

2023 Gainey Cup

by **ARMOR** staff and PFC David Dumas

The title of “best scout squad” has left the United States, at least for two years.

Troopers competed in the biennial 2023 Gainey Cup May 1-5 at Fort Moore, GA (formerly Fort Benning).

Winners were 42nd Brigade Reconnaissance Company, 13th Light Brigade, Royal Netherlands Army, Netherlands: 1LT Tristan Leyting, SGT Koen Pater, CPL Jasper de Ridder, CPL Ruben Leenaerts, CPL Maximiliaan Bonnema and CPL Koen Frecken.

Second place went to 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Illinois National Guard: 1LT Charles Hardy, SSG Michael Gamble, SPC Evan Quinn, SPC Conor Mahoney, SPC William Pitney and PFC Jacob Bentle.

Other competitors:

- 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 1st Armored Division: PFC Tayvion Jones, SGT Ryan Austin, SPC Dade Horton, SPC Wyatt Carson, SPC Kadin Graham and SSG Rebiejo Zackery.
- 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st ABCT, 1st Cavalry Division: SSG Levi Cowart, SPC Carlin Coomey, SPC Patricio Alduvin, SPC Michael Stitely, PFC Aiden Harris and PFC Aiden Hernley.
- 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 2nd ABCT, 1st Cav Division: SSG Tyler Mehl, SGT Eric Szudy, SPC Gregory Harrington, SPC James Saul, PFC Itler Mbula and PFC Alexander Erickson.
- 4th Squadron, 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division: SSG Noah Kokkeler, SGT Alberto Torres, SPC Corey Catron, PFC Cameron Waites, PV2 Iaza Ingoglia and PV2 Braxton Flicker.
- 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), 2nd Infantry Division: SSG Nicolas Vallez, SGT Matthew Keylich, SPC Rasheed Wallace, PFC Eric Moldenhauer, PFC Skylur Hester and PFC Carson Ringler.
- 4th Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd CR, U.S. Army Europe and Africa (USAEUR-AF): SSG Ryan Cardiff, SGT John Wendt, SPC Brian Riverang, SPC Ryan Rocha, SPC Benjamin Walker and PFC David Doucette.
- 6th Squadron, 8th Cav, 2nd ABCT, 3rd Infantry Division: SGT Charles Johnson, SGT Casey Trull, SPC Jose Cota, SPC Cameron Palmer, PFC Ethan Conley and PFC Jordan Calfy.
- 2nd Squadron, 1st Cav, 1st SBCT, 4th Infantry Division: SSG Steven Bouton, SGT Liam Mackrell, SPC Travis Pembroke, SPC Christopher Cancel, SPC Christian Suchite and PV2 Darren Manriquez.
- 1st Squadron, 14th Cav, 1st SBCT, 7th Infantry Division: SSG Wyatt Lilienthal, SGT Steven Reynoso, SPC Rafael Lopez, SPC Byron Kyger, SPC Guillermo Carrera and SPC Matthew Kiddle.
- 3rd Squadron, 89th Cav, 3rd IBCT, 10th Mountain Division: SSG Shawn Deen, SGT Joshua Valesco, SPC Tyler Deaton, SPC Adrian Fuentes, PFC Walter Moreno and PFC Henry Swearingen.
- 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), 11th ACR, National Training Center: SSG Hendryx-Steven Solis, SGT Gyres Fouelefack, SPC Dalton Langer, SPC John Pacheco, SPC Jonathan Whiteside and SPC Matthew Runk.
- 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry, 1st IBCT, 11th Airborne Division: SSG Wayne Schultz, SGT Seth Marshall, PFC Cameron Patrick, PFC Damian Tapia, PFC Aiden Wood and PV2 Austin Heath.
- 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry, 2nd IBCT, 25th Infantry Division: SSG Jacob Lahti, SGT Michael Green, SPC Mason Golden, PFC Sebastien Barragan, PFC Diego Cade and PFC Damien Deleon.
- 1st Squadron, 73rd Cav, 2nd IBCT, 82nd Airborne Division: SSG Eric Nevadunsky, SGT Julian Glasser, SPC Mario Flamenco, SPC Andrew Rutherford, SPC Santos Portillo and SPC Parker Holland.
- 1st Squadron, 33rd Cav, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd IBCT, 101st Airborne Division: SSG Joseph Rosas, SGT Connor Pelletier, SPC Michael Joaquin, SPC Henry Wasserman, PFC Aidan Nelson and PFC Joseph Smith.
- 1st Armoured Cavalry Squadron, Ireland: LT Alex McNamara, SGT Kevin Conlon, CPL Anthony Sheehy, TPR Gabriel Garbencius, TPR Declan Behan and TPR Oisin Duffy.
- 1st Squadron, 91st Cav, 173rd Airborne Brigade, USAREUR-AF: SSG Graham Brown, SGT Jake Bullock, SPC Nicholas DuBois, SPC Anthony Valdez, PFC Jonathan Wilkey and PV2 Tyler Solaita.

- 1st Squadron, 221st Cav Regiment, 116th ABCT, Nevada Army National Guard: SSG Trevor Camacho, SGT Winston-Adam Chu, SPC Seth Saxon, SPC Dylan Kirkendall, SPC Iasiah Buhecker and SPC Adam Smedley.
- British Columbia Regiment, 3rd Canada Division, Canada: SGT Nathan Palmer, MCPL Nathan Deringer, CPL Shao Chen Zhang, CPL Chris Yamauchi, TPR Matthew Green and TPR Iqbal Athwal.
- Army Reconnaissance School, Bundeswehr Armor School, Germany: CPT Arne Hoffmann, SGT Hauke Fiedler, SGT Dustin Hedeler, CPL Johannes Busch, CPL Felix Schoenemann and SPC Dennis Stritzel.

A competition that honors outstanding performance within the Armor Branch, the Gainey Cup bears the name of CSM William Gainey, a distinguished leader known for his unwavering military bearing symbolized by a steel ball bearing from an M1 Abrams main battle tank, which he carried in his pocket. Through his inspiring leadership, Gainey left a legacy of excellence that continues to motivate Soldiers to push themselves to new heights.

“The advice I give to all competitors is you are as fast as your slowest person, you are as strong as your weakest person. Stay together; nobody has ever won the Gainey Cup as an individual,” said Gainey. “It was designed to be a team scout competition.”

Composed of several significant events, the competition allows the Cavalry-scout troopers to demonstrate their competence, physical and mental stamina, and competitive spirit of serving in reconnaissance and security formations. Events of the competition included various public demonstrations, land navigation, knowledge of various weapon systems and physical and mental tests. The competition culminates with the final charge.

These events test the participants’ physical and mental endurance, combat readiness and strategic-thinking abilities, making it a comprehensive evaluation of their skills. The Armor School evaluates and determines the top-performing scout squad.

“We worked hard to be here and are glad to represent. It’s an amazing honor for everyone present.” said SSG Noah Kokkeler, who participated in the Gainey Cup with 4th Squadron, 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment.

This highly anticipated competition provided a platform for schools to evaluate and refine their programs of instruction, ensuring they are equipped to meet the demands of the field and enable students to achieve mastery of their profession. It emphasizes the importance of mastering the fundamentals that maintain our fighting force and help us keep a decisive edge over potential adversaries.

Acronym Quick-Scan

ABCT – armored brigade combat team

ACR – armored cavalry regiment

CR – cavalry regiment

IBCT – infantry brigade combat team

SBCT – Stryker brigade combat team

USAEUR-AF – U.S. Army Europe and Africa



Figure 1. PV2 Iago Ingoglia, assigned to 4th Squadron, 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment, participates in an obstacle course during the 2023 Gainey Cup May 3 at Fort Moore, GA. (U.S. Army photo by PFC David Dumas)



Figure 2. SPC Rasheed Wallace of 8-1 Cavalry, 2nd SBCT, 2nd Infantry Division, observes his surroundings. (Photo by Robert Bell; photo copyright Robert Bell; all rights reserved)



Figure 3. Team members from 2nd Cavalry Regiment compete in the casualty-evacuation event. *(Photo by Robert Bell; photo copyright Robert Bell; all rights reserved)*



Figure 4. SGT Alberto Torres of 4th Squadron, 3rd Cav Regiment, assesses a casualty during the trauma simulation.
(Photo by Robert Bell; photo copyright Robert Bell; all rights reserved)



Figure 5. A team member from 101st Airborne's 1st Squadron, 33rd Cav, rappels during a Gainey Cup event.
(Photo by Robert Bell; photo copyright Robert Bell; all rights reserved)



Figure 6. MG Curtis Buzzard, commander of the Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Moore, talks with the Brave Rifles team. (Photo by Robert Bell; photo copyright Robert Bell; all rights reserved)