

# LOCKLEED NEWS

## 3,000 Minnesota Soldiers wrap up military exercise in the Mojave Desert



August 20, 2020 (FORT IRWIN, California) – About 3,000 Minnesota Soldiers are packing rucksacks and duffel bags, as they prepare to make their way back to the land of 10,000 lakes.

The Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, just wrapped up a large-scale combat exercise at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. The training, which required eight battalions to conduct decisive-action operations as one collective task force, was the first of its kind since the U.S. Army finalized plans to methodically resume exercises for large formations, amid the novel corona-virus pandemic.

Soldiers attending the NTC rotation underwent a deliberate process to prevent the spread of the corona-virus, including screening and testing in their home state prior to departure. Dozens of additional mitigation measures, like the use of masks, isolating the training unit from the general

population and monitoring for symptoms, took place upon arriving and throughout the training at Fort Irwin.

NTC is the only U.S. Army training facility that allows a full brigade combat team to conduct force-on-force maneuver, live-fire attack and live-fire defense — integrating all mission command systems and war-fighting functions to include coordination with the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marines.

“Training at this level is paramount to our readiness as an organization,” said Col. Timothy Kemp, commander of the 1/34th ABCT. “Over the last few weeks, I saw the grit and tenacity that Red Bull warriors are known for. I’m grateful for their commitment leading up to and during this NTC rotation, which has allowed us to increase our proficiency and skillset and develop as leaders and individuals.”

Immediately upon arrival at NTC, Minnesota Guardsmen began working to transition personnel and equipment into operationally viable forces. This process is referred to as reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSOI) and conducting the process safely and efficiently is critical in a contested or hostile environment.

Moving straight into “the fight” required Soldiers to rapidly offload equipment and vehicles shipped to Fort Irwin by train. It took approximately 430 rail cars, across four trains, to move more than 2,000 pieces of unit equipment, including dozens of M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, M1 Abrams tanks, trucks and more.

After RSOI, the brigade moved from cantonment on Fort Irwin, which is located about an hour’s drive northeast of Barstow, California, to a more austere location. Notorious for providing tough, realistic training, exercises at NTC simulate combat in the harsh environment of California’s rugged, high-mountain Mojave Desert.

From a variety of remote locations in Fort Irwin’s desert training area (known as “the box” and nearly the size of Rhode Island), Minnesota’s storied brigade combat team had the ability to fully deploy all of its armor assets against an opposition force made up of active-duty Soldiers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The 1/34th ABCT’s rotation at NTC, directed by U.S. Army Forces Command, serves as the final, major training event ahead of the unit’s 2021 deployment to the Middle East.

## Small Business Spotlight - Think GREAT

Founder of Think GREAT, Erik Therwanger, is a Marine Corps veteran, author, international speaker, and executive business coach.

Erik and the Think GREAT team works with organizations of all sizes and in any industry to transform their people and magnify their results by teaching others how to strengthen their 3 Pillars of Business Greatness – leadership development, strategic planning, and sales performance. Erik is also the founder of the Think GREAT Foundation, which awards scholarships to military spouses.

Erik and his team recently launched their own social media platform for GREAT Thinkers – [www.ThinkGreatNow.com](http://www.ThinkGreatNow.com). This site is designed to share ideas on personal and professional development and allow you to connect with other like-minded people.



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*Let's look at some of the basics to help you evaluate whether this sourcing strategy is right for your company. Benefits of Engaging a Military/Veteran Recruitment Resource include:*

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They are attuned to trends and happenings in the marketplace and issues veterans face.

They have developed relationships with veterans in the marketplace – referrals often come to them from other veterans through their network.

They can help train and prepare the candidates for the interview and job environment before they arrive at your door.

They learn to understand the employer's goals and brand.

### Veteran Non-Profit Spotlight - Annual Schnorr Mudfest

Todd Schnorr is a US Army Veteran who now lives in the Iron Range of Minnesota and now dedicates his life to helping his fellow Veterans.

He is constantly involved in Veteran focused movements and organizations. Todd and his father started a Veteran ATV fundraiser ride in Chisholm, MN and he is currently on the 7th annual. Every dollar he raises goes to a Veteran organization that helps Veterans with PTSD, Homelessness, and so many other great causes. If you would like to donate, be involved, or attend one of his events, here is his information.

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**Facebook Page: 7th Annual Schnorr**

**Mudfest Veterans Fundraiser**

