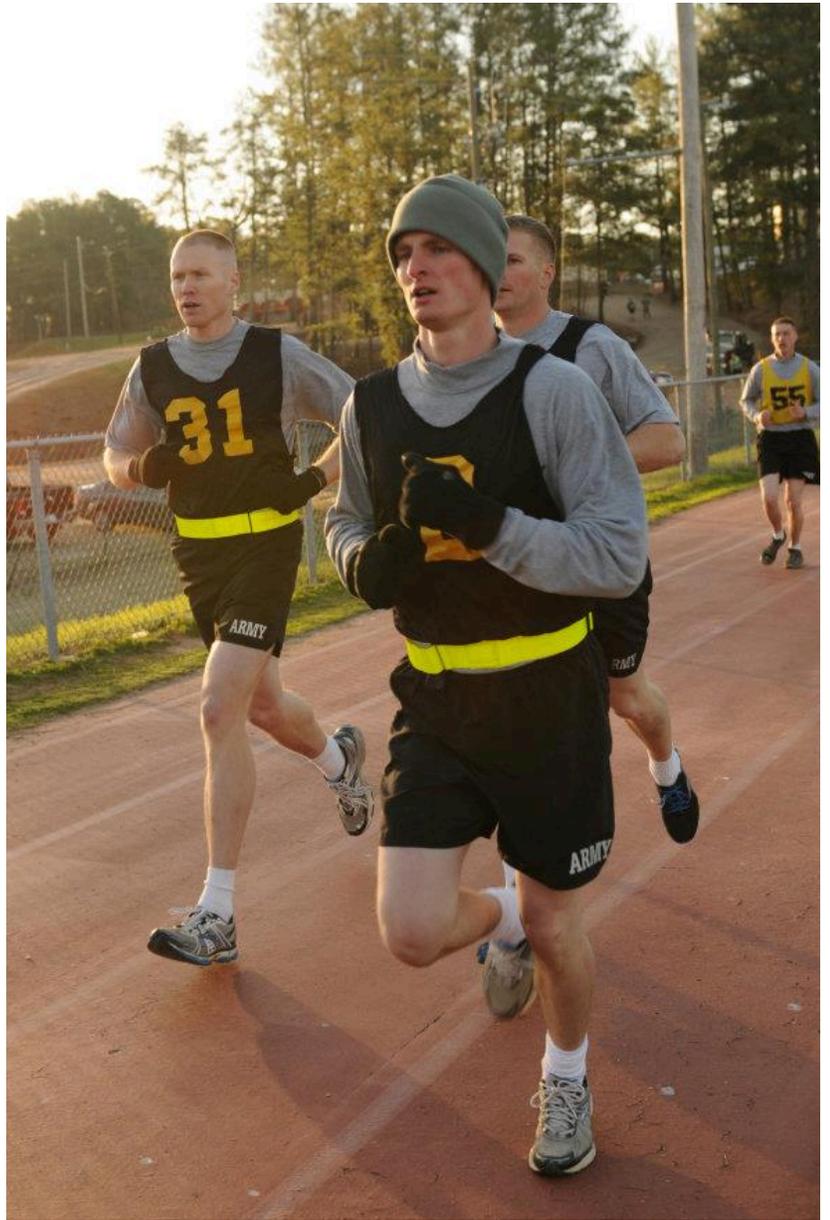
After the final board, Command. Sgt. Maj. spoke to the lower ranking Troopers and congratulated them for their efforts and said "I'm honored to be standing before Paratroopers like you today. You've proven you have the intestinal fortitude to come here. This is a major step in becoming great leaders. Congratulations."

The winners will be announced next week.





Spc. Steven Oser, a mortarman with Troop A, 5th Squadron, 73rd Airborne Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team sets up a 120 mm mortar system March 6, 2012 as he and other Paratroopers prepare for the Mortar Gunner Exam at OP 12. The Mortar Gunner Exam consists of mounting the mortar, small deflection change, referring the sight, large deflection and elevation change, and reciprocal laying.







**3rd Brigade Combat Team**  
**82nd Airborne Division**

Public Affairs Office:  
Tel: 910-643-4259  
[www.facebook.com/panther.brigade](http://www.facebook.com/panther.brigade)  
[@PantherBrigade](https://twitter.com/PantherBrigade)