



## 173rd Airborne Brigade

173<sup>rd</sup> on the Web: [www.army.mil/SkySoldiers](http://www.army.mil/SkySoldiers)

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YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/173rdAirborneBrigade](http://www.youtube.com/user/173rdAirborneBrigade)

**BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS:** Caserma Del Din, Vicenza, Italy

**DESCRIPTION:** The 173rd Airborne Brigade ("Sky Soldiers") is an Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the United States Army based in Vicenza, Italy with elements also in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The 173rd is the Army Contingency Response Force in Europe, and is capable of projecting ready forces in 18 hours or less to conduct the full of range of military operations across the United States European, Central and Africa Commands areas of responsibility.

### MAJOR SUBORDINATE UNITS / HQ LOCATION

1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry / Caserma Ederle, Vicenza, Italy

2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry / Caserma Del Din, Vicenza, Italy

1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment / Grafenwoehr, Germany

4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment / Grafenwoehr, Germany

173rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion / Caserma Del Din, Vicenza, Italy

173rd Brigade Support Battalion / Caserma Del Din, Vicenza, Italy

**Capabilities:** The 173rd Airborne Brigade consists of approximately 3,800 paratroopers in six subordinate battalions. The unit's two airborne infantry battalions are the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 503rd Infantry Regiment, an association that can be traced back to the unit's service in World War II. 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment is the brigade's light reconnaissance battalion, and the 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (AFAR) provides the Brigade with organic artillery support. In support of the regular combat forces are the 173rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion and the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion. All of these units are airborne qualified, making the 173rd Airborne Brigade the only separate airborne brigade in the United States Army.

**History:** Founded in 1915, the brigade has deployed in operations around the world. The 173rd was the first American ground unit in Vietnam and on 22 February 1967, the 173rd conducted Operation Junction City, the only combat-parachute jump of the Vietnam War. The brigade also made a combat jump into Northern Iraq to seize Bashur Airfield during the opening phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.

The "Sky Soldiers" returned from their most recent deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2013, marking the completion of the brigade's fourth deployment as part of the International Security Assistance Force.

From April to October 2014, approximately 600 paratroopers from the Brigade deployed on short notice to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to establish Operation Atlantic Resolve, an increase in tempo of exercises and training deployments to demonstrate commitment to NATO collective defense and sustain interoperability with allied forces.

In addition to a robust schedule of exercises and deployments for training with our NATO allies and partners, the Brigade serves as the Army Contingency Response Force in Europe. As the ACRF, paratroopers from the Brigade stand ready for deployment anywhere across the United States Europe, African and Central Commands areas of responsibility in 18 hours or less.

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