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## **16th STB leaders visit historic World War II sites**

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BAMBERG, Germany - From the tip of the effort at Joe's Bridge to the final goal in Arnhem, Holland, leaders of the 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade embraced the unique opportunity to go on a battlefield staff ride, May 4-6, highlighting the events surrounding WWII's Operation Market Garden.

Under the leadership of Lt. Col. Stephen Davis, the 16th STB commander, and Dr. John Nolan, a local historian, senior leaders of the 16th STB saw a unique view of the lessons learned from OMG near the Dutch cities of Eindhoven, Nijmegen and Arnhem.

The staff ride offered everyone the opportunity to experience and learn about the historical significance of OMG.

"With broken communication equipment that didn't survive the Airborne landing, the leaders on the ground were faced with incredible, unforeseen difficulties to synchronize their operations with adjacent units and inform higher headquarters of the realities on the ground," said Maj. Michael Mouritsen, the commander of the 106th Financial Management Company, 16th STB.

16th STB leaders also learned about how OMG participants worked to overcome the command and control challenges they faced due to their communication issues.

“Allied Forces greatly benefited from individual units and Soldiers taking initiative and adapting to developing situations with little intelligence on enemy position, size, and strength,” said Capt. Jae Marquis, the commander of Bravo Signal Company, 16th STB.

Although they learned about the success of the participating OMG units, as fellow Soldiers the leaders of the 16th STB were careful not to factor in the importance of the individual Soldier.

“It is proven by past Soldiers that a leader fighting side-by-side with [his] Soldiers inspires unmatched discipline,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Godbee, the command sergeant major of the 16th STB.

Learning about OMG offered the leaders of the 16th STB a unique opportunity to experience history and bond with each other and understand the history of those who wore the uniform before them.

“It is amazing how enduring the efforts of the Allied Forces [were] in Holland. The admiration is evident through flags, memorials, museums and celebrations for the 82nd, 101st, and 1st Airborne Divisions. The displays are particularly uplifting given the global focus in both Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Capt. George Nisson, the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th STB.

“A battlefield staff ride is a great opportunity for leaders within a battalion to gain a better understanding of how wars are fought and all of the components that can make a difference,” said Davis. “Taking the time to go on a staff ride can create pathways for

leaders to build cohesion with each other and to place themselves in a situation to learn from a unit's historical actions.”