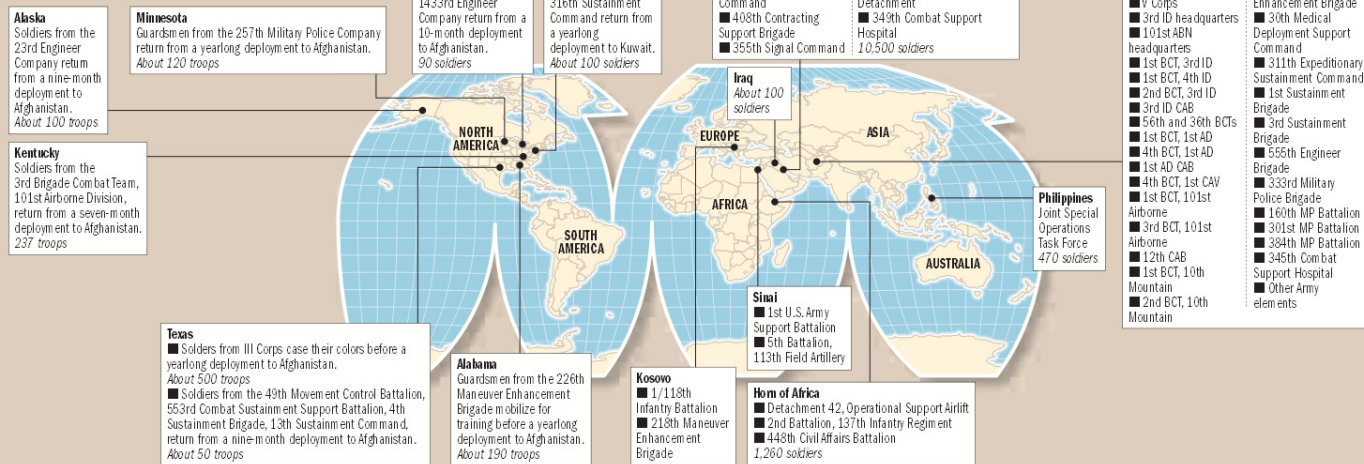


THE ARMY AS OF APRIL 4



SOURCE: ARMY

SIFF

TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

After 69 years, the last American tanks assigned to U.S. Army Europe are on their way home.

The last 22 Abrams main battle tanks began the final portion of their journey back to the U.S. at the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's Theater Logistics Support Center Europe railhead in Kaiserslautern, Germany, according to the Army.

Workers at the logistics support center March 18 had 24 hours to package the tanks for the trip home, working 12-hour shifts to get each vehicle inventoried, marked, secured and fastened.

Six soldiers from the 21st TSC's 18th Military Police Brigade accompanied the tanks to the port of Bremerhaven, Germany, where the tanks were shipped out to Charleston, S.C.

"It is an honor to be one of the soldiers escorting the last battle tanks out of Germany," Sgt. Jeremy Jordan, assigned to the 529th Military Police Company, said in an Army story about the move.

The Army first brought tanks to Europe during World War II. At its peak,



Loadmasters with the Theater Logistics Support Center Europe help load an Abrams main battle tank at the railhead in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The tank was one of 22 bound for South Carolina, marking the end of the Army's tank presence in Germany.

Germany was home to 20 U.S. armored divisions, or about 6,000 tanks.

"This marks the end of an era, both for the armored history in Germany and the U.S. military," Andrew Morris, the U.S. Army Europe historian, said in a statement.

MEDAL FOR WORKING DOGS

A working dog named Ryky is the first Army dog to receive the K9 Medal for Exceptional Service, an award for military working dogs created by K9s of the War on Terror Inc., for her

service in Afghanistan.

Ryky is receiving the award with her handler, Sgt. James Harrington. The organization has also awarded Air Force working dog Besy and handler Staff Sgt. Samantha Navarrete.

In the past, working dog handlers have received medals for their service, but according to K9WT president Alan Driscoll, this is the first medal awarded exclusively to working dogs. Department of Homeland Security and local law enforcement working dogs also are eligible for the award.

OUTSIDE THE WIRE

The Army is just going to stay in and have a quiet family dinner on its 238th birthday this year.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno and Army Secretary John McHugh have canceled this year's Army Birthday Ball, originally scheduled for June 13, in an effort to rein in unnecessary Pentagon expenditures.

"This action supports the department's overall effort to reduce spending of appropriated funds," they explained in a joint statement.

This only applies to the Army's big Washington bash, though. These smaller observances are still planned:
June 10: Mount Vernon
June 12: Capitol Hill event
June 12: Twilight Tattoo
June 13: Pentagon cake cutting
June 14: Army run at Joint Base



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, Army Secretary John McHugh and Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler, from left, cut the Army birthday cake at the 2012 Army Birthday Ball.

Myer-Henderson Hall, Va.
June 14: Wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery
 Individual units are still encouraged to celebrate the Army's big day in their own ways.

[TELLUS]

What kinds of Army birthday blowouts have you been to during your career? Write us at armylet@armytimes.com

PVT. CHARGED IN WIFE'S DEATH

A Georgia soldier accused of plotting attacks as the leader of an anti-government militia group has been charged by the Army in the killing of his pregnant wife in 2011.

Fort Stewart officials said April 3 they have charged Pvt. Isaac Aguigui, 21, with murder in the death of his wife, Army Sgt. Deirdre Aguigui. The Army

investigated the July 2011 death for nearly two years but has released no details.

Isaac Aguigui, of Cashmere, Wash., has been jailed since December 2011. He is one of four Fort Stewart soldiers charged by civilian authorities in the slaying of former soldier Michael Roark and his girlfriend.

Prosecutors say Aguigui used insurance money from

his wife's death to buy weapons for a militia group that plotted attacks from Georgia to Washington state.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

An article in the April 8 issue, "Expand your job search," misstated the title of a book by Army veteran Chad Storie. It is "Combat Leader to Corporate Leader."