



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
173RD INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM (AIRBORNE)
UNIT 31426, BOX 2
APO, AE 09605



Dear Sky Soldier and Family,

Welcome to the best Brigade in the Army. We are thrilled to have you and your family join “*The Herd*.” As I have served in this Brigade multiple times, it is personal, and ensuring you and your family onboard as smoothly as possible is my #1 priority upon your arrival—both in Italy and Germany.

Who We Are ...

The 173rd Airborne Brigade is the premier Contingency Response Force of the U.S. Army in Europe and Africa. We swiftly deploy forces across Europe and Africa and are ready to support our most senior leaders in any part of the globe.

Upon arrival, you will be stationed in one of six Battalions in Italy or Germany. You will participate in high-octane operations, including airborne operations, situational training, and live-fire exercises. *We have Sky Soldier Paratroopers every day in nine to ten countries.* Our Brigade conducts regular joint training exercises with NATO Allies and Partners.

From a family or recreational perspective, we are uniquely positioned in the beautiful region of Northern Italy or the hills of Bavaria in Germany. Both areas offer an unparalleled opportunity for traveling, cultural immersion, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. We ask our Paratroopers and families to enjoy every minute of this assignment — both at work and during their off times.

What You Can Expect ...

The history of this Brigade is powerful. From the rocky island of Corregidor to the jungles of Vietnam to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the 173rd Airborne Brigade has quite a storied history dating back to its establishment in 1917 as an infantry brigade. You can expect a Brigade that remembers, honors, and embraces our history — but **we are also fully aware that our actions today must continue to showcase the capabilities we possess and bring to our Allies and Partners.**

We expect highly motivated, fit, mentally tough, aggressive, and world-class teammates on our team. Our business is too important, and we are too close to our Nation’s most significant enemies to expect anything less than Paratroopers that will win in future combat. **Remember, our #1 task is to kill our Nation’s enemies and break their things. We must be ready.**

Social Media

The Herd is an elite team of Paratroopers — and we are always busy. You can check out what our Sky Soldiers are doing on the [173rd Airborne Brigade Website](#),



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[Facebook](#) page, [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#) accounts. This will give you an idea of what to expect.

Next Steps ...

For those coming to Italy, we have a low-stress, two-to-three-week onboarding process for our personnel. For all the ins and outs of in-processing in Italy, check out the [U.S. Army Garrison Italy](#) website. Finding a place to live in Italy can be a process, so you will need to work with the [U.S. Army Garrison Housing Office in Vicenza](#). [The Ederle Inn](#) is right next to in-processing

For those of you who will be stationed north of the Alps in Germany, check out the [U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria](#) website. You can stay at [the Grafenwoehr Tower Barracks](#) for lodging while you in-process.

Regardless of location, rooms fill up fast, so reserve a room as soon as you get your orders. *Finally, I would highly encourage you and your family to have a tourist passport since many European countries require it.*

Questions?

Got any burning questions or concerns? Don't hesitate to hit up Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (RSOI) at +39-0444-71-5130/DSN 314-646-5130. Get in touch with our 173rd Airborne Brigade sponsorship team at usarmy.usag-italy.173-abn-bde.list.sponsorship@army.mil.

This assignment is professionally challenging and personally rewarding. We wish you and your family all the best during the transition, and we cannot wait to meet you in person when you arrive! *This business is personal — and getting you on board is the first step!*

Sky Soldiers.

COL Josh Gaspard
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