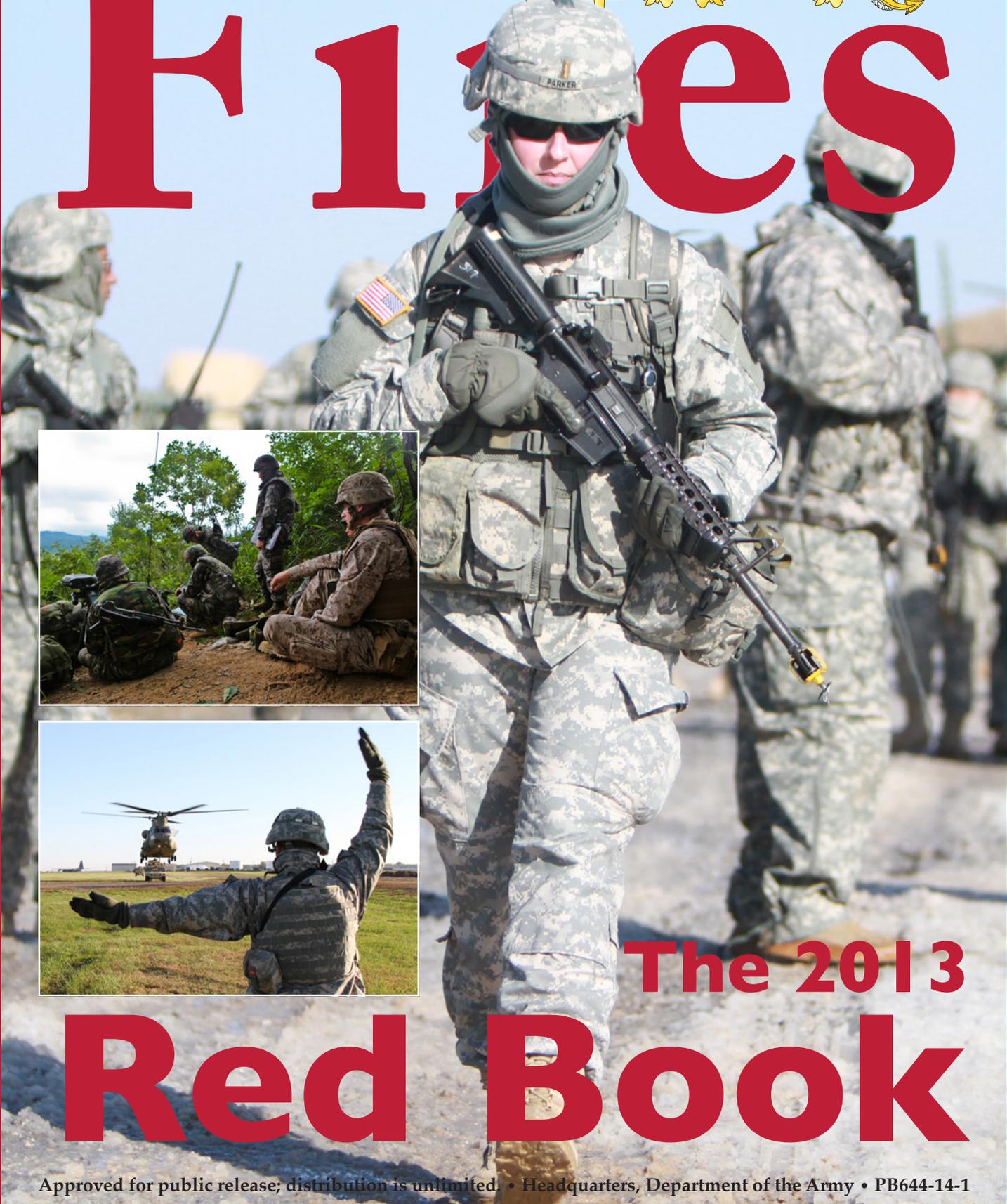
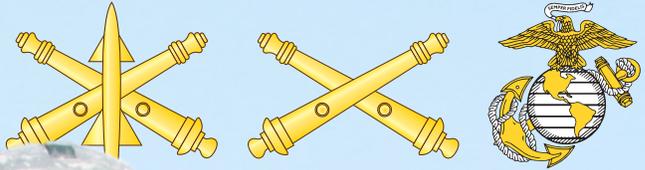


A Joint Publication for U.S. Artillery Professionals

January — February 2014 Edition

Files



The 2013 Red Book

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Fires Bulletin Goes Digital

Dear Readers and Authors,

The staff and I would like to thank you for your dedicated support over the years. As we have often said, without you, the professional Fires Forces, we have no *Fires Bulletin*. It is our sincerest wish to bring you a quality product, full of current information, pertinent to your mission. Your article submissions have made our jobs easier and working with you has truly been a pleasure.

As the New Year rings in and changes are imposed, we are 'adjusting fire' to continue to meet our mission of bringing you the best magazine possible, while managing under a very tight budget. The good news is...you will still have the same, high quality magazine to which you are accustomed. You will still submit your articles using the same procedures as always, and we will publish those that fit the magazine's theme. The distinct difference is that effective Sep. 1, 2014, the *Fires Bulletin* will be a digital magazine with no hardcopy publication. Unless budget constraints change, the final printed edition will be the July-August 2014 magazine.

For many of you who already access the online version of *Fires*, this change will be almost transparent. For those of us who are a little more technologically challenged, the conversion may present some difficulties. My staff is working very hard to create an application for smart phones which will allow you to 'subscribe' to the magazine so you will be notified when a new issue is available. As we get closer to the digital deadline, we will publish detailed instructions on how to access the smart phone 'app' and how to access us online. Watch for more information on our social media pages, Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FiresBulletin>) and Google+ (<http://plus.google.com/113303050703727404660>), as well as our website (<http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin/>).

Again, we have enjoyed serving you and look forward to serving you in this new capacity. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to post them on our Facebook site, or email me directly at fires.bulletin@us.army.mil or shirley.k.dismuke.civ@mail.mil.

Shirley Dismuke
Editor-in-Chief

Let
Fires Know



The *Fires Bulletin* strives to provide you with the best possible content, with relevant topics that are important to the current and future Fires Forces. To ensure we are meeting our goals, we need your feedback. Using the link below please complete our short survey so that we may provide you with better content delivered the way you would utilize it best.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DQMGHT9>

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On the cover:



While attending Field Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course, 2LT Rachel Parker leads formation during the *Redleg War* held on Fort Sill, Okla. She will join other female officers in being the first to officially hold positions within direct support Field Artillery units. (Photo by Marie Berbera, U.S. Army)



1st Lt. Daniel B. Peterson sits with Republic of Korea marines at an observation post near Rodriguez Live-Fire Complex. The ROK and U.S. artillerymen observed Fires from ROK and U.S. forces. (Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Case, U.S. Marine Corps)



SPC Dillon Cihak, a Sentinel crew member with C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), uses hand and arm signals to guide a Ch-47 Chinook helicopter during a sling load operation. (Photo by SGT Leejay Lockhart, U.S. Army)

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Mark McDonald

Administrative Assistant to the Major General, United States Army Secretary of the Army, 1320502 Commanding General, Fort Sill, Okla. **PURPOSE:** Originally founded in 1911 as the *Field Artillery Journal*, *Fires* serves as a forum for the professional discussions of all Fires professionals, both active and Reserve Component (RC); disseminates professional knowledge about progress, developments and best use in campaigns; cultivates a common understanding of the power, limitations and application of joint Fires, both lethal and nonlethal; fosters joint Fires interdependency among the armed services; and promotes the understanding of and interoperability between the branches, both active and RC, all of which contribute to the good of the Army, joint and combined forces, and our nation. **REPRINTS:** *Fires* is pleased to grant permission to reprint; please credit *Fires*, the author(s) and photographers.

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Editor-in-Chief: Shirley Dismuke

Managing Editor: Jennifer McFadden

Art Director: Rickey Paape, Jr.

Assistant Editor: Paul Jiron

Correction: November-December 2013 *Fires*, pg. 3, "Partnered ANSF Targeting in a Joint Environment." The article was written by CPT Steven Kournianos.

The 2013 Fires Photo Contest Winners



First Place FA Combat: SSG Thomas and his section from B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, receive a fire mission during combat operations in Afghanistan. (Photo by SPC Damien Artist, U.S. Army)



Second Place FA Combat: SSG Nash and his section from B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, receive a fire mission during combat operations in Afghanistan. (Photo by SPC Asebedo, U.S. Army)



First Place ADA Training: PVT Tor Duncan (left) prepares to fire a Stinger missile with SGT Brant Croft (right). Both Soldiers are from 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery. (Photo by SSG Carlos Davis, U.S. Army)



Second Place ADA Training: SPC John Mitchell from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, conducts checks on a Patriot launching station. (Photo by SGT Christopher Memmel, U.S. Army)



First Place FA Training: A M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) fires during the 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery's crew certification exercise. (Photo by SSG Timothy Hughes, U.S. Army)



Second Place FA Training: French army soldiers fire a TRF-1 155 mm howitzer during the Combined Endeavor 2013 exercise. (Photo by SSG Pablo Piedra, U.S. Army)

The Deep Future of Fires

By MG Mark McDonald

Commanding General of the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Okla.

Happy New Year to the greatest Fires Force in the world! For those of you fortunate enough to get a holiday break, welcome back from the much-deserved time away. For those deployed around the world, we empathize with you as you spent the holidays apart from your loved ones. Most of us have been in those boots and know how difficult it is, especially this time of year. We truly appreciate your sacrifices and those of your Families as we offer our prayers for your safe return.

This year, as we assembled your submissions for the 2013 Fires Red Book, it was inspiring to review the many accomplishments throughout the Fires Force. From Korea to Egypt, Afghanistan to Africa, and Hawaii to Fort Drum, N.Y., you have exceeded the Army's expectations and standards countless times, whether it was training the Afghan National Army on the D30 weapon system or protecting the airspace in the nation's capital region. To date, thousands of artillery rounds have been fired over the last year in Afghanistan alone, helping to deter or stop those who threaten the security of citizens around the world. While almost all of the units in Afghanistan are performing other missions, the artillery never fails to 'rain steel' on the enemy when needed.

2013 was a truly commemorative year for several exceptional units and Soldiers. A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery (FA), 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., earned the Henry A. Knox Award (FA) for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence during their deployment to Paktika province in Afghanistan. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery (ADA), 31st ADA Brigade, Fort Sill, Okla., also earned the Henry A. Knox Award (ADA) for their performance during a year-long deployment supporting Jordan and Afghanistan, and greatly contributing to the success of Exercise Eager Lion. The unit was also recognized by the 32nd Army Air & Missile



Defense Command for excellence during air battle management evaluations.

The 2013 Hamilton Award (FA) was awarded to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 121st FA, Wisconsin Army National Guard for their superb mission accomplishment as the first National Guard unit in the nation to assume the mission of firing the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) in combat. The ADA Hamilton Award went to C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 265th ADA Regiment, Florida Army National Guard for their support during Operation Noble Eagle in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Individual Soldiers also excelled in 2013, and were recognized for their excellence. The ADA's Shipton Award recipient was SSG Nancy Wingo, C Battery, 4th Battalion, 3rd ADA, 31st ADA Brigade, Fort Sill, Okla. An unusual tie by the judges this year resulted in two recipients of the FA's Gruber Award: SFC Christopher R. Schuenger, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and 1LT Nathaniel Holcomb, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st FA, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team. You can read more on these accomplishments in the Red Book.

Congratulations to these outstanding Soldiers and units. They set new standards for the 2014 award nominations and for all who follow them. Their example of dedication and innovative leadership will be key to our success in the future.

As we look to the 'deep future' of the Fires Force, science and technology will be the decisive edge in developing capabilities to take

us into 2030 and the ‘far-term’ future. In light of our budget issues, we cannot afford to allow our weapons systems to stagnate and become obsolete as our enemies continue to progress beyond our technology. Our senior leaders have recently addressed and continue to pursue solutions; however, developing brainpower and putting our research dollars into creative investments to keep our technological advantage will ensure our nation’s land forces’ preeminence in the world.

The military no longer has the luxury of time to prepare after a threat is identified. The speed at which events unfold, and to which we must react, has accelerated exponentially in the past 20 years. At the Senior Leader Seminar last November, the discussion of ‘compression of time’ highlighted the fact that reaction times have dwindled from years and months, to days and hours, and have redefined the need for a more expeditionary Army. Our challenge is to rebalance both our force structure and dollar resources towards force modernization required to be globally responsive and support expeditionary maneuver forces with Fires.

We are currently an ‘Army of Execution’ with seasoned combat leaders, extremely adaptive in almost any situation, but somewhat lacking the necessary innovation to think well beyond their training comfort zone. By investing in the brainpower of our Soldiers and leaders, we will strive to create a force of thinkers who are equally adaptive and innovative and who can evolve and prepare quickly as situations

and environments change. They will be an ‘Army of Preparation,’ CONUS-based for the first time since World War II, and they must have a vision for the future Army.

While the ‘Army of Execution’ was necessary over the past 12 years, it has put the force out of balance and the current investment strategy is inadequate to meet our future demands. In many of the artillery areas, our adversaries are projected to overmatch the U.S. by approximately 2016, with some threat technologies already overtaking the U.S. advantage. Research is underway on many of the new technologies the Army is considering, and projections are favorable for U.S. superiority in many of these technological investments.

At the Fires Center of Excellence and here at the *Fires Bulletin*, we will do our best to keep you abreast of changes as they occur. 2014 and beyond will bring many changes, some good, some difficult to adjust to, but all will be for the good of the Army and the nation. The 2014 Fires Conference, on May 6-7, at Fort Sill, will further investigate the need for, and evolution of, science and technology to keep the Fires Force ahead of our nation’s enemies. Please clear your calendars to attend or connect through Defense Connect Online (DCO) to hear what your senior leaders are saying on these subjects.

Again, Connie and I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and ask Saint Barbara to continue to protect you all.

Fires Strong!

An AH-64 Apache from 4th Battalion, 227th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, now under the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, takes off while an M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer operated by 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, trundles by during a joint training mission on Jan. 15, 2014, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The 42nd CAB, New York Army National Guard, is based in Kuwait and has assumed command of Army aviation assets in the region as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by SPC Harley Jelis, U.S.Army)



2013 in Perspective

By **BG Don Fryc**

Chief of the Air Defense Artillery and Commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla.

2013 was another year of challenges for the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) branch and the nation. Sequestration and the government shutdown delayed some of our projects and initiatives. *Air Defenders* also deployed to new locations to support our allies and protect our forces in response to requests by the combatant commanders, which placed additional demands on our Soldiers and their Families. However, even with that said, 2013 was also a year of continued successes for the branch in virtually all of the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facility (DOTMLPF) domains.

In addition to the initiatives enacted over the past year and summarized below, this year's good news stories included an Air and Missile Defense (AMD) briefing to the chief of staff of the Army and the biennial U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) accreditation of the Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE) and its subordinate schools. We provided the chief of staff of the Army an assessment of Army AMD in a fiscally constrained and uncertain operating environment. The briefing responded to a series of questions which the chief posed on the current state of Army AMD and our way ahead. The briefing was well received, and our path forward was recognized as consistent with the chief's initiatives and the Army's modernization strategy. The accreditation effort examined the systems, processes, programs, practices, procedures and quality control in all DOTMLPF domains in the FCoE. Per the unofficial results, TRADOC rated the ADA School as an Institution of Excellence, having met all accreditation standards evaluated.

The ADA operational force remained regionally engaged across, and globally responsive to, all



combatant commands. In addition to on-going presence in the U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. European Command, and U.S. Central Command, 2013 saw new deployments of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Soldiers to Guam, Patriot Soldiers to Turkey, in conjunction with German and Dutch Patriot units, and Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) Soldiers to forward operating bases in Afghanistan. At year's end, approximately 60 percent of the ADA and global missile defense force was committed in forward presence or stationing statuses, forward deployed, or postured for global reaction or prepared to deploy orders.

We continued to work or initiate actions that cut across the DOTMLPF domains. The FCoE and Training Directorate completed Field Manual (FM) 3-01, *US Army Air and Missile Defense Operations*, our base document for the employment of Army Air and Missile Defense operations; this manual should be published soon. The Directorate of Training and Doctrine also developed and published a series of Army Technical Publications on ADA systems and will continue this effort throughout FY14, in accordance with TRADOC's Doctrine 2015 guidance.

Organizationally, our force structure grew in a period of reduction throughout the Army. We operationalized the Patriot test battalion, adding it to the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle. We added an eighth THAAD battery, an operational test detachment (to offset challenges in eliminating the test battalion), and an Army National Guard Air Defense brigade to the force. Indirect fire protection capability (IFPC)/Avenger composite battalion fielding began and is well underway; 5th Battalion, 5th ADA, is undergoing new equipment



Two medics with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, PFC Joel Joseph (left), and SPC Jennifer Stobb (right), work together to move fellow medic, SPC Siu Leatoa, who was simulating an injured Soldier during counter improvised explosive device training at Warrior Base, South Korea. (Photo courtesy of 35th ADA BDE)

training. We are working to field a 16th Patriot battalion, a potential emerging growth candidate in the upcoming Total Army Analysis process. System modernization efforts, cost-informed and validated through two-plus years of capability portfolio reviews, continued to field improvements to current systems, such as Patriot and Sentinel, while developing our new capabilities. The IFPC, Block 1, is on path to attain a Milestone A decision.

The ADA School continued to update and develop training and leader instruction to meet the guidance of the Army Learning Model (ALM) 2015 and the changing force requirements. The 30th ADA Brigade, incorporated several initiatives in the ADA School that addressed the ALM 2015 areas of 21st century Soldier competencies, learner-centric, blended learning, and skilled facilitators. The Office of Chief, Air Defense Artillery (OCADA), in concert with Department of the Army G-1, U.S. Army Forces Command, Army Air and Missile Defense Commands, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and the Human Resource Command, conducted a career management field-14 review to assess challenges in providing sufficient ADA personnel capacity to meet worldwide requirements in support of Army and joint force commanders. Additionally, work continued on the new \$25 million THAAD training facility; the facility will be completed in May.

Over the past year, the 30th ADA Brigade trained more than 2,400 Soldiers. The 1st Battalion, 56th ADA, 2nd Battalion, 6th ADA and 3rd Battalion, 6th ADA, trained approximately 1,600 Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Soldiers, 40 new warrant officers in the Warrant Officer Basic Course, 160 new officers in the Basic Officer Leader Course, and 520 captains and other ranks in the Captains Career Course, Patriot Top Gun Course, Patriot Master Gunner Course, and other functional

courses. The brigade also trained more than 350 partner nation students from 23 countries.

As noted above, the brigade also introduced several ALM 2015 initiatives: programs of instruction were revised and enhanced to integrate the 21st century Soldier competencies, such as critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration and teamwork, and tactical and technical competence.

The brigade developed a comprehensive Blackboard Program for its core and functional courses, enabling students to learn on their own and come to class better prepared to discuss the daily training material. Comments from the accreditation team, during the recent TRADOC accreditation, indicated that the Air Defense School's Blackboard Program is the most robust and comprehensive in TRADOC.

The brigade also incorporated the Audience Response System. The Audience Response System is a relatively inexpensive new technology that enhances the learning environment and enables instructors to become skilled facilitators by effectively engaging every student.

Finally, the brigade expanded the use of training aids, devices, simulations and simulators (TADSS) in all programs of instruction. Classes will rely more on 'left of live' equipment (simulators and devices) rather than tactical equipment. The primary TADSS is the Reconfigurable Table Top Trainer, or RT3, which can be loaded with different software applications (scenarios ranging from maintenance procedures to tactical operations) to enhance training and provide a cost effective alternative to the brigade's limited tactical equipment. The RT3 also has the capability to conduct training or exercises as a networked system of systems between the brigade and operational units. Due to its versatility and to inject commonality across the ADA force, I mandated that all ADA systems incorporate the RT3 as their primary TADSS device.

We began the integration of the German air force Air Defense into the FCoE. A new foreign liaison officer was accredited to the center, and German exchange officers were positioned in the Doctrine and Training Directorate and Joint and Combined Integration Directorate. The next step will be placing German officers and noncommissioned officers within 30th ADA Brigade as Patriot, Basic Officer Leader Course, and Captains Career Course instructors. Over the past year, we hosted partner nation general officers and key leaders from Iraq, Qatar, Germany, Sweden, Japan, Israel, United Kingdom, Australia and Korea. These visits took place through the spring, summer and early fall and displayed the growing emphasis on air and missile defense throughout the world.

Throughout 2013, the Air Defense Artillery force and the school remained on point, responding to the needs of the force and our allies. Challenges will continue this year as our Army resizes and reshapes and our budget shrinks in this fiscally constrained environment. We in the Air Defense Artillery School are committed to providing the best trained Air Defense Artillery Soldiers to the force, and the Air Defense Artillery force is committed to providing the best Air and Missile Defense of our nation, our Soldiers and our partners.

First to Fire!

State of the Field Artillery

By **BG Christopher F. Bentley**

Chief of the Field Artillery and Commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla.

In the past year, there have been a number of exciting developments within the Field Artillery (FA) across all domains: doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF).

In 2013, collectively these developments have shaped the ‘Modernization of Field Artillery Fires,’ which will continue to be our focus into 2014 and beyond.

In previous years, the ‘Modernization of Field Artillery Fires’ has meant primarily centering on materiel and equipment, from our target acquisition radars to the future Joint Effects Targeting System (JETS), from our Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) program, Excalibur and the XM1156 Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) – we are on time and on target when delivering the required operational capabilities for the Army of 2020 and beyond.

However, building a comprehensive modernization plan for equipment and materiel is only part of the equation. Concurrently, we have also been focusing on the needs of our people. As our equipment and materiel have become more technology driven, for example, so has our leadership development and training. We have also updated what our organizational formations should look like and have revamped doctrine to support modernization efforts.

These endeavors are significant, because even though we have the best equipment in the world, we won’t win the fight if we don’t simultaneously invest in our people. There would be no ‘King of Battle’ without the exceptional Soldiers who dedicate their professional lives to providing Fires whenever and wherever needed.

Joint Fires Observers. Joint Fires observers (JFOs) are critical to the fight. JFOs bring unique skill sets that only the FA provides to the maneuver commander. Once certified, JFOs are proficient at surface-to-surface calls for fire, naval surface calls for fire, AC-130 calls for fire, and close combat aviation procedures.



Time and time again, JFOs have been proven to be significant force-multipliers which enhance the maneuver commander’s access to a variety of Fires. JFOs, in conjunction with Air Force joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs), are trained to assist maneuver commanders with the timely planning, synchronization, and responsive execution of close air support (CAS). Timely and effective CAS can mean the difference between losing lives, equipment and objectives in the fight. JFOs can quickly and accurately provide the information necessary for JTACs to prosecute targets and avoid fratricide and unnecessary collateral damage.

JFO training will become part of our core Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) instruction. It is non-negotiable. We have laid the groundwork to add JFO academics to the BOLC here at Fort Sill, Okla., by third quarter FY14. Currently, only BOLC graduates with follow on assignments to brigade combat teams (BCTs) have the opportunity to complete JFO certification as an assignment oriented training course following graduation. However, in order to best address the needs of the force, every FA lieutenant must be trained as a JFO.

We are also migrating to a small-group level of instruction in our BOLC. This initiative is critical to meeting demands for leader development. Our current BOLC classes are now getting two hours of small group a week. Great things happen when our FA Soldiers are taught using the Army learning model of small group instruction. Studies have shown that discussion guided by small group leaders takes understanding and relevance to higher levels of learning for all our Soldiers.

Targeting Warrant Officers (131A). In an environment where collateral damage has operational or strategic implications, Fires delivered with precision accuracy is a necessity. This year, our 131As have enhanced their unique skill set to support the commander's ability to meet this requirement anytime and anywhere in the world.

In October 2013, target mensuration only and collateral damage estimate (TMO, CDE) certification was incorporated into Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) and Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC) instruction as a requirement for graduation. The need for this requirement allows our 131As to support the momentum of our initiative to modernize FA Fires.

As precision capabilities have grown, so has the requirement for FA targeting officers with the skill set necessary to employ munitions precisely. Accurate target location remains the first and most important of the five requirements for accurate fire. The enhanced skill set our 131As need to effectively employ munitions begins with precision Fires certification. That certification encompasses institutional training for weaponeering, TMO and CDE.

Leader Development. 2013 was also a great year for leader development. Recently, the U.S. Army released its Army Leadership Development Strategy 2013. We followed suit with redefining our Field Artillery Leadership Development Strategy. Our FA men and women

deserve the best possible leader development in order to prepare them to effectively lead Soldiers.

Our roadmap for success is based on three crucial leader development components: training, education and experience. It is also based on opportunities in the institutional, operational and self-development domains that should be taken advantage of when a leader becomes a lieutenant and ultimately progresses to become a battalion commander and beyond.

The institutional domain includes initial military training, professional military education, advanced civil schooling, training with industry, and fellowships to supplement leader education. Civilian education is an important way a leader gains breadth and the wisdom to know and apply the proper outcomes as a leader, but it is within the operational domain where most leaders undergo the majority of their development. It encompasses all training and education in deployable units. It is where junior leaders achieve technical competence, mid-grade leaders further develop their ability to lead units and organizations, and senior leaders contribute to the development and implementation of national and security objectives. All training, education, and self-development activities conducted during planning, preparing, executing, and assessing unified land operations are essential parts of developing leaders in the operational domain.

Five teams from 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, participated in the first Warrior Leader Crucible competition Jan. 14, 2014, on Camp Casey, South Korea. The division-wide Warrior Leader Crucible was designed to test the mettle, teamwork and the mastery of individual skills and knowledge including chemical defense, tactical communications, combat casualty care, weapons skills, and a foot march. The 6-37 FA team, LTC Mark Brock, the battalion commander, and ISG Joseph Taylor, the B Battery first sergeant, took fourth place out of 40 teams. (Photo by SSG Carlos Davis, U.S. Army)





Paratroopers assigned to 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne), 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) conduct a training jump from a C-130 Hercules into Bunker Drop Zone at the Seventh Army Joint Multinational Training Command's Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. (Photo Gertrud Zach, U.S. Army)

The self-development domain includes planned and goal-oriented learning that reinforces and expands the depth and breadth of an individual's knowledge base and self-awareness. Self-development bridges learning gaps between the operational and institutional domains and sets conditions for continuous learning and growth. There are three variations: structured self-development, which are mandatory learning modules to meet specific learning objectives and requirements; guided self-development, which is recommended, but optional learning that is intended to enhance professional competence; and personal self-development which is self-initiated learning to meet personal training, education, and experiential goals. Civilian education can also fall within this category.

Our strategy has also defined what types of key developmental and

broadening assignments FA officers should seek out during key points of their career. For example, exposure to joint and interagency environments throughout a career facilitates interpersonal and managerial growth and aids in the transition from the tactical to the strategic level of senior leadership.

Our leaders must understand operating within a joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational environment and must have both education and experience necessary for success in this environment. Experience and education will remain imperative to developing the strategic leaders of tomorrow.

Designing the Future Force. As our Army returns to training in combined arms operations and executing regionally aligned missions, significant capability gaps have emerged in the areas of effective Fires

integration, training oversight of Fires battalions and professional development of our junior and mid-grade leaders. As a branch, one of the ways we are addressing these gaps is by updating our organizational structure.

In October 2013, the Department of the Army approved the Division Fires Command Force Design Update, which will create 10 Fires headquarters, assigned to the 10 active divisions and will retain four active Fires brigades (FiBs) assigned to the three corps and Eighth Army. The command aligned to the division will be called Division Artillery (DIVARTY) headquarters, while the FiBs will retain their current titles.

We will work diligently throughout 2014, and beyond to develop and refine the roles. Missions and supporting doctrine will provide these Fires commands new relevance into the integration of joint and combined-arms Fires.

FM 3-09, *Field Artillery Operations and Fire Support*. In December 2013, we revamped our 2011 version of Field Manual (FM) 3-09, *Fire Support*, to FM 3-09, *Field Artillery Operations and Fire Support*, with the primary audience it is intended for being the maneuver commander and his staff. It gives commanders a single FM on how the FA supports the maneuver mission during unified land operations (ULO).

The revamped FM consists of four chapters, Field Artillery Operations, Fire Support, Fire Support and the Operations Process, and Fire Support Coordination and Other Control Measures.

The highlights of each chapter are as follows:

Chapter 1, Field Artillery Operations, focuses on the tactics used when conducting offensive, defensive and stability tasks. It also covers key terms and key organizations.

Chapter 2, Fire Support, covers all the basics found in the November 2011 version of FM 3-09 in a condensed and relevant format.

Chapter 3, Fire Support and the Operations Process, covers everything Field Artillery Soldiers should know about how FA fits into the operations process, fire support planning, and FA operations planning.

Chapter 4, Fire Support Coordination and Other Control Measures, covers everything supported commanders need to know about the clearance of Fires and fire effects.

I am excited to see where the FA is going with this pivotal FM. We are already working a revised version to be released in 2014.

Soldier 2020. As part of a Department of Defense requirement, in 2013 the Army announced its 'Soldier 2020' plan. During 2013, the United States Army Field Artillery School (USAFAS) re-evaluated standards and validated gender-neutral standards for the majority of our military occupational specialties (MOSs). I am excited to say we are focusing on placing the right person with the right skills in the right job. We are on time and on target in matching the right Soldiers to jobs that best correspond to their abilities.

Opportunities for the future haven't been brighter. Beyond today, we see a highway full of relevant opportunities that provide professional growth and opportunity for all of our professionals across numerous formations.

Sensors, Platforms, Munitions, and Mission Command. I would be remiss if I didn't express how excited I am about what is happening within our ongoing modernization efforts, most notably with our sensors, platforms, munitions, and mission command.

Accurate target location is our greatest challenge and number one priority in meeting the five requirements for accurate Fires. Through technology and innovations, such as the Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder-Hand Held (LLDR-2H), we have made significant progress in reducing target location error (TLE) from approximately six meters to two meters.

While the LLDR-2H has been a huge success in 2013, the Joint

Effects Targeting System (JETS) is set to provide more exceptional capability into the future. With JETS, we expect to achieve 10-meter TLE out to 2,500 meters and near precision accuracy at ranges greater than 6,000 meters. However, until we can completely field JETS, a quick reaction capability (QRC) hand-held precision targeting device has been fielded to provide the dismounted forward observer (FO) an enhanced ability to accurately locate targets. The QRC device has bridged the gap between the target location capability found in the LLDR-2H and the objective capability found in JETS.

Likewise in 2013, additional groundwork was laid for the Precision Fires Warrior Ensemble. This ensemble is a collection of technology that is worn by the Soldier; it includes a mobile phone that is loaded with Forward Observer Software (FOS) and precision Fires imagery, the JETS, a battery, a PRC 152A hand-held radio, and a data hub. Used together, this equipment enables the FO to direct both precision, near precision and area Fires on the battlefield. Throughout 2013, the ensemble was refined through various tests in the field.

Also in 2013, the Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) program and the Digitized M119A3 Program have made great strides. The PIM is the latest howitzer in the M109 family of vehicles, the primary indirect fire support system for the armored brigade combat teams (ABCTs). It uses the existing main armament and cab structure of a Paladin M109A6, and replaces the vehicle's chassis components with modern components common to the Bradley vehicle. The improved chassis provides greater survivability and commonality with the existing systems in the ABCT, reducing operational sustainability costs by replacing obsolete components.

The Digitized M119A3 Program is on schedule and was fielded stateside in 2013 with phenomenal results. The upgraded M119A3 is equipped with a digital fire control system (DFCS) that includes an inertial navigation unit, guided-positioning system technology and other features that will give the weapon the ability to determine its precise location.

Excalibur and the XM1156 PGK continue to be critical priorities in our cannon munitions modernization effort. Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Increment IV addresses replacements for dual-purpose improved conventional munitions (DPICM) and the Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) as they are phased out.

PGK has been fielded to units in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and has demonstrated 50-meter or less circular error probability (CEP), providing a tremendous near-precision asset to the commander.

Likewise, there have been great advancements with the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), which has been the FA's primary fire support and mission command system for the past 20 years. In 2013, a lot of the initial ground work was completed to eventually combine all fire support system software/applications into one AFATDS Increment II software system. This migration of systems will provide ease of training, improved capability, resource savings, and a more streamlined path to software updates to accommodate future requirements. The end state for this strategy is scheduled for FY18, where one software application, designed to fit numerous roles, will support multiple Fires functions.

2014. As we forge ahead into 2014, our focus will remain on providing an operationally adaptable force. It is the goal of everything we do here at Fort Sill, both as a branch and as a school. From equipment modernization to training to leader development, we have our eye on providing a force capable of winning in ULO. King of Battle! Fires Strong!

LTG (Ret.) Wilson A. Shoffner

The Passing of a Field Artillery Commander

The Fires community is deeply saddened by the passing of LTG (Ret) Wilson A. 'Dutch' Shoffner. Shoffner died Friday, Jan. 3, 2014, at his home in Colleyville, Texas, at the age of 75.

Shoffner was originally from Ryan, Okla., where he graduated from Ryan High School. He attended Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., and graduated from Oklahoma State University. Shoffner was commissioned in the Field Artillery and served for 32 years in the U.S. Army. During his career, Shoffner served in Vietnam, commanded the 214th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Sill, Okla., the 3rd Infantry Division in Wurzburg, Germany, and the Combined Arms Command at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Following his retirement from the Army, he was hired as vice president for the Lock-

heed Martin Corp. in Grand Prairie, Texas. Shoffner also served on the Senior Field Artillery Advisory Council, actively participating in the annual Fires seminars and the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) conferences.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Beverly Shoffner from Lawton, Okla. Survivors include their children; Al and Carron Shoffner of Fort Eustis, Va., and Andy and Kim Shoffner of Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; sisters, Myra White of Granbury, Jean Shoffner and Joan Dunham of Sugden, Okla., and Judy Ataff of Duncan, Okla.; grandchildren, Kristin, Lauren and Austin; two brothers-in-law; one sister-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

Shoffner is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.



MG (Ret.) Fred F. Marty

The Passing of a Field Artillery Commander

It is with deep sorrow we mourn the passing of one of our own, MG (Ret.) Fred F. Marty, U.S. Army.

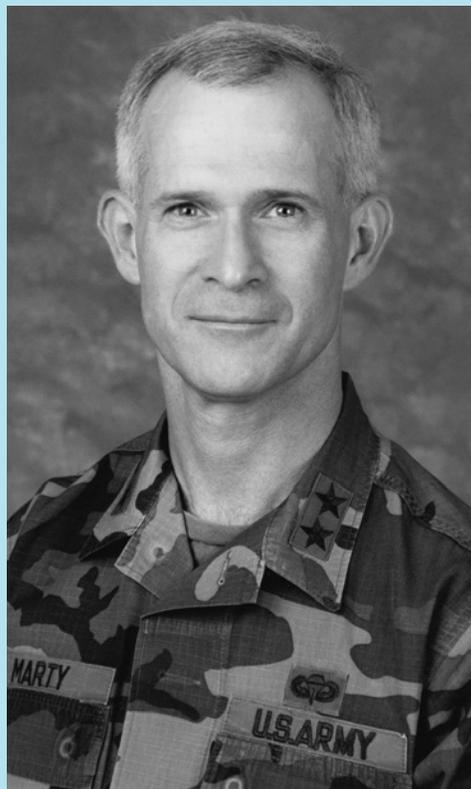
Marty passed away at his home on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013, after a long illness. He was born Jan. 12, 1942, in St. Louis, Mo. He attended Southwest High School, then Missouri State University, in Springfield, Mo., where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree and served in the Army ROTC detachment. Marty was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate and entered Army active duty in June 1963, after being commissioned a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery. His military schooling included the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Air War College. In 1974, he earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

Marty served extensively in command and troop leadership assignments in combined arms units located throughout the world. During two tours of duty in Vietnam and four tours in Germany, he soldiered predominantly with Field Artillery units, supporting cavalry and armored forces. Marty commanded Field Artillery units at every echelon, from

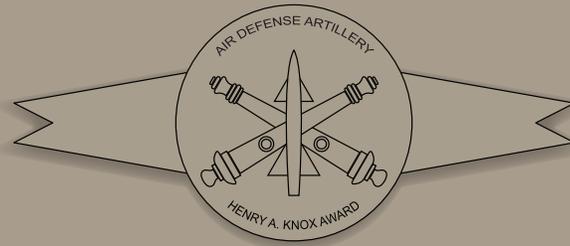
battery through corps artillery, and directed operations at the United States Field Artillery School. Additionally, he was assigned in key operations, logistics and resource management staff positions from battalion through corps level, including service as Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Marty commanded major military units and installations both in the United States and overseas. Prior to his retirement from active duty, following 30 years of distinguished service, he was assigned as the commanding general of Fort Sill, Okla., which under his leadership was named The Best-Managed Installation in the Army in 1992. He also served concurrently as the commandant of the United States Field Artillery School and the chief of the Field Artillery.

Marty was a recipient of the Army's highest peacetime award, the Distinguished Service Medal. During his career he also earned three awards of the Legion of Merit, six awards of the Bronze Star Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, three awards of the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, three awards of the Army Commendation Medal, including one for Valor, and the



Army Achievement Medal. He also earned the Army Parachutist Badge and Non-Crew-member Flight Badge.



ADA Henry A. Knox Award **HHB, 4-3 ADA**

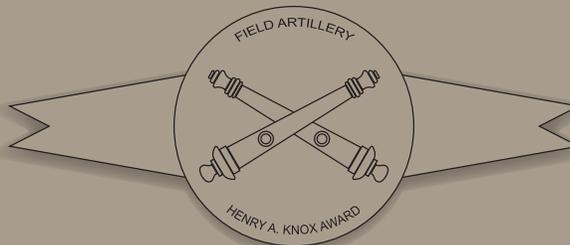
This award recognizes the outstanding active duty Army Air and Missile Defense battery of the year for superior mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence within the Air Defense community.

During the extremely high operational tempo of deployment and redeployment operations, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, Fort Sill, Okla., concentrated on teamwork to accomplish their mission. The unit received the Blackjack Gold and Silver Awards during the 32nd Army Air & Missile Defense Command standardized Patriot engagement assessment of readiness report with unrivaled technical and tactical proficiency by receiving first time 'GOs' during air battle management evaluations. During the year-long deployment, the unit provided the countries of Jordan and Afghanistan, Patriot Defense Design, which contributed greatly to the success of Exercise Eager Lion. The battery tactical operations center was the first to integrate the Marine's TPS-59 radar and the Patriot air picture, increasing early warning capabilities across the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility

(AOR). The battery established three new standard operating procedures during the deployment, which were adopted as the standard by the 69th ADA Brigade Headquarters. During the year-long deployment, the battery had no driving under the influence (DUI) incidents, no Class C or higher accident incidents, no drug or alcohol incidents and no incidents of sexual assault or harassment while conducting their Air Defense mission.

The unit's redeployment of personnel and equipment from CENTCOM to Fort Sill was executed with no safety issues or reportable incidents. Proactive and engaged leadership were the keys to their success. Regardless of the mission, deployment or garrison, HHB, 4-3 ADA delivers outstanding results enabling it to be the premier Air Defense battery in the Army.

This battery has readily demonstrated they possess the tactical proficiency, operational readiness, standards and discipline, innovation, and leadership that define superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence deserving of the 2014 MG Henry A. Knox Award.



FA Henry A. Knox Award **A Battery, 2-15 FA**

This award recognizes the outstanding active duty Army Field Artillery battery of the year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

While deployed to Paktika province in Afghanistan, A Battery operated three firing platoons from five different firing points and a security force advise and assist team (SFAAT). The battery fired more than 2,600 rounds in support of combat operations with superior results, to include a consistent counterfire battle plan from their forward op-

erating base. They are also the first unit in Regional Command-East to achieve confirmed effects on target with Excalibur – a precision-guided cannon artillery munitions. In addition, they developed and executed a superb safety program that was recognized by the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., and Army Safety Office and achieved second place for battery/company reenlistment goals within the 10th Mountain Division.



ADA Alexander Hamilton Award

C Battery, 3-265 ADA

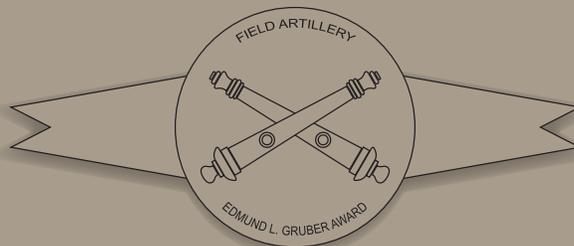
This award recognizes the outstanding U.S. Army National Guard Air Defense Artillery battery of the year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, has contributed significantly to the Air and Missile Defense (AMD) mission in support of Operation Noble Eagle in the National Capital Region (NCR) with its superb mission accomplishments and overall unit excellence. C Battery successfully executed the first Minimum Deployment Package (MDP) employment based out of the NCR, providing supplemental radar coverage in support of presidential support missions throughout the continental United States. C Battery was the first MDP unit to train on the Lightweight Surveillance and Target Acquisition, which was integrated into the common air picture resulting in a much improved command and control network. C Battery created the first MDP tactical standard operating procedures and rewrote the tactics, techniques and procedures for this highly visible zero-defect mission. The highly trained battery crews performed exemplary at the mission readiness

exercise and maintained an incredible state of readiness by receiving an outstanding rating on their mid-mission deployment readiness exercise.

In preparation of NCR deployment, C Battery conducted a comprehensive drivers licensing and winter drivers' training course, validated by the training support battalion. This focus on drivers resulted in having no driving while intoxicated (DWI) incidents, no Class A incidents resulting in Soldier injury and no Class B incidents resulting in equipment damage. C Battery Soldiers safely drove in excess of 25,000 accident-free miles while on a 365-day deployment in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

Throughout the execution of a variety missions, C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, proved to be an agile, adaptable and decisive force, serving as a benchmark of the ADA and Fires community. The battery's actions contributed significantly to the legacy of the ADA branch, the Army National Guard and deserve the 2014 Alexander Hamilton Award.



FA Alexander Hamilton Award

B Battery, 1-121FA

The Alexander Hamilton Award recognizes the outstanding U.S. Army National Guard Field Artillery battery of the year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

B Battery had the distinct honor of being the first National Guard unit in the nation to assume the mission of firing the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) in combat. Historically, the HIMARS mission has been accomplished exclusively by active component battalions.

B Battery's training plan paved the way for any National Guard Field Artillery unit that will mobilize and deploy in the future. They set the standard by having a very deliberate, aggressive and resourceful pre-deployment training program, leveraging expertise and experi-

ence from active component HIMARS battalions. While deployed, B Battery conducted their mission with a level of professionalism and expertise that quickly earned them the respect and trust of the special operations task force they supported.

In addition to a stellar mobilization and deployment, B Battery also distinguished themselves with notable acts of selfless service. While traveling along the New Mexico highway between training sites, three B Battery Soldiers came upon a civilian traffic accident. With little regard for their personal safety, these Soldiers rendered life-saving aid and maintained control of the scene until medical personnel arrived. For their heroic efforts, all three Soldiers will receive awards at next year's National Guard Association of the United States Convention.



ADA James A. Shipton Award SSG (P) Nancy Wingo

The James A. Shipton Award recognizes an Air Defense Artillery professional for outstanding performance, superb individual thought, innovation and overall excellence that results in significant contributions to the Air Defense mission.

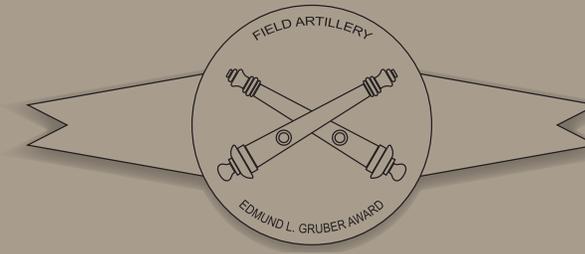
No other *Air Defender* epitomizes the leadership qualities, commitment to excellence, and innovative drive of the Air Defense Artillery's founding father, Brigadier General James Shipton, like SSG Nancy Wingo.

Wingo's exceptional performance as a tactical control assistant and master gunner is only upstaged by her performance as fire control's platoon sergeant. The fact that she is able to simultaneously excel at all three duties is why she should be recognized as the top *Air Defender* in the branch. Her selfless service to the unit was the primary reason why C Battery certified Table VIII Gunnery Tables on their first qualification attempt. She personally scored a 98 percent on her certification test, and led her crew to score a 98 percent on their certification test. She worked around the clock to support her Soldiers' training requirements and simultaneously fulfill her roles as crew supervisor

and battery master gunner. Her training abilities enabled the *Cold Steel* Battalion to certify 11 crews in a 90-day period.

Wingo also excelled in her performance as fire control platoon sergeant, leading by example in all her tasks. She personally scored 299 on her Army Physical Fitness Test, qualified expert with her assigned weapon and finished the annual 20-kilometer foot march in less than three hours. Wingo further distinguished herself by winning the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition and competing admirably at the XVIII Airborne Corps competition.

Her noteworthy performance in a myriad of diverse areas sets her apart from her peers, instills confidence in her subordinates, and merits the highest praise from her superiors. SSG Wingo strives for excellence, achieves superior results from herself and her subordinates, and continues to improve every formation in which she is a member. She exemplifies the Air Defense Artillery's standards and her outstanding performance deserves the 2013 BG James Shipton award.



FA Edmund L. Gruber Award

Based on accomplishments toward innovation in Field Artillery doctrine and training development techniques, tactics and procedures, and mission accomplishment – there was a tie for this year's winner.

The Edmund L. Gruber Award recognizes an outstanding Field Artillery Soldier for superb individual thought, innovation and overall excellence that results in significant contributions to or the enhancement of the Field Artillery's warfighting capabilities.

SFC Christopher R. Schuerger, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment

SFC Schuerger currently serves as Fires advisor on a Security Force Assistance Team (SFAT) in 3-2 CAV. Even though he serves as a cannon crewmember, in military occupation specialty (MOS) 13B, he performed duties outside of his military field of expertise. His extra effort and focus on maintenance and clearance of Fires procedures resulted in the successful employment of his partnered Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Field Artillery battalion. He facilitated and led his ANA counterparts through a live-fire exercise and then mentored other SFAT trainers, supporting other ANA battalions. Through his active role, he established a common operation picture for the deconfliction of Fires, maintenance and training between the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Afghan National Security Force

(ANSF). His efforts resulted in multinational training with no safety violations and a record number of ANA soldiers trained to standard.

1LT Nathaniel Holcomb, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery

While serving as cannon platoon leader in Afghanistan, his platoon fired more than 300 rounds in support of combat operations. As a platoon fire direction officer, 1LT Holcomb and his platoon received a fire mission, but the range was too great for the automated system to compute a firing solution to engage the target. Rather than simply reporting the target was out of range, Holcomb found an alternate firing location, allowing his howitzers to range the target. He repositioned his platoon and destroyed the target. Through his perseverance and dedication to mission accomplishment, his platoon was able to engage and destroy the enemy.

Active US Army and Marine Corps FA and Army ADA OCONUS Units



Germany

01 Grafenwoehr

4th BN, 319th FA, 173rd BCT

02 Kaiserslautern

Tenth Army Air and Missile Defense

Command

5th BN, 7th ADA

02 Ramstein Air Force Base

19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

03 Schweinfurt

1st BN, 77th FA

01 Vilseck

2nd Stryker Cavalry Fires Squadron



Alaska

04 Fort Richardson

2nd BN, 377th FA, 25th ID

05 Fort Wainwright

2nd BN, 8th FA, 25th ID



Japan

06 Kadena Air Force Base

1st BN, 1st ADA

06 Okinawa

12th Marine Artillery

Regiment

1st Battalion

3rd Battalion



South Korea

07 Camp Casey

210th Fires Brigade

1st BN, 38th FA

6th BN, 37th FA

07 Camp Hovey

1st BN, 15th FA, 2nd ID

08 Osan Air Force Base

3rd Battlefield

Coordination

Detachment

35th ADA Brigade

2nd BN, 1st ADA

6th BN, 52nd ADA



Hawaii

09 Fort Shafter

94th Air and Missile Defense Command

09 Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

09 Schofield Barracks

25th Infantry Division

3rd BN, 7th FA

2nd BN, 11th FA



01 **Camp Lejeune, N.C.**

10th Marine Artillery Regiment

1st BN, 10th Marine Artillery Regiment
2nd BN, 10th Marine Artillery Regiment

02 **Camp Pendleton, Calif.**

11th Marine Artillery Regiment

1st BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment
2nd BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment
3rd BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment
5th BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment

03 **Camp Shelby, Miss.**

1st BN, 346th ADA, 177th Armored BDE

04 **Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.**

1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment

05 **Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah**

A BTRY, 4th ADA

06 **Fort Benning, Ga.**

1st BN, 10th FA, 3rd ID

07 **Fort Bliss, Texas**

1st Armored Division

2nd BN, 3rd FA
2nd BN, 29th FA
4th BN, 1st FA
4th BN, 27th FA

32nd Air and Missile Defense Command

11th ADA Brigade

1st BN, 43rd ADA
2nd BN, 43rd ADA
3rd BN, 43rd ADA
5th BN, 7th ADA
A BTRY, 2nd ADA
D BTRY, 2nd ADA
A BTRY, 4th ADA

212th Fires Brigade

402nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army

1st BN, 362nd ADA, 5th Armored BDE

08 **Fort Bragg, N.C.**

XVIII Airborne Corps

18th Fires Brigade

3rd BN, 27th FA
1st BN, 321st FA

3rd BN, 321st FA

82nd Airborne Division

1st BN, 319th FA
2nd BN, 319th FA
3rd BN, 319th FA
2nd BN, 321st FA

108th ADA Brigade

3rd BN, 4th ADA
1st BN, 7th ADA

09 **Fort Campbell, Ky.**

2nd BN, 44th ADA, 108th ADA BDE

101st Airborne Division

1st BN, 320th FA
2nd BN, 320th FA
3rd BN, 320th FA
4th BN, 320th FA

10 **Fort Carson, Colo.**

4th Infantry Division

2nd BN, 77th FA
3rd BN, 16th FA
3rd BN, 29th FA
4th BN, 42nd FA

11 **Fort Dix, N.J.**

72nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army

12 **Fort Drum, N.Y.**

10th Mountain Division

2nd BN, 15th FA
3rd BN, 6th FA
4th BN, 25th FA

13 **Fort Hood, Texas**

1st Cavalry Division

1st BN, 82nd FA
2nd BN, 82nd FA
3rd BN, 82nd FA
5th BN, 82nd FA

3rd Armored Cavalry Fires III Corps

41st Fires Brigade

2nd BN, 20th FA
1st BN, 21st FA

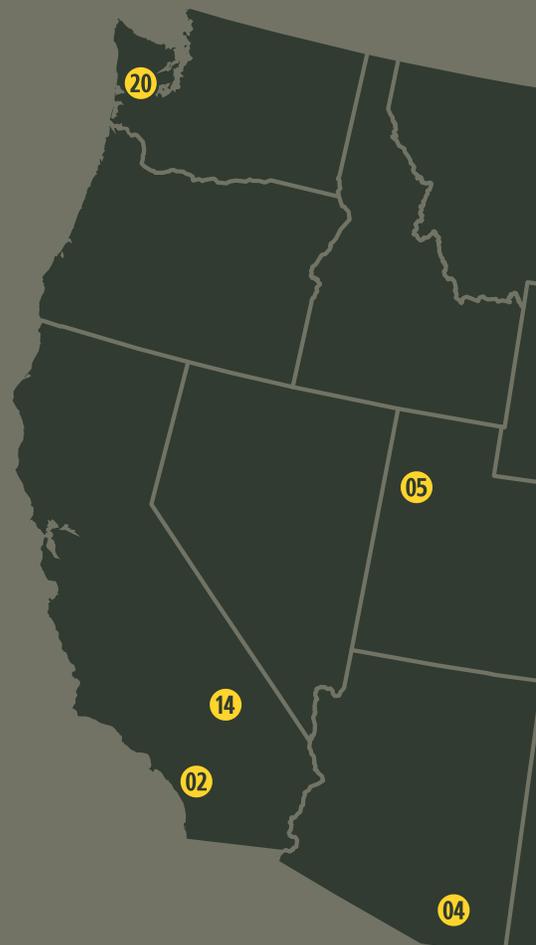
69th ADA Brigade

4th BN, 5th ADA
1st BN, 44th ADA
1st BN, 62nd ADA

479th FA Brigade, First Army

14 **Fort Irwin, Calif.**

I BTRY, 1st SQDN, 11th ACR



15 **Fort Knox, Ky.**

1st BN, 6th FA, 1st ID

16 **Fort Polk, La.**

5th BN, 25th FA, 10th Mountain Div.

17 **Fort Riley, Kan.**

1st Infantry Division

1st BN, 5th FA
1st BN, 7th FA
2nd BN, 32nd FA

18 **Fort Sill, Okla.**

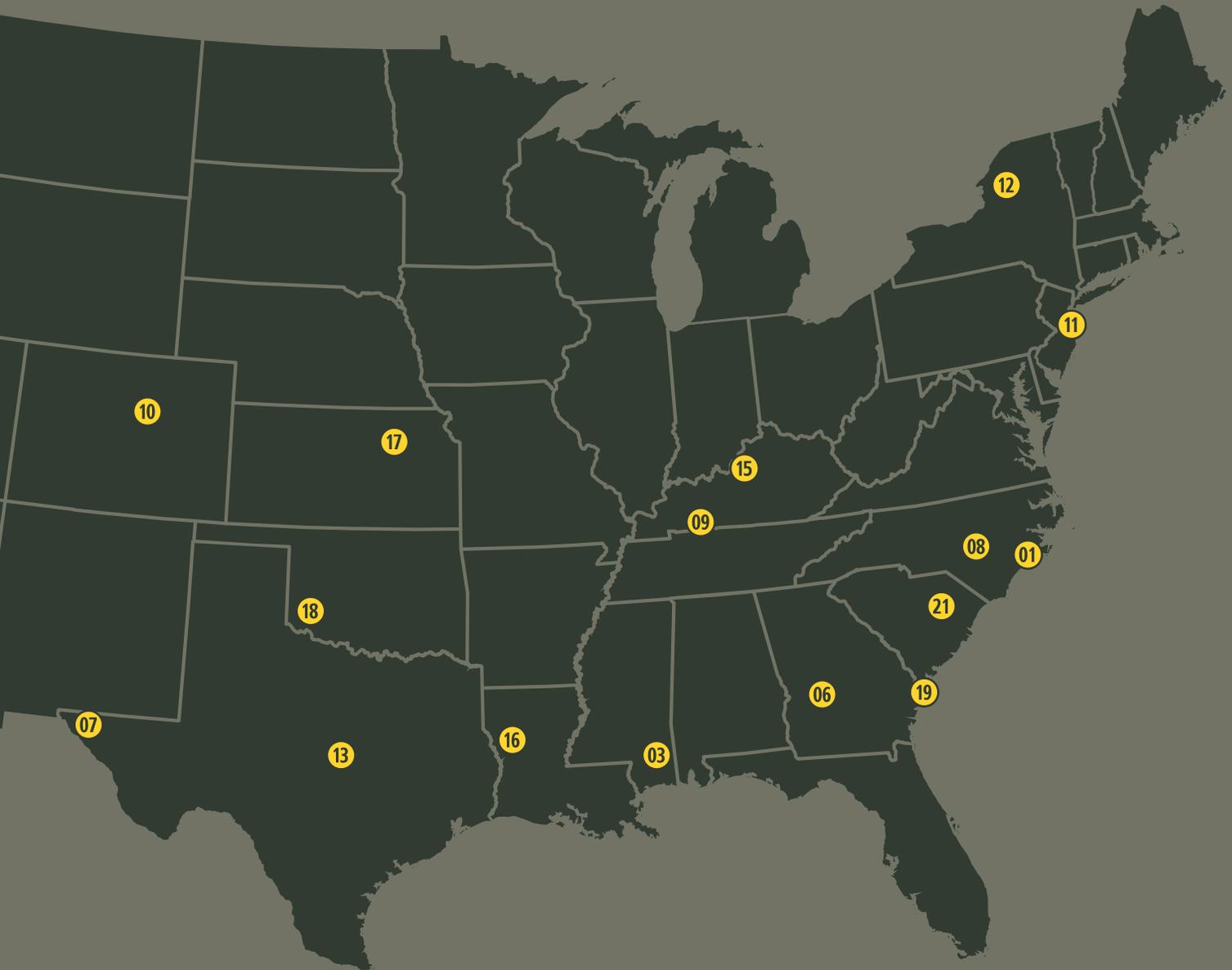
30th ADA Brigade

1st BN, 56th ADA
2nd BN, 6th ADA
3rd BN, 6th ADA

31st ADA Brigade

3rd BN, 2nd ADA
4th BN, 3rd ADA

Active US Army and Marine Corps FA and Army ADA CONUS Units



75th Fires Brigade

1st BN, 17th FA
2nd BN, 18th FA
3rd BN, 13th FA

214th Fires Brigade

1st BN, 14th FA
2nd BN, 4th FA
2nd BN, 5th FA

428th Fires Brigade

1st BN, 30th FA
1st BN, 78th FA
2nd BN, 2nd FA

434th Fires Brigade

1st BN, 19th FA
1st BN, 31st FA
1st BN, 40th FA

1st BN, 79th FA
95th Adjutant General Battalion
434th Support Detachment

Marine Artillery Detachment

19 Fort Stewart, Ga.

3rd Infantry Division

1st BN, 9th FA
1st BN, 41st FA
1st BN, 76th FA

20 Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

I Corps

7th Infantry Division

1st BN, 37th FA
2nd BN, 12th FA
2nd BN, 17th FA
5th BN, 5th ADA, 31st ADA BDE

17th Fires Brigade

1st BN, 94th FA
1st BN, 377th FA
5th BN, 3rd FA

21 Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

Alabama

- 01 1st BN, 117th FA, 142nd Fires BDE

Alaska

- 02 **49th Missile Defense Battalion**

Arkansas

- 03 1st BN, 206th FA, 36th ID
- 04 2nd BN, 233rd Regional Training Institute
- 05 **142nd Fires Brigade**
1st BN, 142nd FA
2nd BN, 142nd FA

California

- 06 1st BN, 14th Marine Regiment
- 07 1st BN, 144th FA, 11th ACR
- 08 5th BN, 14th Marine Regiment
- 06 1st BN, 143rd FA, 40th ID
- 09 **100th Missile Defense Element (Forward)**

Colorado

- 10 **100th Missile Defense Brigade**
- 10 **117th Space Battalion**
- 10 **169th Fires Brigade**
3rd BN, 157th FA
- 10 **USNORTHCOM Missile Defense Agency**

Florida

- 11 2nd BN, 116th FA, 28th ID
- 11 3rd BN, 116th FA, 138th FA BDE
- 11 **164th ADA Brigade**
1st BN, 265th ADA
3rd BN, 265th ADA
- 12 1st BN, 211th Regional Training Institute

Georgia

- 13 1st BN, 118th FA, 35th ID
- 14 1st BN, 214th FA, 65th Fires BDE

Hawaii

- 15 1st BN, 487th FA, 40th ID

Idaho

- 16 1st BN, 148th FA, 116th CAV

Illinois

- 17 2nd BN, 122nd FA, 35th ID
- 18 2nd BN, 123rd FA, 169th Fires BDE

- 19 2nd BN, 129th Regional Training Institute

Indiana

- 20 2nd BN, 150th FA, 138th Fires BDE
- 21 1st BN, 163rd FA, 38th ID

Iowa

- 22 1st BN, 194th FA, 34th ID

Kansas

- 23 1st BN, 161st FA, 169th Fires BDE
- 24 2nd BN, 130th FA, 169th Fires BDE
- 25 235th Regional Training Institute

Kentucky

- 26 1st BN, 238th Regional Training Institute

138th Fires Brigade

- 1st BN, 623rd FA
- 2nd BN, 138th FA

Louisiana

- 28 1st BN, 141th FA, 36th ID

Massachusetts

- 29 1st BN, 101st FA, 42nd ID
- 29 1st BN, 101st Regional Training Institute

Michigan

- 30 1st BN, 119th FA, 197th Fires BDE
- 31 1st BN, 182nd FA, 197th Fires BDE

Minnesota

- 32 1st BN, 125th FA, 34th ID
- 32 1st BN, 151st FA, 115th Fires BDE

Mississippi

- 33 1st BN, 204th ADA
- 34 2nd BN, 114th FA, 36th ID

Missouri

- 35 1st BN, 129th FA, 45th Fires BDE

New Hampshire

- 36 195th Regional Training Institute
- 36 **197th Fires Brigade**
3rd BN, 197th FA

New Jersey

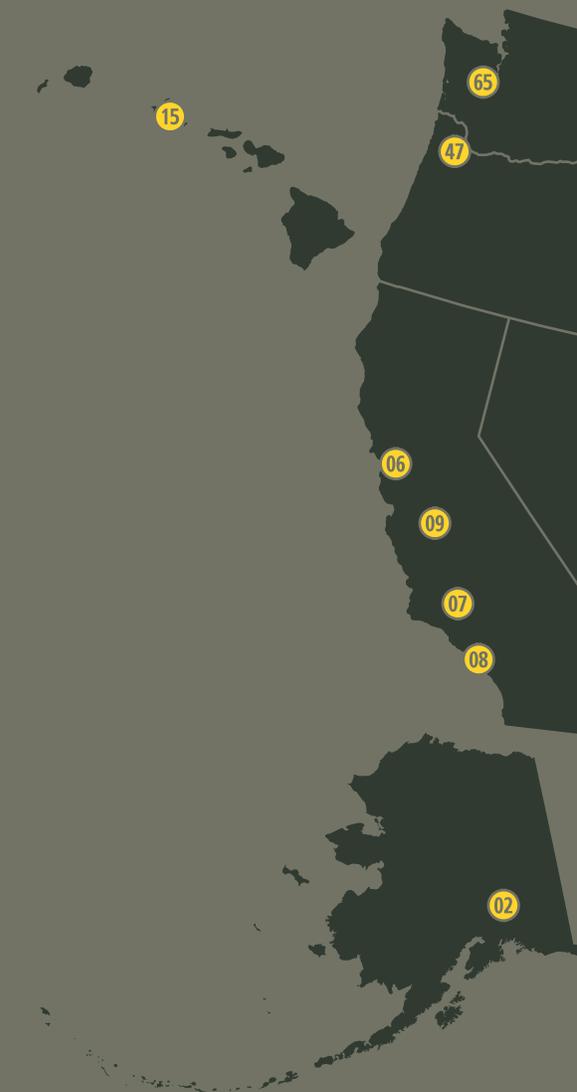
- 37 2nd BN, 254th Regional Training Institute
- 38 3rd BN, 112th FA, 42nd ID

New York

- 39 1st BN, 258th FA, 40th ID

North Carolina

- 40 1st BN, 113th FA, 29th ID



- 41 1st BN, 139th Regional Training Institute

- 42 5th BN, 113th FA, 65th Fires BDE

North Dakota

- 43 1st BN, 188th ADA

Ohio

- 44 1st BN, 134th FA, 38th ID
- 44 **174th ADA Brigade**
1st BN, 174th ADA (AMD)
2nd BN, 174th ADA (AMD)

Oklahoma

- 45 1st BN, 160th FA, 35th ID
- 45 1st BN, 189th Regional Training Institute

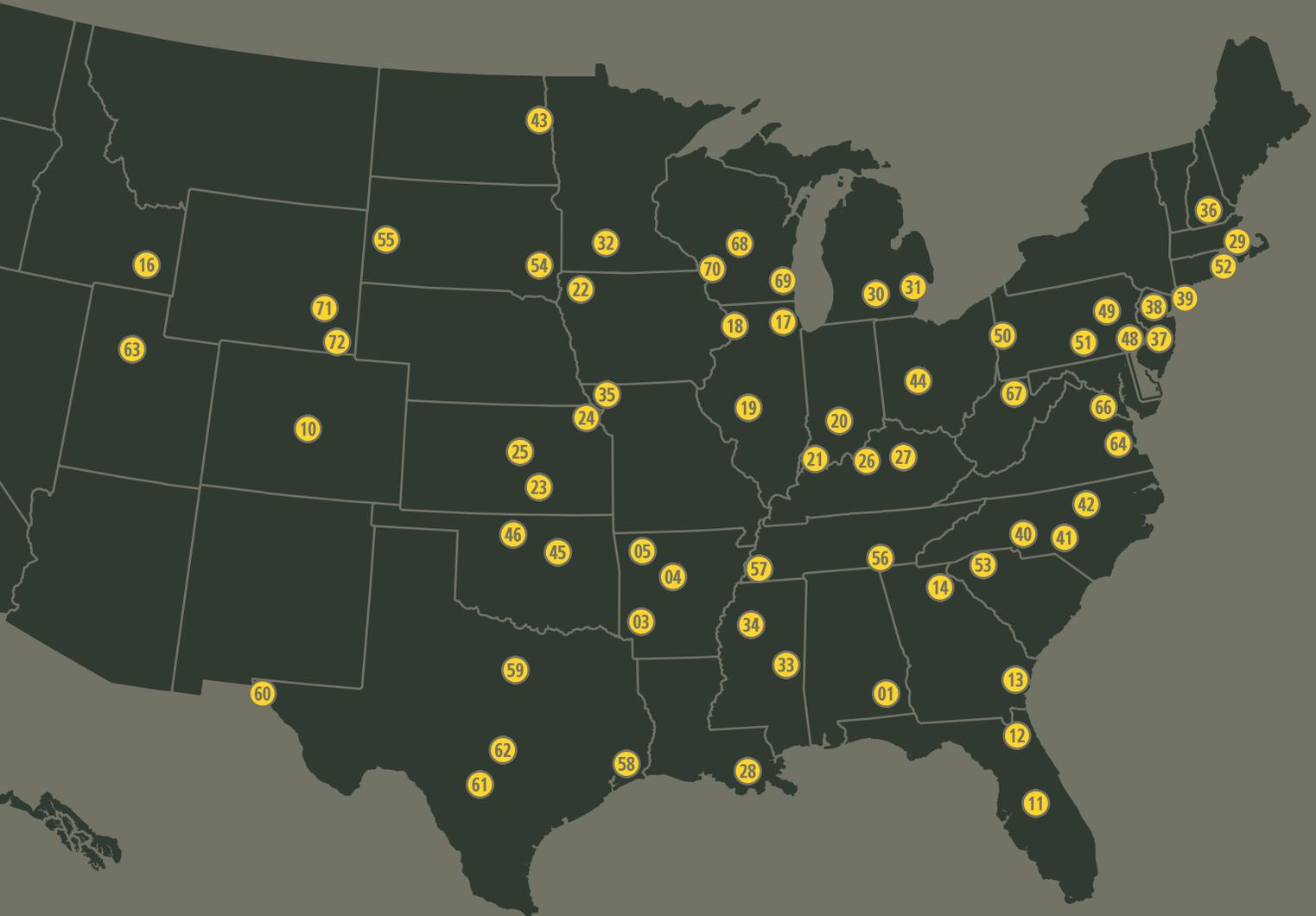
45th Fires Brigade

- 1st BN, 158th FA

Oregon

- 47 2nd BN, 218th FA, 40th ID

US Army National Guard FA, ADA, and US Marine Corps Reserve FA Units



Pennsylvania

- 48 3rd BN, 14th Marine Regiment
- 49 2nd BN, 166th Regional Training Institute
- 50 1st BN, 107th FA, 28th ID
- 51 1st BN, 108th FA, 28th ID
- 49 1st BN, 109th FA, 28th ID

Rhode Island

- 52 1st BN, 103rd FA, 197th Fires BDE

South Carolina

- 53 1st BN, 178th FA, 45th Fires BDE
- 53 **263rd Air and Missile Defense Command**
2nd BN, 263rd ADA

South Dakota

- 54 1st BN, 147th FA, 115th Fires BDE
- 55 2nd BN, 196th Regional Training Institute

Tennessee

- 56 1st BN, 181st FA, 142nd Fires BDE
- 57 3rd BN, 115th FA

Texas

- 58 1st BN, 133rd FA, 36th ID
- 59 **14th Marine Regiment**
2nd BN, 14th Marine Regiment
- 60 3rd BN, 133rd FA, 36th ID
- 61 4th BN, 133rd FA, 45th Fires BDE
- 61 2nd BN, 131st FA, 45th Fires BDE
- 62 136th Regional Training Institute

Utah

- 63 3rd BN, 640th Regional Training Institute
- 63 **65th Fires Brigade**
1st BN, 145th FA
2nd BN, 222nd FA

Virginia

- 64 1st BN, 111th FA, 29th ID

Washington

- 65 2nd BN, 146th FA, 40th ID

Washington, D.C.

- 66 National Capitol Region-Integrated Air Defense System HQ

West Virginia

- 67 1st BN, 201st FA, 197th Fires BDE

Wisconsin

- 68 1st BN, 120th FA, 34th ID
- 69 1st BN, 121st FA, 115th Fires BDE
- 70 1st BN, 426th Regional Training Institute

Wyoming

- 71 1st BN, 213th Regional Training Institute
- 72 **115th Fires Brigade**
2nd BN, 300th FA



US Army Active Air Defense Artillery Units



32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, *Blackjack*

The 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), the *Blackjack* command, located in Fort Bliss, Texas, is a theater-level Air and Missile Defense (AMD) command headquarters with a mission to rapidly deploy forces worldwide to provide joint and combined/coalition AMD protection to critical assets and support regional security operations in support of combatant commanders. The 32nd AAMDC serves as the Forces Command (FORSCOM) executive agent for all theater AMD operations and force management, and executes training and readiness authority for four continental United States (CONUS) based AMD brigades stationed at six different installations.

The command focuses on four command priorities: (1) Warfighting readiness, ensuring that deployed forces are always prepared to fight tonight, prepare to deploy order forces are always ready to deploy tomorrow and win, and engagement with regional partners to improve integrated capabilities; (2) Training readiness, being experts in our core competency so that our joint/coalition AMD assets are integrated, our leaders are agile so they can rapidly adapt to changing conditions, our Soldiers have developed mental and physical toughness through high-quality training, and as a team of warriors, we can shoot, move, communicate and sustain operations; (3) Soldier and Family readiness, where we are a professional team of disciplined winners morally grounded in Army values, we are committed to Soldier and Family resiliency, and we have developed a positive command climate focused on mission command principles; and (4) Equipment readiness, where leaders routinely touch all equipment, we are good stewards of our nation's resources, and we master technology and synchronize modernization.

Soldiers from the command are forward-deployed to seven countries in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility and the Guam territory. The 32nd AAMDC headquarters maintains a coordination element in its forward headquarters in both the Army CENTCOM and Air Force U.S. Central Command to facilitate planning and execution of joint and combined AMD operations. A brigade headquarters and three battalions, consisting of approximately 2,000 Soldiers, continue to provide AMD for critical U.S. and partner nation assets to deter aggression and enhance regional security and cooperation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

The *Blackjack* team is trained and stands ready to deploy and execute joint and combined AMD operations anywhere in the world. Its Soldiers continue to shape the future of the AMD force by enhancing the strength of the command and by incorporating and mastering new technologies. The command is comprised of winners, self-reliant Families, trained Soldiers, civilians and leaders who are combat ready with an expeditionary mindset, ready to execute contingency operations at any time.

11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Imperial*

The 11th Air Defense Artillery, *Imperial* Brigade, is the largest Air Defense brigade in the U.S. Army with almost 3,000 Soldiers assigned. Today, the brigade consists of a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-43, 2-43, 3-43 and 5-52 ADA Battalions, A-2, A-4 and D-2 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Batteries. In addition, the Army announced a fourth THAAD battery, B-2 ADA, will be assigned to the 11th ADA, which is currently in the process of standing up.

The 11th ADA mission statement reads: "11th ADA, *Imperial* Brigade provides trained Air and Missile Defense (AMD) forces to geographic combatant commanders. On order, executes mission command of subordinate forces capable of executing AMD in a joint and combined environment in order to secure the combatant commanders critical assets."

Since returning from their deployment to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations in February 2013, the *Imperial* Brigade has been operating at a nonstop pace. During their deployment, Soldiers with 11th ADA Brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery provided mission command for the commander, U.S. Central Command (USARCENT) and the Combined Force Air Component Commander (CFACC).

The 1-43 ADA, the *Cobra Strike* Battalion, is currently deployed to Southwest Asia where they are conducting AMD operations in support of the regional commander's critical assets.

On April 3, 2013, acting on orders from the secretary of defense, A-4 THAAD deployed to Guam in response to the growing number of threats to the United States by North Korea. The president of the United States announced the deployment of the first THAAD unit to the U.S. territory of Guam, where the unit remains until further notice.

Recently, the Missile Defense Agency announced the successful completion of Flight Test Operational-01 (FTO). A-2 THAAD was a participant in the joint missile test. In this test, conducted on and near Kwajalein Atoll, two medium-range ballistic missile targets were intercepted, one by an Aegis SM-3 Block 1A interceptor launched from an Aegis cruiser and the other by a land-based THAAD interceptor.

Additionally, 3-43 ADA, the *Legion* Battalion, has deployed to Southwest Asia, where they will be replacing 1-43 ADA. The *Legion* Battalion completed their mission readiness evaluation in August, which essentially culminates their pre-deployment training as they get ready to assume mission in the CENTCOM area of operations.

Training never stops at the 11th ADA Brigade. The 2-43 ADA, *Warrior* Battalion and 5-52, the *Fighting Deuce* Battalion are currently in their collective training phases preparing for future AMD requirements.

In this phase, both battalions will conduct a pre-Standardized Patriot Evaluation and Assessment Reporting training (pre-SPEAR) and an official SPEAR assessment. Once that's complete, both units will tran-



A crew from A Battery, 2nd Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Regiment, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, launches a THAAD interceptor during Flight Test Operational-01 on Meck Island within the Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. (Photo courtesy of 11th ADA BDE)

sition into the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle of train ready, which will allow them to be available to deploy and conduct joint and combined/coalition AMD operations in support of the regional commander's critical assets.

Overall, the brigade is ready for any mission that comes its way, whether it is deployments in support of United States allies, equipment developments or the development of new units.

"The Sun Never Sets on the 11th ADA *Imperial* Brigade."

1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, *Cobra Strike*

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery (ADA), *Cobra Strike*, 11th ADA, the *Imperial* Brigade, deployed to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) in December 2012, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion was responsible for defending the CENTCOM AOR and U.S. strategic interests against tactical ballistic missiles and human threats throughout Southwest Asia, while operating as a split-based formation across three countries.

Upon deployment to the CENTCOM AOR, the *Cobra Strike* Battalion maintained Patriot operations in Southwest Asia, with full support and security elements. The newly formed Task Force Cobra was responsible for providing command, control and leadership to more than 1,200 Soldiers assigned or attached to the battalion. Leaders in two countries conducted frequent key leader engagements, established relationships with their host nation counterparts, as well as, U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) partners. This led to

successful joint and regional partner training events with host nation forces, as well as, the U.S. Air Force and Navy force protection units.

During the summer, the *Cobra Strike* Battalion was tasked with supporting the CENTCOM exercise Eager Lion in Jordan. The 1-43 ADA provided Soldiers, equipment and mission command to a third country. Once established, 1-43 ADA provided AMD capability to the largest battle space ever defended by a single Patriot battalion. Soldiers

A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th ADA Brigade, ground guides a fellow Soldier as he backs a five-ton truck into position while on deployment in Southwest Asia. (Photo courtesy of 1-43 ADA)



RED BOOK 2013

from 1-43 ADA successfully integrated security, signal and Air Defense units into a single command and control structure in accordance with the exercise timeline.

The *Cobra Strike* Battalion has continued to elevate the standard for Patriot units in the CENTCOM AOR, leading the way with advanced gunnery tables, including Gunnery Table XII certifications while deployed. The battalion is currently in the deployment phase of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) process and is preparing to conduct reset upon redeployment of all personnel in the first quarter of FY14.

2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Courage and Honor

The 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) had a very eventful and fulfilling year, and next year only promises more. Multiple test missions focusing on improving Patriot equipment, a battalion change of command, as well as transitioning from the test mission to prepare for future deployment operations, kept the battalion on their toes while providing one of a kind training for the Soldiers.

The test missions the battalion participated in occurred all over the

SGT Sergio Zamudio, an Avenger team chief from E Battery, 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, explains the Avenger weapon system to SPC Kayla Wilkes, a Patriot crew member with B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 43rd ADA. (Photo by SSG Norman Llamas, U.S.Army)



country and provided amazing results that will drastically improve the Air Defense Branch in the future. A and B Batteries participated in testing new technology upgrades for the Patriot PAC-3 missile family, at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. C Battery took part in the joint tactical air picture mission which occurred at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. They demonstrated improvements in the joint air picture using an enhanced communication system. D Battery went to Camp Lejeune, N.C., to partake in a five-nation joint exercise working with Patriot's ability to send upgraded identification codes to aircrafts and other systems, verifying allegiance. F Company assisted A-4 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) in its no-notice strategic deployment to Guam.

The battalion completed a change of command in July, between LTC Mike Solis and LTC Robin Woody. This change of command brought with it a change of mission. The Department of the Army transitioned 2-43 ADA from its role as a test mission battalion to an operational formation.

While the battalion is preparing for a future deployment; D-2 THAAD is in the middle of standing up their THAAD Battery and learning how to use this revolutionary equipment. E Battery is working through the deactivation of the unit as the Army draws down on their need for the Avenger Weapon System.

The 2-43 ADA will continue training and will remain prepared to meet any Air Defense contingency.

3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Legion

The 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery (ADA), better known as the *Legion* Battalion, has continued its tradition of excellence over the past year. The *Legion* Battalion began their train-up to assume their U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) responsibilities early in January. As the demand for ADA forces increased around the globe, the *Legion* Battalion was selected to rapidly train and prepare to assume a new mission in support of a worldwide contingency operation.

Beginning in January, the road was long and rocky but the result was astonishing; an outstanding performance at the brigade mission re-

SSG Cano-Perez, senior medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, evaluates Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 43rd ADA on mass casualty procedures during the battalion's pre-deployment mission readiness exercise. (Photo courtesy of 3-43 ADA)





hearsal exercise (MRE) and a flawless execution of movement preparation area operations and railhead operations for the first battalion equipment exchange in their area of operations in years. During these months, 3-43 ADA conducted two Table VIII gunnery certifications, three Standard Patriot Evaluation Assessment and Reporting (SPEAR) exercises, two MREs, a two-week emergency deployment readiness exercise (EDRE), pre-deployment movement preparation area (MPA) operations, and railhead operations.

In addition to fulfilling the arduous training process, the *Legion* Battalion has become a brand name on Fort Bliss, Texas. The 3-43 ADA not only supports the El Paso, Texas, community through their various partnerships, but also volunteers at events on post to include the Commander's Cup events. Even though the *Legion* has woven itself into the daily operations of Fort Bliss and El Paso, they remain prepared and confident, eager to assume their next mission and begin the next major chapter. There is no doubt that 3-43 ADA is ready to go. 'Send the *Legion*!'

5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, The Fighting Deuce

In the past year, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) has been a battalion on the move. One year ago, 5-52 ADA was well into their split-based operational deployment in Southwest Asia. At that time, the Soldiers of the battalion stood ready to respond to any ballistic or fixed wing threat against the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) commander's defended assets.

The Soldiers of 5-52 ADA were also given the rare opportunity to play a vital role in establishing a remote site in the CENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR) that enhanced the Air and Missile Defense (AMD) capability in the region. This priority mission was developed by the CENTCOM commander and the Missile Defense Agency. The 5-52 ADA was given command authority of large aspects of the stand-up and helped them establish their day-to-day operations.

As unique as establishing a new remote site may be, 5-52 ADA was also gainfully employed improving the conditions of the current

Soldiers with 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, 11th ADA Brigade, wrestle with a camouflage net during a field exercise at McGregor Range, N.M. (Photo courtesy of 5-52 ADA)



Patriot tactical sites. The battalion was able to garner the Air Force-U.S. Central Command's support to perform more than \$2.5 million in renovations. These lasting changes will have a positive impact on the Soldiers of follow on rotations.

At the end of 2012, the Soldiers of 5-52 ADA began to prepare for our redeployment back to Fort Bliss. The battalion conducted a deliberate transition with our sister battalion, 1-43rd ADA. The transition occurred during a tumultuous time in the Middle East as rhetoric between power brokers intensified over the development of weapons of mass destruction. Along with the administrative actions associated with transitions, 5-52 ADA trained and certified their replacements before they transitioned authority of the Air Defense mission.

Upon redeployment back to garrison, the battalion continued with equipment layouts, eventually taking over a new footprint at Fort Bliss. Following a much needed block leave, the battalion was placed on red cycle tasking, while simultaneously managing an attrition rate that peaked at 36 percent of our senior grade Soldiers. In the fourth quarter, the battalion was back to sharpening their warrior tasks, conducting range operations and preparing itself to once again answer the nation's call.

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Ready and Vigilant

In September, Soldiers and officers of the 31st Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade headquarters deployed to execute a crucial mission within the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR).

And as the last set of boots left the ground at Lawton-Fort Sill Airport en-route to their final destination, anticipation to execute this mission was at an all-time high.

"The 31st Brigade staff is ready to execute this mission. The focus on warfighting readiness displayed across the brigade is evident in each of the staff members. The train up that started well before I arrived to the brigade paid dividends when we executed our mission rehearsal exercise. A large part of our train up success was due to maximizing our training opportunities in between command post exercises by learning about the AOR in academic sessions and refining our systems and processes to better align our efforts on how operations are executed in theater," said LTC Charles 'Chuck' Matallana, the brigade forward deputy commanding officer.

"Of course, we couldn't have been as ready without the great support and interaction the 69th ADA Brigade gave us throughout our train-up. Despite all the things they had to handle while deployed, the 69th ADA Brigade really took the time to answer our requests for information and give us access to events going on in theater. Lastly, the deep involvement of the 11th Brigade and 32nd Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) staff in our mission rehearsal exercise really challenged us to raise our level of proficiency. A truly professional team across the board to help us be ready to assume the mission," said Matallana.

The brigade deployed as the command and control element for Patriot units operating within the AOR that provide Air Defense of critical host nation assets.

"The ballistic missile threat in the CENTCOM AOR is large and diverse, that makes the mission of the 31st ADA integral to the region. Our mission is not only important to ensure the readiness of subordinate Patriot battalions, but also to continue to build and strengthen the relationships with our regional partners through security cooperation programs," said MAJ Barry Carter the brigade operations officer.



Soldiers from 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, stand in formation prior to deployment. (Photo SSG Nathan Akridge, U.S. Army)

Carter continued to say, “To perform their deployed mission, our Soldiers must be the best trained and ready across the entire 32nd AAMDC. They must be able to respond, at a moment’s notice, to any perceived air or ballistic missile threat. This level of competence can only be achieved through the rigorous training program the unit ex-

ecuted prior to deployment and continual sustainment training while deployed.”

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st Air Defense Artillery, Ready and Vigilant

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 31st Air Defense Artillery (ADA) recently deployed to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The Soldiers of HHB will provide command and control of forward deployed Air and Missile Defense (AMD) battalions. These battalions are stationed throughout the Arabian Gulf States; making it a challenging Army airspace command and control mission. The main element of HHB continues to provide support to subordinate battalions stationed on Fort Sill, Okla., and Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash., all while maintaining deployment readiness in case they are called forward.

3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, Lethal Strike

Elements of 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) deployed to the European Command area of responsibility in support of the NATO Operation Active Fence. The Soldiers arrived in an austere environment and built two Patriot tactical sites and the battalion life support area from the ground up. These Soldiers are located in the city of Gaziantep, Turkey, and provide ballistic missile defense to a population of 1.5 million people in that city. Non-deployed Soldiers from 3-2 ADA continue to push themselves, preparing themselves for Gunnery Table VIII training.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, prepare their Patriot launcher during their 3-2 ADA Gunnery Table VII training. (Photo courtesy of 3-2 ADA)





A Soldier from 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, shouts with joy as he is welcomed home during the 4-3 ADA redeployment ceremony, Fort Sill, Okla. (Photo courtesy of 31st ADA BDE)

4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, *I Yield Not, I Strike*

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) remains deployed to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility, where they continue to provide Air and Missile Defense (AMD) for strategic U.S. and allied assets.

While deployed, Soldiers from 4-3 ADA continue to improve themselves, honing their warfighter skills through complex training and military education. Soldiers from 4-3 ADA conducted many multinational/joint exercises along with numerous AMD exercises, expanding their ability to respond to any air and missile threat in their area of operation.

As 4-3 ADA begins returning to the U.S. and begins their reintegration process, the focus will shift to equipment reset and Soldier readiness.

5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, *Dragon Slayers*

The 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) is currently transitioning to become the Army's first official Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) battalion, formerly known as Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM), and will begin their new equipment training (NET) on Oct. 1, 2013. In preparation for NET the battalion sent B Battery to Fort Sill, Okla., and Yuma, Ariz., to support the land-based Phalanx Weapon System during a limited user test (LUT) and live-fire exercise.

During the 90 days of training at Fort Sill and Yuma Proving Ground, the unit training included engagement operations, connectivity of the equipment, sense and warn capabilities, and the intercept mission of various types of indirect fire threats. The culminating event was the live-fire exercise where B Battery engaged more than 70 targets and fired more than 70,000 rounds.

Prior to the start of the IFPC LUT, the battalion has maintained

its focus on the Avenger mission, deploying A Battery to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., rotation 13-03, in support of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. The battalion also sent 20 observer controller/trainers to evaluate the Avenger and Sentinel teams, and mission command nodes. During September 2013, the battalion sent a mobile training team to the Pacific area of responsibility to support Operation Divine Bow, which is an exercise supported by U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) and the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), Hawaii. The focus of Divine Bow was to assist foreign Air Defense forces in staff planning and sensor-to-shooter coordination through classroom and field discussions, culminating in observing a live-fire exercise.

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, *Sea Dragons*

Located on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, Fort Shafter is home and headquarters of the U.S. Army Pacific Command (PACOM). The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), known as the *Sea Dragons*, is one of several theater-enabling commands located on Fort Shafter. The 94th AAMDC's mission is to conduct theater strategic and operational-level Air and Missile Defense planning, coordination and synchronization throughout the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM).

Over the past year, the 94th AAMDC has continuously trained for its wartime mission by participating in more than 15 joint, combined and bilateral exercises with other branches of the U.S. armed forces, and allied and partner countries, to include more than 32 joint theater air missile defense command and control, asset management and system development exercises with the 613th Air Operations Center and the 607th Air and Space Operations Center. In short, 94th AAMDC has trained, equipped/deployed more than 400 Soldiers worldwide in support of overseas contingency operations; resulting in increased warfighting readiness and improved integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capabilities.

Our lead role in the nation's effort to rebalance its military efforts to the Asia-Pacific increased tremendously in 2013. This year, the 94th AAMDC stood up Task Force Talon, the first ever forward deployed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit and its presence on the island of Guam at Anderson Air Force Base. With the great responsibility of command and control of the first historical deployment of a THAAD battery, all eyes were certainly on the command and the Fires community, making the 94th AAMDC a central figure in local and national media headlines.

This past summer, the 94th AAMDC, along with Soldiers from 25th Infantry Division, 32nd AAMDC, 307th Expedition Signal Battalion, and the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), successfully conducted the second largest, most complex missile defense flight test ever attempted, resulting in the successful engagement of two ballistic missile targets over water. The Navy AEGIS system and the THAAD, manned by A-2 Battery, successfully intercepted and destroyed two medium-range ballistic missiles during Flight Test Operational (FTO) 01.

Another project well underway is an additional AN/TPY-2 radar system planned to be developed in Japan in FY14. This increase of capability shows our commitment in maintaining our presence, role and continued cooperation within PACOM area of responsibility. The second AN/TPY-2 radar system will be manned by a small contingent



Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, participate in a flag detail at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, on New Year's Day 2013. (Photo courtesy of 94th AAMDC)

of military personnel and civilian contractors and provide early warning and detection of potential North Korean missile launches as part of the USPACOM missile early warning architecture.

Today, forward stationed missile defense units in the Pacific theater stand as the 'First Line of Defense' against an ever-increasing ballistic missile threat through regional and theater-level exercises, as well as, building partnership capacity with allies and partners. The *Sea Dragons* of the 94th AAMDC stand combat ready with an expeditionary mindset ready to execute contingency operations at any time.

30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Heart of the Branch

The 30th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade continues to posture itself to meet the needs of the ADA Branch for both today and the future. The brigade has worked hard over the past year to nest its programs of instruction (POI) under the Army Learning Model 2015 and to prepare for this year's U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) accreditation inspection. The goals of both of these are to reinforce our top priority: provide the operational force with well-trained and disciplined Soldiers that can immediately contribute to their first unit of assignment.

Over the past year, the 30th ADA Brigade trained more than 2,600 Soldiers: 1,788 Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Soldiers, 78 officers in the Warrant Officer Basic Course, 193 officers in the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC), and 168 officers in the Captains Career Course (CCC), Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC) Patriot Top Gun, ADAM-BAE, ADAFCO, Patriot Master Gunner Course,

and other functional courses. The brigade also trained 377 partner nation students from 23 countries and certified one Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) unit for deployment to Afghanistan. Across all lines of effort, the 30th ADA Brigade continues to be the premier learning institution for developing and preparing Soldiers and leaders for tomorrow's challenges.

During the coming year, the brigade will prepare for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Institutional Training Base (ITB) stand-up in FY15, continue to train and certify C-RAM units for deployment to Afghanistan, and transition the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) battery from its test mission at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, to a three-year operational test at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, Kodiak

The *Kodiak* Battalion's core mission, training Initial Entry Training (IET) Soldiers, produced 540 quality Soldiers, prepared to integrate into the operating force after weeks of training that incorporated and replicated the operational environment through instruction from our experienced noncommissioned officers (NCO) and civilians, both in the classroom and in our Warrior Field Training Exercise.

Four of our courses enhanced the ability and expertise for the operating force to fight and win in any environment. The Air Defense Airspace Management/Brigade Aviation Element Course improved the critical skills of 84 personnel to effectively coordinate airspace. Our Avenger Master Gunner Course produced 14 NCOs capable of serving as our branch's experts in Avenger operations. In our Warrant



Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, we prepared 48 warrant officers to serve as technical experts on Air Defense equipment.

The battalion supported the Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) pre-deployment certification of one Forces Command (FORSCOM) battery and is postured to support the conversion of other batteries so they can provide deployed commanders with the protection inherent with this proven system.

The Army's first Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) battery continued to develop the over-the-horizon sensor system capability to protect against asymmetrical threats and cruise missiles.

Through the hard work of the battalion's exceptional cadre members and the hundreds of hours volunteered by Soldiers and Family members, the battalion developed the physical fitness and life-skills required in the Profession of Arms and lived up to its motto to 'Set the Standard' in IET, community engagement and pre-deployment training.

3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, Bruiser

The 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery (ADA), *Bruiser* Battalion, continues to produce highly trained Patriot Air and Missile Defense (AMD) Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Soldiers, warrant officers (through the Warrant Officer's Basic Course), and students from select partner nations, as well as develop Patriot master gunner (PMG) NCOs. '*Bruiser Nation*' generates approximately 1,200 Patriot Soldiers to the operating force annually. As part of our mission, the battalion started several new initiatives that enhance the 'soldierization' process. These initiatives include: Combatives Level I Certification, beginner and advanced level swim training, Patriot Skills Blackboard for 14E and 14T courses, 140E WOBC SAMS-E Certification, and the implementation of new 14T Patriot maintenance launcher training device scenarios.

The Patriot Institutional Training Base (ITB) will become 100 percent Army Learning Model (ALM) 2015 compliant by the end of FY13. The Patriot ITB has implemented the most interactive Blackboard program for AIT Soldiers to date. Blackboard allows AIT Soldiers to read assignments and lessons prior to class instruction. The Blackboard lessons are interactive by using video examples, instructor facilitated blog discussion boards, and checks on learning. The instructors use Blackboard to assess the individual Soldier's understanding of course materials prior to instruction. The pre-class assessment allows the instructor to reduce the amount of time spent on conference lecturing and provide focused, hands-on training with training devices, simulators and tactical equipment.

The battalion also continues to cross-train instructors to support the stand-up of the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) training facility, posturing to begin training.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/3rd-Battalion-6th-Air-Defense-Artillery/119259838122073>

1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery, Spartan

Leader development remains the primary mission for the 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) which graduated more than 330 ADA leaders in 2013. The officer professional military education (PME) and functional courses are currently undergoing comprehensive revisions to incorporate Army Learning Model (ALM) 2015 principles in support of the 21st century Soldier competencies.

The Basic Officer Leader Course implemented the latest instructional methods and classroom technologies, including Blackboard, Turning Point Audience Response System, and the redesigned RT3 lab in Jared Monti Hall, Fort Sill, Okla. The resulting experience allows the newest officers in the branch to refine their leadership style, while also honing their Air Defense planning and employment skills.

The ADA Captains Career Course saw significant growth, as well in 2013. The course executed the pilot of a combined Fires common core, which included both ADA and Field Artillery (FA) officers. Moreover, one class participated in the multi-branch staff exercise aimed at linking students from across the Army into a single combined arms simulation exercise.

The Warrant Officer Advance Course enhanced the technical expertise and leadership skills for the senior warrant officers in the branch. The value of our experienced warrant officers cannot be understated, as they ensure the operational readiness and tactical soundness of our force remains intact.

The functional courses taught with the battalion produce the finest tactical experts in the branch. In 2013, 10 officers attended Patriot Top Gun Course, with six earning the title of 'Top Gun.' The Air Defense Fire Control Officer Course graduated 24 officers equipped with the knowledge and expertise to effectively and confidently coordinate Air Defense Fires and airspace in a joint environment.

The *Spartans* continue to lead the way in leader development for Air Defense officers. The tireless effort of the cadre and students ensures the road for the Air Defense Artillery Branch through Fiscal Year 2014 is paved with excellence from junior platoon leaders to senior commanders.

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Lightning Strike

Approximately 50 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 69th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade deployed in January 2013, to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations in order to take command and control of several Patriot batteries located throughout Southwest Asia. The *Lightning* Brigade cased its colors in preparation for this deployment, and the brigade headquarters element was deployed to play a critical role in providing protection to critical sites, assets and service members located within the region.

The other half of the 69th ADA headquarters remained at Fort Hood, Texas, assisting its subordinate battalions in daily operations and preparing two of its battalions, 1st Battalion, 62nd ADA and 1st Battalion, 44th ADA, for deployment to Southwest Asia later in the year. The brigade played an important role in facilitating and evaluating the battalions' mission readiness exercises during the spring and summer months, ensuring mission capability was at its highest for each unit. The evaluators for these exercises were making sure that each battalion was able to handle day-to-day operations in a deployed environment, to include reacting to an airborne threat, setting up and maintaining the equipment and safety.

The forward element of the brigade is scheduled to redeploy in the second half of 2013. Two of the brigade's battalions will remain downrange for the remainder of their deployment cycle, while another battalion still at Fort Hood, the 4th Battalion, 5th ADA, prepares for a future deployment calling.



PFC Elizabeth Heacox, a tactical control assistant from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, walks back from a Patriot launcher during a field exercise. (Photo by PFC Andrew Belieu, U.S. Army)

1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, Strike First, Strike Hard

The first part of 2013 found the 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) conducting basic gunnery training. The beginning part of the year allowed the battalion and its Soldiers to focus on Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) and individual Soldier readiness and training, such as warrior tasks and battle drills.

As the battalion moved into the spring and beginning of summer, the Soldiers began to shift focus to operational and mission readiness exercises. In May, the unit participated in an operational readiness exercise in order to prepare them for a mission readiness exercise in the following weeks. The battalion had five batteries participating in these readiness exercises. The goal of the exercises was to test the unit's abilities of being able to accomplish the mission the battalion would encounter while downrange. One of the main focuses was air battle management, where Soldiers are required to identify and assess potential targets and then eliminate the target as required. Other focuses included site management, safety and maintenance.

The unit cased its colors on August 28th, in preparation for its deployment to U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). Despite being moved ahead on the deployment rotation by seven months, the unit completed all table certifications and individual Soldier readiness tasks to allow them to successfully deploy. The 1-44 ADA departed Fort Hood, Texas, in September, to assume the mission in Southwest Asia, and is scheduled to complete a 12-month tour.

4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, Renegades

The Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) found themselves in reset phase of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle after returning from a deployment to the U.S. Cen-

tral Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility in the last half of 2012.

During the beginning of 2013, the focus of the battalion was to rebuild its strength through Soldier training and equipment maintenance. Soldiers were able to spend some time completing Noncom-

Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, secure equipment onto an aircraft at the airfield. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Kappell, U.S. Army)





Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery, prepare to board an aircraft at the airfield. (Photo by SGT Maria L. Kappell, U.S. Army)

missioned Officer Education System (NCOES) and other individual Soldier training, such as warrior task and battle drills and professional development.

In June, 4-5 ADA served as the pusher team for 1-62 ADA when the battalion's prepare-to-deploy orders were activated. The battalion assisted 1-62 ADA in executing deployment operations by conducting a joint movement preparation area, which ensured that all equipment was inspected for overseas travel and ready for transport by air and sea venues. *Renegade* Soldiers processed 58 pieces of Air Defense equipment through each of the inspection stations. After the joint movement preparation area was executed to make sure the equipment was primed and mission capable, the emergency deployment readiness phase made certain the movement of the equipment was possible. The battalion provided licensed drivers to move equipment to the airfield and railhead so it could be either flown or shipped overseas. With the assistance of 4-5 ADA Soldiers and post personnel, 1-62 ADA was able to depart Fort Hood, Texas, on schedule and assume their assigned mission downrange.

1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery

Soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) spent the first part of 2013 executing mission readiness exercises and preparing themselves and their Families for a deployment to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations.

The battalion spent months in a training environment to ensure the Soldiers in the unit would be ready to handle any mission assigned to them. The exercises and gunnery certifications the battalion underwent in the field served as a validation that the Soldiers were trained well and the unit was fully mission-capable. While the Soldiers were perfecting tactical skills, Families were preparing for a possible announcement of a short notice deployment. The unit held several Family readiness informational forums so the Families would have an idea of what to expect as the deployment window drew nearer.

In the first week of June, 1-62 ADA received activation of its prepare-to-deploy orders, initiating the 96 hours the unit had in order to get Soldiers and equipment boarded onto aircraft and in route to des-



Soldiers assigned to the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, use a M26 decontamination system to decontaminate an Avenger vehicle during a three-day chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) training exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Photo by SSG Regina Machine, U.S. Army)

tinations in Southwest Asia. The battalion, which was activated in October 2011, accomplished a huge feat of standing up the battalion in a very short time, preparing its Soldiers and equipment, and deploying in June 2013. While a portion of the unit is currently executing its deployment mission, another part of the battalion remains at Fort Hood, Texas, still on prepare-to-deploy orders, waiting for the possibility of joining the rest of the battalion downrange.

108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Spartans*

On order, the 108th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade rapidly deploys worldwide to defend U.S. forces and critical assets from aerial threats in support of combatant commander's operational and strategic objectives. The leaders and Soldiers of the *Spartan* Brigade are consistently on high alert in support of short to no-notice deployments on various operational and strategic objectives.

The *Spartan* Brigade began the year with a seamless transition of the entire brigade headquarters, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 108th ADA, and 1st Battalion, 7th ADA rear detachment to the *Spartan* complex located at Patriot Point, Fort Bragg, N.C. The brigade headquarters rapidly reestablished mission command functions and prepared for the redeployment of 1-7 ADA, *No Fear*, from the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operation at the end of second quarter, FY13. The *Skystrikers* of 3rd Battalion, 4th ADA conducted a battalion change of command and change of responsibility to welcome LTC Patrick and Rachel Costello and CSM Heather Smith and spouse, CSM Wade Greene. The *Skystrikers* were prioritized to be the first continental United States (CONUS) Patriot battalion to complete Patriot PDB-7 software upgrades in support of current

CENTCOM contingency and deployment operations. The *Skystrikers* also assumed full Avenger global response force (GRF) readiness for U. S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM). The *Strike Fear* Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 44th ADA, Fort Campbell, Ky., was prioritized to be the first CONUS avenger battalion to undergo a rapid new equipment training program and mission readiness exercise to train, certify, and deploy leaders and Soldiers on the Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) weapon system in support of emerging CENTCOM contingency requirements.

During fourth quarter, FY13, the *Spartan* Brigade conducted a change of command to welcome COL Edward J. and Mrs. Melanie O'Neill in July 2013, and a change of responsibility to welcome CSM W. and Ms. Ella Morales in September 2013. The *Spartan* Brigade assumed headquarters GRF readiness in support of FORSCOM requirements. The new *Spartan* Dining Facility opened October 2013. It is the first and only dining facility with a drive-up window on Fort Bragg, N.C.

The *Spartan* Brigade continues to be the premier ADA brigade, capable of quickly transitioning to war in order to execute our combat mission. The 108th ADA Brigade leads the branch with integrating division Air Defense airspace management (ADAM) cell training coordination relationship and continues to provide senior Air Defense commander support to the commanding general, XVIII Airborne Corps and 82nd Airborne Division. The brigade currently maintains patriot brigade headquarters short to no-notice deployment requirements, Avenger GRF readiness, and Soldiers deployed in support of C-RAM defense. The brigade is highly postured to deploy additional assets in support of Air Defense Sentinel, C-RAM, and Patriot requirements. 'Deeds Before Word – *Spartans*!'



US Army Active Field Artillery Units



1st Armored Division, Old Ironsides 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, Gunner

The *Gunner* Battalion, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery (FA), 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Armored Division, spent 2013 preparing for its diverse mission in Afghanistan, set to begin in early 2014, to provide Fires in support of coalition and Afghan maneuver, training Afghan fire supporters, and defending a key border crossing alongside the Afghan border police.

To support its mission to provide Fires in support of coalition and Afghan maneuver, the *Gunners* added nine M777 lightweight 155 mm howitzers to their arsenal of 105 mm howitzers. The battalion progressed through individual, section, platoon, and battery-level artillery tables, through exercises including the *Gunner* Bash in April, a brigade fire-control exercise in June, Operation Iron Focus, and a brigade-level field exercise in July. Along the way, the *Gunners* also honed their skills in security force assistance by training Afghan National Army (ANA)

role-players to crew and fire the M777 and compute manual fire missions in a fire direction center (FDC).

This training culminated at Fort Irwin, Calif., with National Training Center (NTC) rotation 14-01. The *Gunner* Battalion provided close Fires in support of maneuver, trained on the D-30 howitzer, trained ANA role-players to crew U.S. howitzers, and acted as a maneuver force in support of Afghan border police and a security force assistance team.

The year 2013 once again exemplified the *Gunner* Battalion's motto, 'First or not at all!'

2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, Gunners

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery (FA), *Gunners*, 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Armored Division, redeployed to Fort Bliss, Texas, following their mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). During this nine-month deployment, the battalion reorganized as a task force (TF) with two additional cavalry troops. The *Gunners* were responsible for indirect fire support across northern Kandahar province and for conducting security force assis-

Soldiers from B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, sling load a M777A2 for transportation to Kandahar Airfield in preparation for follow-on mission. (Photo by CPT James Hays, U.S.Army)



tance operations in partnership with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

Battalion Soldiers continue to support the city of El Paso, Texas, by conducting community service projects, such as providing mentoring services and educational assistance to the students of Western Hills Elementary School and Canyon Hills Middle School.

The *Gunners* are now focused on reintegration, refit and the reception of new M777A2s in the beginning of 2014. In November 2013, the unit reorganized back into a pure firing battalion to align with our fire support mission. The battalion is in the reset phase of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) and continues to prepare for future operations. The 2-3 FA will consolidate all maneuver fire support officers and forward observers into the Fires battalion to complete its reorganization in accordance with recent Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) changes.

4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, Iron Thunder

In December 2012, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery (FA), *Iron Thunder*, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Armored Division became the first to fire the M982 Excalibur Precision Guided Munition at Fort Bliss, Texas. This live-fire event was executed as part of a division-level Leader Professional Development Seminar covering the employment of precision Fires in combined arms operations and showcased the ability for cannon artillery to engage targets with pinpoint accuracy and mitigate collateral effects for 1st Armored Division leadership.

In the spring of 2013, the battalion executed gunnery densities up

to Artillery Table (AT) XII, as well as new equipment training (NET) in preparation for Network Integration Evaluation (NIE)13.2; a six-week evaluation of new equipment and concepts considered by the Army for force modernization. During the NIE, the battalion provided responsive Fires, in support of the 2nd BCT throughout the Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range, N.M., training areas. While conducting tactical operations spanning 170 kilometers, the battalion executed air assault artillery raids and tested fire mission processing with beyond line-of-sight communications, specifically the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical suite of communications platforms.

The battalion continued to execute AT VI gunnery, fire support team (FiST) certification, and NET training this summer in preparation for our next NIE 14.1 in October. This exercise will test the next generation of Command Post of the Future and other new mission command systems. We will continue to execute live-fire missions to include air assault raids in direct support.

2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, Battle Ready

The last Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery (FA), *Battle Ready*, 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Armored Division, redeployed from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in the third quarter of FY13. During the deployment, the battalion's senior leaders were organized into multiple security force advise and assist teams (SFAAT), which operated throughout Regional Command-East (RC-E). In this capacity, the *Redlegs* of 2-29 FA served as combat advisors alongside their Afghan counterparts in the Afghan National Security

Members of 2nd Platoon, B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, conduct hook-up operations for a M777A2 howitzer in preparation for an air assault mission during the Network Integration Evaluation 13.2. (Photo by SGT Brian Fore, U.S. Army)





Forces (ANSF), in an effort to build capacity and the combat effectiveness of the Afghan National Army (ANA), police and border police.

Upon redeployment, the *Battle Ready* Battalion began the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) process, resetting its equipment and focusing their training on the Fires warfighting function. The battalion immediately strengthened the 4th Brigade's fire support network, re-establishing the art and science of effectively integrating and synchronizing all indirect Fires systems across the brigade. Through the course of the deployment the rear-detachment junior leaders continued to train on Field Artillery core competencies, which paid huge dividends as the battalion rolled into the deserts of West Texas and New Mexico for section certifications. The battalion was quickly able to rebuild Paladin, radar, fire support teams (FiST) and fire direction centers (FDC) sections and certify each through Artillery Table (AT) VI within 60 days of redeployment. Seizing any opportunity to train, 2-29 FA also conducted live-fire exercises (LFXs) in support of mobilizing National Guard target acquisition batteries (171st TAB and 144th TAB) allowing them to complete AT VI qualification requirements prior to their deployments to Afghanistan.

As the battalion completes ARFORGEN, the focus will be to prepare for future operations through a comprehensive gunnery 'train-up' with a January 2014 execution, while allowing our Soldiers to strengthen Family bonds.

1st Cavalry Division, America's First Team 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, Dragons

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Dragons*, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Cavalry Division, focused on the reset of personnel, vehicles and equipment following its redeployment to Fort Hood, Texas. The *Dragons* also welcomed the attachment of B Battery, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery (FA), 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division to the team. This set the conditions for the train/ready phase as the *Dragons* prepare for the *Ironhorse* Brigade's rotation to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., in the spring of 2014.

In February 2013, the *Dragons* began an intensive training cycle

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, prepare to fire their M109A6 Paladin howitzers. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 82nd FA)



completing Paladin Table (PT) VI; brigade fire support team (FiST) certification; PT VII-XI; and PT XII by May 2013. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery produced the brigade's top FiST; A Battery produced the brigade's top gun; B Battery, *Pacesetters*, produced the battalion's top platoon, and B Battery, *Bulldogs*, produced the brigade's top fire direction center (FDC).

In June 2013, the *Dragons* began another training cycle in preparation to support the brigade's NTC decisive action rotation. The *Dragons* conducted PT VI, PT XII, and PT XV prior to executing the brigade's combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX) in November 2013.

G Battery, Forward Support Company (FSC), flawlessly executed rearm, refuel and refit survey points, as well as numerous sustainment operations throughout the year. The *Gamblers* conducted air-load operations where they packaged, loaded, dropped, retrieved and delivered logistic bundles from C-130 and CH-47 aircrafts.

Upon return from NTC, the *Dragons* are poised to support the brigade's regionally aligned mission.

Facebook page URL: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/1-82-Field-Artillery/134925853187218>

2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, Steel Dragons

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery (FA), *Steel Dragons*, 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Cavalry Division, began 2013 with a decisive action rotation to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif. The battalion provided fire support and conducted counter-battery operations for 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd BCT, *Greywolf*. During the rotation, the battalion out-performed the opposing force, firing approximately 2,200 rounds during live-fire and 3,500 rounds during force-on-force operations.

Upon redeployment from NTC, the battalion turned its focus to security and support at Fort Hood, Texas. The battalion secured many of the installation's entry control points, provided funeral details for the surrounding area and executed as the salute battery for post ceremonies.

In addition, the battalion supported the U.S. Army Cadet Command with the Leader's Training Course. The course is designed to train and qualify college students for late entry into the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. Soldiers served as lifeguards, site safeties, opposition forces and staff support, ensuring all potential cadets successfully and safely completed the course.

The battalion is preparing for Artillery Table (AT) VI section live-fire qualifications at the end of September. Pre-gunnery training included a Paladin and fire direction center (FDC) Leader Academy, Artillery Skills Proficiency Test (ASPT), and gunner's test. In October, the battalion will receive a third firing battery from 5th Battalion, 82nd FA, as well as fire support teams (FiST) from across the BCT as part of BCT 2020 restructuring plan. *Steel Dragons* will continue training through AT XII (platoon live-fire qualification) in December.

5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, Black Dragons

The 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Black Dragons*, 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Cavalry Division, deployed in November 2012, as part of a security force advise and assistance brigade within Laghman and Kapisa provinces, Regional Command-East (RC-E), Afghanistan. Battalion responsibilities included assuming two M777A2 firing points, an Afghan Field Artillery (FA) training center for the 201st Corps, and mayoral and base defense responsibilities at For-

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ward Operating Base (FOB) Gamberi. Three months into the deployment, the battalion developed a mobile Field Artillery training team (MFATT), taking training to distributed Afghan National Army (ANA) firing locations. The MFATT worked in coordination with the ANA to develop a new training/certification program rooted in the five manuals that form the basis of their artillery doctrine. This Afghan doctrinally-based program has the approval of the Afghan School of the Artillery and is taught by Afghan instructors across all three Fires disciplines, forward observer (FO), fire direction center (FDC), and gun line. The program was recently exported to Regional Command-North (RC-N) with a team of *Black Dragon* Soldiers training the Germans on our program of instruction, so they can use it to train and certify the ANA 209th Corps. The battalion will complete redeployment by the beginning of August 2013, have successfully fired more than 850 rounds, conducted numerous partnered operations and is leaving the Afghans with a sustainable training/certification program. As we prepare to go on block leave and reset for the next mission we want to take the time to thank all of our families, friends and supporters. Without you, we could not do what we do. *Black Dragons*.

Facebook: <<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/5th-Battalion-82nd-Field-Artillery--Black-Dragons/288593261191191>>

1st Infantry Division, Big Red One

1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, Hamilton's Own

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery (FA), *Hamilton's Own*, 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Infantry Division, conducted a variety of missions throughout 2013, including the Northern Command (NORTHCOM) rapid reaction force mission, Operation Jaded Thunder with Special Forces, and re-redning the battalion in core artillery competencies. Soldiers conducted live-fire exercises (LFX) throughout 2013, consisting of section to battery-level qualifications. This training culminated in a brigade Fires coordination exercise (FCX), which integrated artillery and mortar indirect Fires, close air support (CAS), close combat attack (CCA) and Shadow unmanned aerial surveillance (UAS) all supporting maneuvering combined arms

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, conduct convoy operations with their M109A6 Paladin howitzers. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 5th FA)



battalions. The highlight of the brigade FCX was the execution of a joint air attack team exercise integrating 1st Combat Aviation Brigade aviation and 10th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS) fixed wing assets, for the first time in more than 10 years at Fort Riley, Kan.

Leaders worked tirelessly throughout the year to integrate with maneuver assets throughout training events at Fort Riley. LFXs in 2013 supported three maneuver battalions' company situational-training exercise (STX) lanes with timely and accurate indirect Fires. In June, A Battery conducted Operation Jaded Thunder, which consisted of integrating indirect Fires, CAS and CCA into a Special Forces training mission.

Hamilton's Own Soldiers are being recognized for their excellence. The Department of the Army selected 1-5 FA to test the new Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) and Excalibur in January 2014, at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz. The longest continually serving unit in the United States Army continues to strive towards excellence in the Field Artillery.

1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, Centaurs

In the months prior to deployment, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery (FA), *Centaurs*, 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Infantry Division, conducted training to perform both maneuver and Field Artillery (FA) missions. The battalion fired more than 6,800 artillery rounds and their training culminated in Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation 13-04 at Fort Polk, La. During this rotation, the battalion deployed two M1200 Targeting Under Armor (TUA) vehicles and conducted six days of live-fire training and six days of force-on-force training.

PFC Jeffrey Burnett of B Battery, Combined Task Force 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, pulls the lanyard for the first Precision Guided Kit (PGK) round fired in Zabul province, Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 6th FA)





During the live-fire exercise, the *Centaur* Battalion, with support from the M1200 TUA, engaged 10-plus stationary and 10-plus on-the-move targeting engagements, resulting in two-five meters accuracy based on the Fort Polk geological survey. During six days of simulated combat, one Knight TUA vehicle was assigned to a route clearance platoon and had three successful engagements, while the other Knight TUA was integrated into the ground based intelligence, surveillance and reporting (ISR) plan in support of forward operating base defense.

In June 2013, 1-6 FA deployed as Combined Task Force (CTF) *Centaur* to southern Afghanistan, as part of 2nd Cavalry, Combined Task Force *Dragoon*. Gun crews from B Battery were sent to two combat outposts (COPs) in Zabul province, providing fire support to maneuver battalions across 3rd BCT, CTF *Duke* area of operation. CTF *Centaur* Soldiers filled critical positions on security force assistance teams (SFATs) across the Zabul and Kandahar provinces, serving as team executive, operations and Fires officers. On short notice, A Battery to an aerial reaction force (ARF) task organization, trained, certified and deployed to Regional Command-South (RC-S) to serve as the RC-S aerial reaction force.

The remainder of the battalion took over as the battle space owners – integrator of Spin Boldak district, providing assistance and support to Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) partners through the SFAT, joint border coordination cell and border management task force (TF).

Furthermore, the battalion continues to strengthen its ties to the local community by reaffirming our partnership with the Meade County School District and the city of Brandenburg, Ky.

1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, *First Lightning*

The 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery (FA), *First Lightning*, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 1st Infantry Division, deployed to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., in February 2013, firing in support of 2nd ABCT's decisive action training environment (DATE) rotation. At NTC, the Soldiers served in the traditional, direct support role for which they had been training during the previous two quarters, to include conducting the first combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX) at Fort Riley, Kan., in more than 10 years. The rotation also prepared the battalion to support the 2nd ABCT, 1st Infantry Division's regionally aligned force (RAF) mission with Africa Command (AFRICOM).

First Lightning began to support the RAF mission in July 2013, when the fire support coordination cell participated in Exercise *Shared Accord* in South Africa, serving as the Fires and effects cell officer in charge on the combined joint task force staff. In August 2013, members of the battalion deployed to Malawi, to train Soldiers to support United Nations peace-keeping operations. The battalion also began initial movement in October, to send approximately 30 *First Lightning* leaders to Guinea, to train Guinean forces on different individual and collective tasks. *First Lightning* continues to train their fire support tasks by conducting an entire gunnery cycle through Artillery Table XV.

Over the past year, the battalion strengthened its enduring partnership with the Kansas State University (KSU) men's basketball team. Look for the KSU men's basketball team to continue to honor the battalion, wearing the 7th FA's crest on their jerseys throughout the season. Over the past year, the partnership included several combined events. The team visited the battalion and participated in a 'day in the life of a Soldier.' The team then hosted the battalion at regular season games and invited *First Lightning* Soldiers and Families to participate in



SFC Jason Romo, from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, supports Peace Support Operations Soldier Skill Training in Malawi, Africa. (Photo by SFC Andrew Lange, U.S. Army)

an open practice. The battalion also awarded its Never Broken award to KSU player, Rodney McGruder, for embodying the motto, 'Never Broken by Hardship or Battle.'

First Lightning maintains their global readiness and remains ready to support RAF missions across Africa. Visit 1-7 FA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstLightning

2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, *Proud Americans*

The *Proud Americans* returned to Fort Riley, Kan., in early 2013, after deploying to eastern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The battalion supported three maneuver brigades with both M119A2 and M777 howitzers distributed throughout Paktika and Ghazni provinces. In addition to supporting Regional Command-East (RC-E) with timely and accurate Fires, the *Proud Americans* were assigned the task of training Afghan artillerymen on cannon crew and fire direction center (FDC) procedures with the D-30 howitzer. By working with the Afghan artillerymen, the battalion left our fellow *Redlegs* well-trained and capable of defending their homeland.

Since returning to Fort Riley, the *Proud Americans* have begun training for an upcoming rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La. The battalion conducted leaders' certification, helicopter sling-load training, and Artillery Skills Proficiency Tests (ASPT) in June and July. This prepared us for section certification in August, and a section qualification live-fire exercise (LFX) in September, where all 16 howitzer crews, the Q-36 radar crew, and all five FDC qualified as crews. The culmination of our training is the assumption of the Africa Command (AFRICOM) regionally aligned force, as part

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of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 1st Infantry Division in 2014.

In addition to training, the battalion has become increasingly active in the communities around Fort Riley, by renewing a community covenant with the town of Wakefield, Kan., and adopting three elementary schools in the nearby communities of Manhattan and Wakefield.

The Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of the *Proud American* Battalion are returning to basics and focusing on the core competencies necessary to shoot, move, communicate, and provide timely and accurate Fires to the 1st Infantry Division. ‘*Proud Americans, Can Do!*’

2nd Infantry Division, Second to None 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, Guns

The *Guns* Battalion continues its ‘First to Fire’ tradition, standing firm alongside its Republic of Korea (ROK) allies on freedom’s frontier. *Guns* Soldiers are fit, resolute, skilled, and disciplined – training hard for its wartime contingency mission against the complex North Korean threat. In addition to nearly a dozen field-training exercises in the past year, *Guns* Soldiers enhanced their readiness through challenging physical fitness and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense training. The *Guns* trained alongside their ROK army partner units in two biannual ROK ‘Top Gun’ competitions and participated in numerous partnership building events. *Guns* Soldiers claimed the championship title for numerous sports events across the Peninsula,

including the coveted 2nd Infantry Division Warrior Friendship Week championship. The *Guns* Battalion works closely with its brothers and sisters in the 210th Artillery Brigade, *Thunder*, for Field Artillery leader development and social events. In the coming year, 1-15 FA will continue to stand ready as America’s ‘Boots on the Ground in Asia,’ and is prepared to defend U.S. and ROK interests. ‘Allons – Let’s Go!’

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/21D-1st-Battalion-15th-Field-Artillery->

3rd Infantry Division, Marne Fires

In August 2012, *Marne Fires* deployed to Regional Command-South (RC-S), Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Combined with Fires personnel from Romania, Slovakia, and Australia, *Marne Fires* processed more than 60 kinetic strike packets and synchronized assets in support of countless special operations forces and brigade combat team (BCT) operations. The targeting cell managed the regional command’s target list and synchronized offensive targeting efforts resulting in the removal of more than 400 high value individuals from the battlefield. The electronic warfare cell synchronized and processed more than 4,500 electronic attack requests. *Marne Fires* artillerymen partnered with 205th Afghan National Army (ANA) Corps Fires soldiers and assisted with the successful employment D30 howitzers into Afghan offensive operations. By the summer of 2013, Afghan artillery operated independently in support of Afghan operations throughout RC-S. The 3rd Infantry Division Fires redeployed from Afghanistan, in August 2013.

The rear detachment Fires cell focused efforts on synchronizing

Soldiers from 6th Section, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, conduct live-fire survivability move drills at “Rooster 8” live-fire training area, Gyeonggi province, Korea. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 15th FA)





and allocating Fires specific training and resources for units that remained at Fort Stewart, Ga. The rear detachment was instrumental in standing up the 42nd Fires Brigade (FiB) at Fort Stewart.

The advent of the 42nd FiB and the capture of lessons learned from the division Fires section's recent deployment, ensure that *Marne Fires* are prepared to conduct full-spectrum operations now and into the future.

1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, Battlekings

The 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery (FA), *Battlekings*, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 3rd Infantry Division, trained for and conducted a wide variety of full-spectrum operations from September 2012-August 2013. In early 2012, the battalion deployed seven security force assistance teams (SFATs) to eastern Afghanistan in support of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). The *Battlekings* were charged with training the Afghan police and army units, enabling Afghanistan's long-term security. After a six-month training period, the teams, consisting mostly of battalion leadership, deployed in September 2012, to Paktya and Ghazni provinces.

A Battery, *Assassins*, deployed 40 Soldiers to Uruzgan province to provide security for a U.S. Navy provincial reconstruction team (PRT), enabling the PRT to safely enhance governance and infrastructure throughout Uruzgan province.

Additionally, B Battery, *Bulldogs*, received two missions to support the international security assistant force in Regional Command-South (RC-S). The battery was tasked to provide direct support to Combined Team Uruzgan with the M777A2 howitzer and the M120 mortar, unfamiliar weapon systems for a Paladin battery. Following months of

intensive training, the battery deployed in early November 2012, becoming one of the first units to fire the Precision Guided Kit (PGK) in theater.

Even with a large portion of senior leadership deployed, the home detachment maintained a high state of readiness, continuing to train on core artillery competencies. The home detachment tirelessly maintained the battalion's equipment, all the while providing unwavering support for the Families of those deployed.

The *Battlekings* returned home in the spring, and after completion of reintegration and reset, are beginning a training plan to provide Fires to *Spartan* maneuver forces.

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/BattleKings-1-9-FA/199961451312>

<http://www.stewart.army.mil/units/2BCT/unit19FA/home.asp>

1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, Rock's Support

In June 2012, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery (FA), 3rd Armor Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 3rd Infantry Division, deployed to Kuwait as theater reserve for U.S. Central Command. Upon arrival, 1-10 FA reorganized as an artillery task force (TF) that included C Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd FA, a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battery. Initially, the *Rock's Support* completed Artillery Tables (AT) VI and XII, enabling all fire support assets to sustain future joint and combined operations.

Subsequently, A Battery participated in a 3rd ABCT live-fire exercise (LFX) known as 'Hammer Strike.' The event combined maneuver, joint, fixed wing and rotary wing air assets, mortars, dismounted infantry squads and direct support artillery Fires into one cohesive fighting

Soldiers from 1st Section, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, fire illumination rounds while deployed to Forward Operating Base Hadrian. The section has been conducting intensive training and fire missions to support operations in the Uruzgan province, Afghanistan. The Soldiers are (left to right) SPC Dionte Golston, SSG Christopher Johnson, SPC Charles Pratt, SGT Joshua Price and SPC Jarrod Leach. (Photo by CPT Jesse Platz, U.S. Army)





A Paladin from 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, fires a round in support of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. (Photo courtesy of 3rd ID)

force. B Battery initiated training to transition into an infantry company. Their training plan focused on maneuver tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) and preparation to conduct any maneuver specific task. Headquarters Battery took every opportunity to provide mission command to the battalion during battle command, AT VI, XII and Hammer Strike. G Battery coordinated rearm, refuel, resupply and survey point (R3SP) locations and the distribution of fuel and ammunition. Finally, the battalion superbly executed a training partnership with Kuwaiti land forces, where the battalion shared vital TTPs. Lastly; Operation Spartan Shield facilitated the accurate and timely firing of more than 4,000 rounds synchronizing all artillery assets into combined operations. In February 2013, the battalion redeployed to Fort Benning, Ga., and is currently focused on reset and individual/platoon-level training in preparation for a decisive action rotation at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., in 2014.

1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, Glory's Guns

By January 2013, the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery (FA), 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 3rd Infantry Division, was deployed to Zabul province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The unit provided indirect Fires from six different locations, firing more than 1,000 rounds with tremendous effects, including the two longest Excalibur precision guided munitions missions ever recorded in combat and the first-ever operational employment of the XM1156, Precision Guidance Kit (PGK).

Glory Gun's Soldiers secured five security force assistance teams (SFATs), conducting more than 1,000 mounted and dismounted pa-

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, using the M777A2 howitzer, became the first unit in the U.S. Army to fire the Precision Guided Kit (PGK) during combat operations in Zabul province, Afghanistan. (Photo by LTC Thomas Hawn, U.S. Army)





trols throughout Zabul province. The battalion was also tasked with providing a D30 howitzer training team, who was responsible for the technical and tactical training of the Afghan army artillery tolays, and live-fire certifying three separate Afghan artillery platoons. After fulfilling all certification requirements, the Afghan army provided its own artillery support during an independent mission, conducting the first Afghan-led artillery fire missions in Zabul province since the beginning of OEF.

The Soldiers of 1-41 FA also secured Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) Lagman and Davis by providing force protection measures and successfully transferred FOBs Lagman, Al Masaak, as well as Combat Outpost (COP) Viper, and Patrol Base 13 to Afghan security forces.

The battalion redeployed in July 2013, returning to Fort Stewart, Ga., to begin reset and individual training. The Soldiers of the *Glory's Guns* Battalion continue to strive for excellence as they re-certify on the M109A6 Paladin and prepare for their next mission.

1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, Patriots

This was a challenging year for the *Redlegs* of 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery (FA), 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 3rd Infantry Division, as it focused on supporting 4th IBCT in its train-up and deployment for operations in Afghanistan. The battalion executed a combat training center rotation at Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., in November 2012. There they provided supporting Fires across the brigade area of operation and trained Afghan artillerymen, while simultaneously conducting operations as a battle space integrator.

The *Patriots* deployed 2nd Platoon, A Battery and a headquarters supporting element to Afghanistan, in February 2013. The detachment provided lethal Fires in support of operations in the Logar and Wardak provinces and trained 4-203 Afghan National Army (ANA) D-30 crews, fire direction centers (FDCs) and forward observers (FOs). The ANA brigades' ability to provide lethal Fires was demonstrated by the D-30 battery providing independent, accurate and lethal Fires in support of the ANA brigade's clearance of the Wardak Valley without coalition support.

The remainder of the battalion continued to train hard at Fort Stewart, Ga., in perfecting our Soldiers' core artillery skills. The battalion conducted Artillery Table (AT) VI and XII qualifications in May-June 2013, resulting in all manned sections and platoons fully qualified. The battalion also conducted a direct fire range, firing the 'Killer Junior' shell-fuze combination.

The *Patriots* also conducted a joint training exercise with the 1st Battalion, 75th Rangers and the 49th Marine Reserve Aviation Detachment-A. B Battery culminated the exercise by conducting a 125-round battery sweep and zone fire mission.

The *Patriot* Battalion continues to provide Fires and ANA support for the *Vanguard* Brigade in Regional Command-East (RC-E) as always, the *Patriots* stand ready to do their duty and provide timely and accurate Fires. 'Liberty or Death!'

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/1-76-FA-BN/376331612995>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/176fa>

Redlegs from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, conduct a fire mission with the M777A2. (Photo by ILT Craig Zagorski, U.S. Army)



4th Infantry Division, Ivy

Division

3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, *Rolling Thunder*

During the last year, the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery (FA), *Rolling Thunder*, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 4th Infantry Division, conducted intensive training on core artillery competencies culminating in their decisive action, National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., rotation (13-08), in order to prepare for their upcoming deployment to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations. The battalion began its training in October 2012, with individual artillery skill training on the M109A6 Paladin, as well as digital fire control and direction while the ABCT's fire support teams executed fire support teams (FiST) certification. In November 2012, the *Rolling Thunder* Battalion conducted its first live-fire gunnery in nearly 18 months and executed Artillery Tables (AT) I-VI at Fort Carson, Colo. For many Soldiers, noncommissioned officers (NCOs) and officers, the November 2012, AT VI was their first artillery live-fire exercise (LFX) since their respective Initial Entry Training (IET). In December 2012, the battalion quickly transitioned to platoon and battery collective training that culminated in another LFX and the successful completion of AT VII-XII on Fort Carson testing each Paladin platoon's ability to effectively shoot, move and communicate.

In January-February 2013, the battalion braved the challenging Colorado winter weather to execute an AT XVIII live-fire and brigade command post exercise, to exercise the battalion's ability to mass Fires and validate its mission command systems across the brigade. After a successful battalion live-fire qualification, 3-16 FA deployed with 2nd ABCT, 4th Infantry Division to the Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS) in southern Colorado, to participate in a BCT-level maneuver exercise that tested the battalion's maneuver skills and fire support systems. The month-long training exercise tested Soldiers' field craft and their proficiency on combined arms operations through company maneuver lanes and two iterations of battalion force-on-force scenarios in preparation for the brigade's NTC rotation in June 2013. With the benefit of a brigade-level training exercise, the battalion deployed to NTC with 2nd ABCT for its first 'Decisive Action' rotation in nearly 10 years and one of the few the NTC has hosted since 2003.

The BCT's short training respite between PCMS and NTC allowed Soldiers to conduct individual refresher training and Soldier readiness processing (SRP) actions, ensuring readiness prior to NTC and their October 2013 deployment to the CENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR). At NTC, the battalion's training efforts during the preceding eight months paid off when the BCT surprised the NTC opposing forces with 3-16 FA's timely and accurate Fires that resulted in the destruction of numerous enemy maneuver and artillery pieces forced the opposing forces to change its plan during the battle. The NTC rotation tested each *Rolling Thunder* Soldier's tactical mettle and provided the most comprehensive training opportunity most Soldiers had ever had.

In the beginning of October, the battalion deployed with 2nd ABCT for a nine-month rotation to Kuwait, as part of Operation Spartan Shield, providing a combat ready force to Army Central (ARCENT) and CENTCOM. During the deployment, the battalion will serve as Security Force South, responsible for protecting critical infrastructure throughout southern Kuwait, as well as a firing platoon maintaining their core competencies and ready to respond to any contingency mission.

As a result of the last 12 months of intensive training for combat and contingency operations, the *Rolling Thunder* Battalion remains prepared and ready to provide timely and accurate Fires to the *Warhorse* Brigade Combat Team and execute any mission assigned to them. 'Go Forth with New Strength...*Rolling Thunder*'

3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, *Pacesetters*

Between January and March 2013, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery (FA), *Pacesetters*, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 4th Infantry Division, conducted re-integration operations for the re-deploying *Pacesetter* Soldiers from a successful mission in Afghanistan, serving as members of security force assistance teams (SFATs) in Regional Command-South (RC-S).

Following re-integration of the SFAT Soldiers, the battalion refocused on artillery core competencies in order to provide accurate, lethal and responsive Fires in support of 3rd ABCT. In May 2013, the *Pacesetter* Battalion executed Artillery Table VI training while also supporting the Advanced Leadership Course training firing more than 500 rounds. The multi-echelon fire-control exercise with 214th Fires Brigade, in June, at Fort Sill, Okla., validated mission command systems and procedures while furnishing the opportunity to fire 520 rounds.

In July, the battalion welcomed its new commander, LTC Corey Delger, and the battalion immediately began preparations to execute platoon-level artillery training. Throughout September 2013, the *Pacesetters* executed platoon artillery training while integrating Army attack aviation, U.S. Air Force tactical air control party (TACPs), and all fire support teams in 3rd ABCT firing more than 1,500 rounds safely. The *Pacesetter* Battalion became the first battalion in 3rd ABCT to qualify Soldiers, at the platoon level, and is postured to conduct artillery battery qualifications in April 2014.

Currently, the *Pacesetter* Battalion is focused on transforming to a 3 x 6 Paladin battalion in accordance with the Forces Command (FORSCOM) mission command implementation strategy. The battalion will activate C Battery and welcomes more than 250 Soldiers,

A Paladin from 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery fires a round. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 29th FA)





including all of the brigade fire supporters, back into the *Pacesetter* Battalion.

2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, Steel Warrior

The 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery (FA), 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 4th Infantry Division, returned from Afghanistan in November 2012, after a nine-month deployment to the Nanghar province, Nuristan province, Kunar province and Laghman province (N2KL) region of Regional Command-East (RC-E). During this deployment, the *Steel Warriors* provided all general and direct support Fires for the 4th IBCT from five different forward operating bases (FOBs) located throughout RC-E.

Additionally, 2-77 FA was instrumental in the Afghan army fielding several new sections trained on the Russian-made D-30 howitzer. By the completion of the deployment the Afghan howitzer sections had an established Fires standard operating procedure (SOP) and were able to place effective indirect Fires on the enemy. Following redeployment and winter leave, 2-77 FA began reset operations to refit the battalion's personnel and equipment and began preparations for follow on operations. As the 4th Infantry Division's only light Field Artillery battalion, the focus of reset was refitting the battalion's M119A2 light howitzers and certification of all firing sections. With reset complete and the battalion's M119A2 sections and platoons recertified, the battalion's attention shifted to the fielding of the M777A2 howitzer and the new 155 mm Precision Guidance Kit (PGK), the first Fort Carson, Colo., battalion to field this munition. As the battalion finalizes its preparations for a rotation at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., in October, and a deployment to Afghanistan, the *Steel Warriors*

Artillery crew members from 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, prepare an M777A2 for firing. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 77th FA)



remain trained and ready to deploy and provide world class fire support to the *Mountain Warriors*. 'Steel!!'

7th Infantry Division, Bayonet

The 7th Infantry Division activated on Oct. 1, 2012, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and provides mission command and training oversight for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Stryker Brigades of the 2nd Infantry Division, the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, the 17th Fires Brigade (FiB), the 555th Engineer Brigade, and the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade. The mission of the 7th Infantry Division, is to provide trained, ready, and disciplined brigades prepared for deployment in support of the defense of our nation.

In 2013, the 7th Infantry Division published the 7ID Redbook, standardizing the training, certification, and qualification of indirect Fires, both artillery and mortars, and fire support teams throughout the division. Through this standardization, the division has established a strong foundation of indirect Fires skills that were essential in supporting 7th Infantry Division brigade's execution of combined arms training, including walk and shoot exercises, fire-control exercises, and combined arms maneuver live-fire exercises (CALFEXS).

Additionally, the 7th Infantry Division Fires cell provides training management and oversight of the division's joint Fires observer (JFO) training and certification programs, and is in the final stages of accreditation of the division's target mensuration only (TMO) and precision Fires certification programs. 'Trust In Me!'

Visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/7thInfantryDivision

Learn our story at www.dvidshub.net/unit/7ID or www.army.mil/7thid

2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery, Vikings

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery (FA), 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), 7th Infantry Division, deployed to Afghanistan, as Combined Task Force (CTF) Viking, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), from November 2012 to July 2013. Operating from 10 bases across Kandahar, Zabul, and Farah provinces, CTF Viking executed a diverse mission set of partnered operations with the Dand and Daman district Afghan uniform police (AUP), providing direct supporting Fires for CTF 4-2 operations, training Afghan National Army (ANA) artillerymen, protecting Kandahar Airfield, and providing security for provincial reconstruction team operations in Farah.

Throughout the deployment, CTF Viking executed parallel and partnered operations with the Daman and Dand AUP to interdict enemy lines of communication, prevent the flow of insurgent resources into the Panjwa'i district, and interdict enemy indirect Fires aimed at Kandahar Airfield. Operations between CTF Viking forces, Afghan police, and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations resulted in the death and/or capture of more than 30 confirmed insurgents in the *Viking* area of operations (AO). CTF Viking successfully denied the insurgency the use of terrain from which to launch attacks against Kandahar Airfield while facilitating more than 2,000 patrols during the deployment. Together, CTF Viking's efforts resulted in a 30 percent reduction in significant enemy activities throughout the AO.

Following redeployment and the announcement of 4-2 SBCT's inactivation, the *Vikings* have focused on individual readiness in anticipation of personnel and equipment moving to Fort Carson, Colo. The

RED BOOK 2013

Vikings can be proud of their honor and dedication shown and their lasting and positive legacy fostered during three combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terror.

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1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, Red Lions

In January 2013, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery (FA), *Red Lions*, redeployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., from Afghanistan, where the unit supported 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), 2nd Infantry Division. During the deployment, 1-37 FA's battalion headquarters operated in the Zabul province, with command and control over subordinate units throughout southern Afghanistan. C Battery's mission included establishing D30 mentor training teams to the Afghan National Army (ANA), allowing ANA artillery units to operate autonomously. B Battery was located in the Uruzgan and Kandahar provinces, where it supported 82nd Airborne Division and Australian forces with artillery missions. A Battery was re-purposed to provide base defense and conduct maneuver operations. The 18th Engineers, who are administratively attached to 1-37 FA, provided route clearance missions in the Panjwa'i district.

In August 2013, the brigade finalized its training program to support the rebalance to the Pacific and is currently preparing to certify at the National Training Center (NTC) Fort Irwin, Calif., for no-notice deployments anywhere in the Pacific Command (PACOM) area of responsibility (AOR) within 96 hours.

With a focus on the Pacific, A Battery participated in Operation Rising Thunder 13 at Yakima Training Center, Wash., in September, partnering with Field Artillery units from the Japanese army. The rest of 1-37 FA deployed to Yakima in October, for a month-long train-

ing event focused on certifying lethal and agile platoons capable of supporting 3-2 SBCT. As the battalion looks to 2014, it expects to participate in several multi-national partnership exercises in support of PACOM strategic objectives.

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2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, Steel

In the past year, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (FA), *Steel*, 7th Infantry Division, redeployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., following their mission to Shah Wali Kot district, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The 2-17 FA's responsibilities during deployment included training and empowering local security forces and providing fire support from five M777A2 firing points while securing battle space critical to the security of the city of Kandahar.

Upon redeployment, the battalion wasted no time rebuilding the team, focusing on a return to Field Artillery core competencies. Within four months, Soldiers conducted the reset phase of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) process and completed section certification on Artillery Tables (AT) V-VI.

Following section certification, *Steel* provided support to Cadet Command during Warrior Forge, the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), where instructors evaluated Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets on leadership skills and potential.

At the conclusion of Warrior Forge, 2-17 FA continued to develop and sharpen its artillery skills. Soldiers currently train to conduct platoon certification, AT VII – XII at the Yakima Training Center (YTC), Wash. Following *Steel's* YTC exercise, the battalion is scheduled to support 2-2 Infantry Division (SBCT) by providing Fires during an

C Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, conduct live-fire training at Yakima Training Center, Wash. (Photo Courtesy of 7th ID)





upcoming rotation to the National Training Center (NTC) Fort Irwin, Calif.

As always, the artillerymen of the *Steel* Battalion remain ever vigilant, following its motto: 'Steel Strykes First!'

Visit us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/2-17-Field-Artillery-Steel-Joint-Base-Lewis-McChord-WA/143297922379956>

10th Mountain Division, Mountaineer 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, Centaur

*Centaur*s of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery (FA), 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 10th Mountain Division, deployed to Ghazni province of Afghanistan, in January 2013, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The battalion provided supporting Fires for 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, which deployed as a security force assistance brigade (SFAB) in Regional Command-East (RC-E) and consisted of more than 1,500 Afghan and American Soldiers stationed on eight forward operating bases (FOBs) and command outposts (COPs). The 3-6 FA employed five M777 and four M119 howitzers, on two firing points distributed across the brigade's operating environment. *Centaur*s fired a total of 117 fire missions and 419 rounds in support of coalition and Afghan National Security Force operations. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3-6 FA also advised a D30 howitzer firing battery from the 4/3/203 Afghan National Army (ANA), instructing Afghan soldiers on proper gunline procedures, fire direction, and forward observer (FO) procedures for the D30 howitzer, increasing the Afghans' ability to execute independent operations.

An M777A2 howitzer manned by 1st Platoon, A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, fires during a night mission on Forward Operating Base Arian, Afghanistan. (Photo by SFC Kenneth Foss, U.S. Army)



The battalion redeployed to Fort Drum, N.Y., in fall 2013. 'Swift and Bold!'

<https://www.facebook.com/messages/100003704990619#!/3.6FA.1BCT.10MTN?fref=ts>

2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, Allons

The 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery (FA), *Allons*, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 10th Mountain Division, deployed to Paktika province, Afghanistan, in January, in support of Task Force (TF) 2-10 Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB). TF *Allons* deployed a battalion tactical command post (TAC), Q36 radar, A Battery headquarters, three reduced-man firing platoons and two security force advise and assist teams (SFAAT). One SFAAT supported the 4th Combat Support Kandak, while the other was specifically designed for the D30 howitzer battery within the 4th Kandak. The remainder of the battalion supported rear detachment operations.

TF *Allons* conducted operations along four lines of effort. The first line of effort was protecting the force. This included three decentralized artillery platoons providing Fires from multiple combat operation posts and forward operating bases (FOBs). The three platoons fired 2,500 conventional and precision rounds to include the Precision Guided Kit (PGK) and Excalibur.

The second line of effort was 4th Kandak refinement. TF *Allons* SFAATs advised the 4/2/203 to employ/sustain enablers (a recon company, an engineer company and a D30 artillery battery) into combat operations, with the D30 firing more than 400 rounds from off-forward operating locations in direct support of Afghan infantry Kandak operations.

In addition to the artillery mission, TF *Allons* assumed the garrison command role of FOB Sharana with tactical control of A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry and military police from 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB).

4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery, Wolfpack

This year, 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery (FA), *Wolfpack*, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 10th Mountain Division, focused on preparation for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) deployment. Central to that preparation was the integration of the Capability Set-13 (CS-13) mission command suite into our training. CS-13 enabled, at the battery level, distributed mission command and Fires with capabilities previously reserved for battalions. Using CS-13, the battalion provided Fires for platoon and company live-fire exercises, a fire support coordination exercise and howitzer qualification live-fire exercises.

The *Wolfpack* Battalion gained momentum into spring, expanding our capabilities with M777 new equipment team (NET) and Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) training. The battalion concurrently built two security force advise and assist teams (SFAAT), focused on Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) staff proficiency and enhancing Afghan D-30 capability. These teams demonstrated the battalion motto of 'Be Silent and Act!' executing capstone events of Operation Spartan Peak, Operation Mountain Peak, and a Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., Rotation 13-06.

The battalion finished its training cycle by establishing expertise in multiple areas. The SFAATs focused on small unit tactics, close quarters marksmanship, Dari language training, and D-30 maintenance.

Security forces conducted advanced situational awareness training and Guardian Angel battle drills. Additionally, the *Wolfpack* trained Soldiers in employment of Q-53, Q-36, and Q-50 radars.

By September, B Battery, 4-25, *Blackjacks*, deployed and conducted a transfer of authority with the Polish artillery's 11th at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Ghazni. The *Blackjacks* quickly integrated into Task Force (TF) White Eagle operations. After establishing 6,400 mil capability with M777A2s and M119A2s, the battery fired for the Poles within one week of arriving to the FOB. The *Blackjacks* continue to conduct weekly live-fire training missions with their Polish allies.

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5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery, Thunder

Task Force 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery (FA), 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 10th Mountain Division, is currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), serving across eastern Afghanistan. The battalion provides close supporting Fires in support of coalition forces across the region north of Kabul, from multiple firing locations. As part of the 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain's advise and assist mission, 2-25 FA serves as the provincial security force advise assist and training team for Laghman province, partnered with the Afghan National Army's (ANA's) 1st Brigade, 201st Corps, Laghman Afghan national and local police, the Laghman Operations Coordination Center-Provincial (OCC-P), National Directorate of Security (NDS) and provincial Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA). The battalion's D30 training team is partners with the artillerymen of the ANA's 201st Corps building capability and capacity in their operational forces and training base.

25th Infantry Division Fire Support Element, Tropic Thunder 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, Never Broken

In April 2012, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery (FA), *Never Broken*, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 25th Infantry Division, began reset operations after successfully redeploying from eastern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) XI-XII, where they executed a dual mission of delivering Field Artillery (FA) and mortar Fires for two BCTs while simultaneously serving as a battle-space owning unit along the eastern border of Nangarhar province.

In October 2012, the battalion conducted training at the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), Hawaii, integrating Fires with maneuver battalion live-fire exercises (LFXs), certifying radar and meteorological sections by verifying the operational readiness of AN/TPQ-53 (E-Q36) and AN/TPQ-52 (Profler) along with A Battery completing all dry-fire Artillery Table (AT) VII and AT VIII live-fire certifications. B Battery remained back on Oahu embracing the challenge of integrating M777 howitzers into an M119 howitzer battalion, focusing on the responsibilities of crew members and hands-on maintenance overview.

The battalion was set to deploy to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., in March 2013; however, due to a change in mission and sequestration, the deployment was canceled. Instead, we leveraged this time putting together an eight-week, re-redding program that recertified leaders, Soldiers, sections and platoons on their military occupational specialty (MOS) skills and improve our ability to provide

A combat advisor from the 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery's D30 advising team, assists Afghan artillerymen during a section certification exercise in eastern Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 5th BN, 25th FA)





timely, accurate and lethal Fires for the *Bronco* Brigade. This training culminated in a brigade field training exercise (FTX), Operation Bronco Rumble, as well as 4 x battalion mass fire missions on Oahu.

Sixteen howitzers fired more than 1,500 rounds of high explosive (HE), 70 rounds of hexachloroethane (HC) Smoke and 65 rounds of M314A3 illumination rounds, which included about 280 rounds for Operation Bronco Rumble. This included firing the following missions: ground burst illumination, continuous illumination (linear and converged), short range HC Smoke, simultaneous observation mission, direct fire, battalion mass (HE x3) and a battalion mass (illumination). The platoons supported this mission simultaneously from four different firing points.

The Soldiers of the *Never Broken* Battalion stand ready and reliable as valued members of the 3rd IBCT, 25th Infantry Division, as we continue to prepare for the assumption of duty on the Division Contingency Response throughout the Pacific area of responsibility.

2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, *Automatic*

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery (FA), *Automatic*, continue to prove their mettle as the Army's northernmost artillery battalion. Following a successful post-deployment reset period leading into the winter months in interior Alaska, 2-8 FA conducted multiple battery and battalion live-fire exercises at the Yukon Training Area



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, participate in a fire mission. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 7th FA)

Automatic Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, sling load an M777A2 during an air assault mission. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 8th FA)





Redleg Paratroopers assigned to 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne), conduct a pass in review in honor of the commander in chief and the chief of staff of the Army during the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 319th FA)

(YTA), Alaska, in temperatures as low as 20 degrees below zero. Our target acquisition platoon supported the Cold Region Test Center at Fort Greely, Alaska, during cold-weather testing of the Q-53 radar system. The battalion hosted ‘Automatic University,’ a leader development program for FA, fire support, and mortar leaders designed to promote common understanding and standards across the brigade. Brigade Fires developed a live/virtual digital fire support coordination exercise (FSCX), focused on company-level fire support planning and rehearsals. Because of the virtual environment, company commanders and fire support officers (FSOs) had maximum flexibility to execute their concepts unconstrained by live-fire training restrictions.

Automatic Battalion’s focus continues to be FA core competencies. Through the summer months, the battalion concentrated on moving and shooting in the YTA. With 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) *Flying Dragons*, we executed platoon air assault gun raids – a skill that has gone mostly unpracticed in the past several years. Automatic firing batteries trained decentralized operations, providing support to our *Gimlet* and *Blackhawk* brothers’ situation training exercise (STX) lanes.

Finally, as we end 2013, and again enter the winter months, the Automatic Battalion finds itself in the Donnelly Training Area, Alaska, conducting Operation Automatic Corridor, during which we will shoot, move, and communicate in support of a notional *Arctic Wolves*’ movement-to-contact mission.

82nd Airborne Division, All American 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne), Loyalty

As the nation’s dedicated Global Response Force (GRF) for Fires, the 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (FA) (Airborne), 3rd Brigade

Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division, remains postured to ‘rapidly, alert, marshal and deploy in order to conduct an airborne assault and deliver Fires in support of no-notice strategic contingencies.’ Throughout 2013, the *Loyalty* Battalion remained focused on providing timely and accurate Fires in support of combined arms maneuver.

Loyalty began 2013 by representing the United States Army in the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. Upon return from this mission, the *Loyalty* Battalion initiated a six-month intensive training cycle in preparation for the GRF mission. This multi-echeloned training consisted of a fire support coordination exercise (FSCX), which trained every company-level leader in the coordination and synchronization of joint Fires, a joint operational access exercise (JOAX), and decisive action training environment (DATE) rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La. Throughout these training events, 1-319 FA validated the BCT 2020 composite Fires battalion construct by successfully integrating 105 mm, 155 mm and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Fires under a BCT Fires battalion headquarters.

In October 2013, 1-319 FA reactivated C Battery (M777) and re-assumed the GRF mission. *Loyalty*’s new construct provides the BCT commander with greater lethality through organic, longer-range and precision guided munition capable cannons. After delivering more than 6,500 artillery munitions (105 mm/155 mm), executing 2,500 parachute jumps and maintaining the highest readiness posture in the U.S. Army, the Paratroopers of the *Loyalty* Battalion assumed the GRF ‘set – ready’ to answer our nation’s call. ‘H-Minus / Loyalty!’

2nd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne), Black Falcons

As the nation’s global response force, 2nd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne), *Black Falcons*, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division, opened the year with a mission readiness ex-



Paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne), conduct a drop zone mission from Normandy Drop Zone, Fort Bragg, NC. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 319th FA)

ercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La. The battalion executed a strategic deployment from Fort Bragg, N.C., direct to a contested drop zone in Louisiana, for the first time in more than 10 years, and once on the ground, faced the new decisive action threat scenario. The rotation prepared the battalion and the *Falcon* Brigade to engage an adaptable ‘near-peer’ adversary.

In support of the Global Response Force (GRF) mission, the *Black Falcons* consistently looked for better ways to employ the Fires war-fighting function. Whether through virtual simulations, fire support coordination exercises (FSCX), or by incorporating live ‘off-set’ close supporting Fires, the *Black Falcons* aggressively demonstrated what the ‘King of Battle’ brings to the fight. The team fired more than 3,500 rounds, utilizing an increasingly digital network, in support of three joint operational access exercises, two intensive training cycles, and an emergency deployment readiness exercise.

Black Falcon paratroopers executed more than 1,800 parachute jumps, multiple airborne drop zone missions, and two-gun air assault raids during the course of the year’s training. In addition, the team made great strides in conducting long-distance digital mission processing, as well as utilizing the brigade’s organic tactical unmanned aerial system in an observer role, validating forward strides with respect to the ‘sensor-to-shooter’ linkage.

The paratroopers of the *Black Falcons* stand ready to deploy anywhere in the world within 18 hours of notification to answer our nation’s call. ‘All the Way, Airborne, Let’s Go, *Black Falcons*!!!’

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/2nd319th>

3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne), *Gun Devils*

In 2013, the *Gun Devils*, 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne) (FA), 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division, wrote several new chapters in the history of the Field Artillery and the U.S. Army.

In April 2013, the *Gun Devils* became the first battalion to field the new M119A3 digital 105 mm howitzer. The M119A3 provides a revolutionary leap for airborne and light artillery by bringing the 105 mm howitzer computerized fire-control system, self-locating and azimuth pointing technology to the *Redleg* paratroopers of the division. A and

B Batteries met the challenges of fielding a new howitzer during a substantial new equipment training program.

In July, B Battery validated the M119A3 when it fired more than 7,500 rounds in support of the United States Military Academy Cadet Summer Training at West Point, N.Y.

In August, A Battery became the first to conduct an airborne heavy drop live-fire of the M119A3, demonstrating its rapid emplacement capabilities on Sicily Drop Zone.

In September, the battalion spearheaded the Army’s BCT 2020 re-organization concept. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery successfully integrated 140 fire supporters back under the Red Guidon. In October, the *Gun Devils* became one of the Army’s first 3x6 105/155 mm composite Field Artillery battalion by re-flagging of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 321st FA to C Battery 3-319 FA.

In November, the battalion is leading the Army’s Soldier 2020 by officially assigning female officers and female Field Artillery Soldiers into the battalion.

As 2014 approaches, the *Gun Devils* are ready to provide accurate and responsive Fires as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for the Army’s Global Response Force (GRF).

2nd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery (Airborne), *Professionals*

Over the last year, 2nd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery (Airborne) (FA), 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division, executed an aggressive, systematic training plan focused on re-establishing the battalion’s delivery of Fires core competencies.

After a seven-month deployment and completing reset and reintegration activities, the battalion conducted howitzer, fire direction center (FDC), radar, and brigade consolidated fire support team (FiST) section certifications. Following section certifications the battalion conducted multiple combined arms maneuver missions including a brigade fire support coordination exercise (FSCX), and multiple drop zone live-fire operations through participation in two brigade-level air-field seizures to include a joint operational access exercise (JOAX). In addition, the battalion conducted numerous two-gun artillery raids that supported three separate battalion air assault missions.

In October 2013, the battalion executed a three-week intensive training cycle (ITC), which included platoon external evaluations assisted by observer/controllers from 18th Fires Brigade (FiB), battery-level firebase operations, and joint training with 10th Marine. After the battalion’s ITC, the battalion conducted collaborative staff training through the National Training Center’s (NTC’s) Fort Irwin, Calif., Leader Training Program (LTP) and executed Battery Artillery Readiness Tests for each firing battery, in order to further evaluate their delivery of Fires capabilities.

Currently, the battalion is scheduled to inactivate in June 2014. Although this is the case, the *Professionals* remain committed to creating a legacy of developing world-class, competent and confident airborne gunners that are postured for success, either in the 82nd Airborne Division or across the Army. As the *Professionals* close out the year with this responsibility in mind, we reflect that the past eight years since re-activation embody a short period of service, but a lifetime of achievements. ‘Fury From The Sky, All The Way – Airborne!’



Top Guns Soldiers prepare to sling load their equipment during an air assault mission. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 320th FA)

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Screaming Eagles 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, *Top Guns*

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery (FA), 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), *Top Guns*, redeployed following the completion of their security forces assistance mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Advisers maintained their Fires proficiency during this deployment through training the Afghan army on artillery, mortars and fire support skills. *Top Guns* that remained at Fort Campbell, Ky., continued honing their light artillery skills through the execution of platoon-level air assault raids.

In preparation for *Strike* Brigade's next 'Rendezvous with Destiny,' the battalion quickly fielded and trained on Capability Set 13 equipment and the Q53 radar system, upgraded to M119A3 howitzers, and conducted a M777A2 operations network (OPNET) and Precision Guided Kit (PGK) live-fire exercise. *Top Guns* supported the brigade's 'Walk and Shoot' and Eagle Flight III training through the responsive and accurate integration of artillery, mortars, and close combat air (CCA) Fires into maneuver plans while fire supporters adapted to an evolving enemy situation.

In preparation for a 2014 OEF deployment, the unit has reorga-

nized into an area operations support command (AOSC), hybrid security forces advise and assist team (SFAAT), D30 mobile Field Artillery training team, while reorganizing and augmenting a firing battery to conduct both M119A3 and M777A2 firing capability in distributed operations.

2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, *Balls of the Eagle*

The gunners of 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery (FA), *Balls of the Eagle*, 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st Airborne Division, redeployed to Fort Campbell, Ky., after a nine-month deployment to Regional Command-East (RC-E) (Nangarhar, Nuristan and Kunar, N2K) in the combined role of providing fire support to the Soldiers of the *Bastogne* Brigade, and non-traditional mission as security force advise and assist team (SFAAT) to the partnered Afghan forces in the N2K, 2nd and 4th Brigade of the 201st Afghan Army Corps.

The men and women of the *Balls of the Eagle* Battalion provided fire support from three forward operating bases (FOBs), firing 1,282 rounds in support of combined team forces in contact. Additionally, Soldiers of *Automatic* Battery (A-2-320 FA) fired the first Precision Guided Kit (PGK) fire mission in theater in support of troops in contact, proving the viability of this new capability. The leaders of 2-320 FA, serving as SFAAT members provided critical partnership, mentorship and advise to our Afghan army counterparts, forging the way ahead to a strong, stable, near independent, capable Afghan army.



The Soldiers of A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, deliver close supporting Fires to members of the combined team in contact from Forward Operating Base Joyce, Kunar province, Regional Command-East, Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 320th FA)

Currently, the Soldiers of 2-320 FA are focused on reset and regeneration operations, setting the new team and individual training, transitioning to collective and platoon training for second quarter FY14. Additionally, we will grow the battalion in accordance with FY14 Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) changes and Army 2020 design, fielding the M119A3 and the M777A2, growing the battalion by an additional battery and increasing our capacity and capabilities in support of the *Bastogne* Brigade in preparation for our next 'Rendezvous with Destiny.'

3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, Red Knight Rakkasans

FY13 marked an historic time for the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery (FA), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), as the *Rakkasans* conducted their sixth combat deployment since 2001. In September 2012, the *Red Knight Rakkasan* Battalion deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) XII-XIII to provide direct supporting Fires for combined Afghan and coalition operations along the contentious Afghan-Pakistan border in Regional Command-East. Configured into six hybrid firing points of M777A2 and M119A2 howitzers, the battalion successfully fired 394 missions delivering more than 3,000 timely and accurate rounds on enemy combatants.

In addition to their traditional fire support mission, *Red Knight Rakkasans* fully embraced a partnership mission with the 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 203rd Afghan National Army (ANA) Corps. For years, 4th ANA Kandak artillerymen, engineer and scout specialty skills atrophied as these soldiers performed provisional infantry missions, securing checkpoints in the Khowst-Gardez Pass. Identifying this shortfall, the *Red Knight Rakkasan* Battalion established the first Afghan Fires Center of Excellence (AFCOE), and developed a comprehensive program to train Afghans on all aspects of the fire support system. Consolidating D-30 howitzers, 82 mm mortar systems, and a call-for-fire trainer from Fort Campbell, Ky., at Camp Parsa, in Khowst province, *Red Knight Rakkasans* began the daunting task of training their Afghan



A howitzer section from A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team *Rakkasans*, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), fires their M777A2 howitzer during a live-fire exercise at Camp Clark, Afghanistan. (Photo by SFC Abram Pinnington, U.S. Army)

counterparts on the necessary artillery and fire support competencies that would allow the ANA to fire safely in support of Afghan maneuver units. The battalion also established a training and mentorship program for ANA engineer route clearance operations, scout reconnaissance missions, explosive ordnance device (EOD) training, medical skills training, and logistics sustainment operations. Persistence and hard work yielded steady gains and by May 2013, the 4th ANA Kandak began providing critical enablers in support of 1st ANA Brigade unilateral operations in Khowst and Paktia provinces.

Upon redeployment, the battalion conducted an extensive reset of personnel and equipment. Training immediately began, as the battalion commenced reorganization into a composite FA battalion and simultaneously prepared for their next 'Rendezvous with Destiny' in fall 2014.

4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, Guns of Glory

The *Guns of Glory*, 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery (FA), 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st Airborne Division, conducted a myriad of missions displaying their flexibility and ability to rapidly adapt and execute any assigned mission. Upon receipt of a deployment order in support of Task Force (TF) Currahee, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 13-14, the Soldiers of 4-320 FA immediately began training for both standard and non-standard missions. After a BCT



Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, fire their M119A2 at Combat Outpost Wilderness, Afghanistan, in support of Afghan National Security Forces. (Photo courtesy of 4th BN, 320th FA)

‘Walk and Shoot’ exercise and Eagle Flight III, *Glory* Soldiers departed for the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., in January 2013. During the mission readiness exercise, FA common core tasks were validated while building on the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) D30 train, advise and assist mission. This also included certifying on the newly fielded M777 howitzer, which would be employed in the upcoming deployment. Deploying to Afghanistan in April 2013, B Battery maintained responsibility of manning five hybrid firing points throughout the Khost and Paktiya provinces, augmented by one platoon and one fire direction center (FDC) from A Battery. A Battery was re-tasked to conduct a multitude of operations ranging from mayoral cell, base defense operations center (BDOC), retrograde operations, ANSF D30 partnership, and firing point responsibilities. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery maintained command and control, and oversight of all FA operations while augmenting the D30 partnership training team. Throughout the course of the deployment the Soldiers of the *Guns of Glory* Battalion fired more than 2,500 rounds of artillery, which included the employment of both Excalibur and Precision Guided Kit (PGK) precision munitions. Their combined efforts resulted in the destruction of numerous enemy mortar and

rocket teams while achieving significant gains in ANSF confidence and capabilities.

17th Fires Brigade, Thunderbolt

The *Thunderbolt* Brigade, as a member of the 7th Infantry Division ‘Team of Teams’ at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Wash., welcomed Soldiers returning from a deployment to Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), while preparing for future operations in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). Using live, virtual, and constructive training at the battalion and brigade-level and combined exercises in support of Talisman Sabre (Australia) and Ulchi Freedom Guardian (Korea), units of 17th Fires Brigade (FiB) demonstrated their resilient and adaptive Soldiers and leaders are prepared for any mission.

The 17th FiB conducted several exercises that used simulations to blend live, virtual and constructive elements into a complex, multi-echelon simulated training environment allowing commanders, staffs, and units, at all levels, to exercise mission command, plan and employ Fires. These multiple exercises included processing live and virtual Fires through brigade and battalion operations centers in support of High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) and M777 section qualification tables and platoon external evaluations with units distributed between the Yakima Training Center, Wash., and Joint-Base Lewis McChord. The live, virtual and constructive training allowed *Thunderbolt* Soldiers, at every level, to fully exercise their tactical roles.

Additionally, the brigade executed combined training exercises, including Coalition Virtual Flag, with the Air Force, to validate and rehearse the forcible entry capability of the C-17 and HIMARS launcher as an operational and strategic strike package. The ability to conduct HIMARS rapid infiltration (HIRAIN) missions in support of a combatant commander is essential as an expeditionary force.

In 2014, the brigade will see drastic changes with the inactivation of 1-377 FA and the deployment of the brigade headquarters and subordinate units to multiple locations. As always, the *Thunderbolt* Brigade remains agile, adaptive and ready to provide for the next mission.

Visit 17th FiB online at www.facebook.com/17thFiresBrigade

5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, First Round

The three firing battery’s from the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery (FA), *First Round*, 17th Fires Brigade (FiB), redeployed from support-

High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) from 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery fire rockets during a live-fire exercise. (Photo Courtesy of 5th BN, 3rd FA)





ing Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) in Afghanistan and Kuwait. Upon return, C Battery cased their colors and was inactivated in October 2013. The battalion consolidated and reset into a 2 x 8 configuration and immediately moved into training and recertification.

In conjunction with the battalion's reset operations, select personnel from B Battery participated in two culminating training events for deploying National Guard units held at Fort Bliss, Texas. These immensely successful training exercises brought together units from three different active duty brigades (17th FiB, 212th FiB and 5th Armor Brigade), and both active and National Guard components to train deploying units in a realistic, live and virtual scenario. Over the course of a week, the 212th FiB and 5th Armor Division, out of Fort Bliss, worked with 5-3 FA to train both B Battery, 1-121 FA, from the Wisconsin National Guard in January, and A Battery, 1-181 FA, from the Tennessee National Guard in August. The 5-3 FA provided subject matter experts to train the deploying units and established a 'white cell' that replicated the joint operations center and subordinate maneuver units, and at the end of the exercise, validated their readiness for deployment.

The *First Round* Battalion conducted a field-training exercise at Yakima Training Center, Wash., and completed Artillery Tables I – VI, firing more than 190 rockets. The training exercise posed as an opportunity to integrate High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) training and certifications into the scheme of maneuvers with 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) in preparation for their culminating training events at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/#!/pages/5th-Battalion-3rd-Field-Artillery->

1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, *Deep Steel*

2013 was a great year as 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery (FA), *Deep Steel*, 17th Fires Brigade (FiB), completed its reset phase of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) upon return from its Jordan mission. The battalion continued to sustain its motto of 'Flexible' by simultaneously training towards an Artillery Table XII (Artillery Table Platoon Qualification), platoon external evaluations and train-up for our future deployment to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). The 1-94 FA built an external evaluation concept that combined the typical Artillery Table XII with a 48-hour

PV2 Bollheimer and SGT Grell, both from 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, load a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) onto a transport plane during the HIMARS rapid infiltration (HIRAIN) mission at Nellis Airforce Base, Nev. (Photo by 1LT Randall Thomas, U.S. Army)



warrior skills evaluation, a dedicated opposition forces, and observer, controller, trainer package. The battalion validated the concept and had it standardized in the 7th Infantry Division's Artillery Red Book for standardized training. In addition, A Battery pioneered the new training concept of High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) rapid infiltration (HIRAIN) in support of the Air Force Weapons School Mission Exercise 12B at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where the new HIRAIN proof of principle was validated. This new concept enables HIMARS launchers to rapidly deploy via C-130 or C-17 aircraft as part of a joint forcible entry operation, providing long range precision Fires in support of a combatant commander.

The spring of 2013 saw the battalion begin its preparation for their upcoming deployment to the CENTCOM AOR. The battalion participated in the U.S. Air Force's (USAF) annual simulated Coalition Virtual Flag 2013 exercise, and acted as the 17 FiB headquarters as role-players to the USAF focusing its efforts on joint interoperability and joint Fires integration. The battalion captured standards for HIRAIN missions by executing joint training opportunities with the USAF assets at McChord Field and proofed the HIRAIN concept again by combining live, virtual, and constructive training simultaneously with a tactical operations center (TOC) presence at the combined air operations center (AOC) in Nellis Air Force Base, and four launchers on two aircraft out of McChord Field, to two separate landing zones in two different states to engage a simulated time-on-target on the same target. This USAF exercise also served as the battalion headquarters culminating training exercise, which validated the staff's Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) and mission command capabilities.

This last year also saw new scheduled modifications to the HIMARS launcher with a high frequency long-range communication's upgrade to the Harris Radio System, a new enhanced driver's system, and a Blue Force Tracker upgrade to each launcher; all systems that ensure our leaders and Soldiers maintain an expeditionary mindset with a joint forcible entry capability.

www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Battalion-94th-Field-Artillery

1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery (Air Assault), *Gunslingers*

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 377th Field Artillery (FA), *Gunslingers*, 17th Fires Brigade (FiB), spent 2013 returning to the battalion's core competencies. Following the redeployment of B and C Batteries from Afghanistan, the battalion focused its efforts on completing Artillery Tables (AT) I-VI. The battalion also returned to its air assault heritage by conducting two gun raids at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Wash., culminating in A Battery conducting a night raid in August. In addition to Artillery Table and air assault training, B Battery participated in Warrior Forge branch days, highlighting the greatest branch to the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets.

The *Gunslingers* forged several new partnerships in 2013. A select team spent April at Fort Magsaysay, Luzon, Philippines, with the Philippine army artillery training the Philippine gunners on fire direction center (FDC) and gun line certification procedures, along with fire planning and live-fire training. This exchange enabled the new Philippine army artillery headquarters to standardize their training and certification procedures across their army for the first time. The *Gunslingers* also partnered with the 2nd Battalion, 218th FA, Oregon National Guard, by hosting a U6 Howitzer Maintenance course at JBLM, as well as have 40 Soldiers participate in an Air Assault School Course at Camp Rilea, Ore., sponsored by the Oregon National Guard.

The *Gunslinger* Battalion continued to conduct individual and sec-



Deep Steel Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery, participate in an M777A2 air assault operations at Yakima Training Center, Wash. (Photo by LTC Charles Roede, U.S. Army)

tion-level training in spite of being notified in July of pending inactivation. The 1-377 FA conducted their Family day and final round live-fire exercise in September, and cased the *Gunslinger's* colors in October.

www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Battalion-Air-Assault-377th-Field-Artillery-

308th Brigade Support Battalion, Red Lions

The 17th Fires Brigade (FiB), 308th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), *Red Lions*, provided continuous world class sustainment support to the brigade throughout 2013. The Cannons and Castle Dining Facility continues to prove its excellence by winning the 'General's Best Mess' for Thanksgiving 2012, and first quarter of FY13. Continuing the tradition of the *Red Lion's* 'Pride in Performance,' the battalion completed its second annual Gunga Din Competition, with a total of 135 participating throughout the brigade. This event boosted esprit de corps and trained Mission Essential Task List (METL) tasks in a challenging yet motivating environment. Throughout the year, the battalion completed company-level situational training exercises, brigade support area operations, and sling load operations. To supplement this training the battalion used the Virtual Battle Simulator Training to complete simulated logistics convoys, ensuring leaders, at all levels, enhanced their proficiency in convoy operations. In support of a 30-day brigade training exercise, the *Red Lions* completed a total of 15 resupply missions, distributed more than 6,000 gallons of fuel and provided continuous voice and data support for 2,000 users at Yakima Training

Center (YTC), Wash. The maintenance section proved their dedication by completing more than 739 wheeled and generator services. In addition, they hosted the Vehicle Recovery Training Program to ensure all brigade mechanics were trained. The battalion conducted a resource intensive operation that identified excess equipment worth more than \$2 million in order to redistribute equipment across Joint Base Lew-

Soldiers from the 308th Brigade Support Battalion compete in the Second Annual Gunga Din Competition training on Mission Essential Task List (METL) tasks. (Photo courtesy of 308th BSB)





is-McChord (JBLM), and the Army. These are only a few examples of how the *Red Lion* Battalion continues to serve the *Thunderbolt* Brigade until they are once again called upon to ‘Sustain the Thunder.’

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/308th-Brigade-Support-Battalion/>

18th Fires Brigade (Airborne), Steel

The 18th Fires Brigade (FiB) Airborne, *Steel Brigade*, continued to support Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and the global response force (GRF) mission in 2013, along with a myriad of tasks and missions. The brigade continued to be ever ‘Tough, Proud, Disciplined.’

In May, the brigade conducted the Division Artillery Readiness Test, where commodity areas and Fires processes within each battalion were evaluated. Then the brigade turned to support Yudh Abhyas with the Indian army and multiple live-fire exercises (LFXs), joint training, joint operational access exercise (JOAX), and the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., in the remaining summer months.

In November, the brigade sponsored the 82nd Airborne Divisions’ ‘Best of the Best’ Field Artillery (FA) competition. In a multiple day assessment, FA units from across the division competed to find the best artillery assets. This culminated in Molly Pitcher Day, where all FA units gathered to declare a winner and show their Family members what being an artillery Soldier means, and what they do.

The 18th FiB made a monumental transformation at the end of the year with A, B, and C Batteries from 1-321 FA moving to C Battery,

Soldiers from 18th Fires Brigade (Airborne) fire the M777A2 howitzer during Vulcan Fire Support Coordination Exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Photo by SGT Brian P. Glass, U.S. Army)



3-319 FA, C Battery, 2-319 FA, and C Battery, 1-319 FA. This historical move marked a transition of 18th FiB capabilities and mission set as they prepared to transition 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery from M777A2 to a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion as well. The 18th FiB looks forward to this added capability and will continue to be prepared for any mission it is asked to perform. ‘Tough, Proud, Disciplined’

<http://www.bragg.army.mil/82ND/18FIRES/Pages/default.aspx>
<https://www.facebook.com/18thfires#!/18thfires>

1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery (Airborne), Warriors

The 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery (FA) (Airborne), *Warriors*, 18th Fires Brigade (FiB) Airborne, spent the year preparing for an historic transition.

As the United States Army’s only airborne 155 mm artillery battalion, 1-321 FA continued to support the 82nd Airborne Division’s global response force (GRF) mission. The *Warriors* airdropped M777A2s in support of multiple brigade combat teams (BCTs) joint operational access exercises and proved its significance as a substantial combat enabler to the mission by providing fast and accurate lethal and nonlethal long-range Fires.

The *Warriors* conducted their final battalion live-fire exercise consisting of two-week field live-fire exercise (LFX) in August. The two-week exercise consisted of rigorous training and firing, coupled with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) training events, small arms ranges, land navigation, medical and communication training and air assault missions. Platoon and company tasks provided the focus for the LFX and prepared the firing batteries to transition into the other brigade combat teams of the 82nd Airborne Division.

This will be the final year the *Warriors* will fire their M777A2s as a battalion. They trained and transitioned A, B, and C Batteries from 1-321 FA to C Battery, 3-319 FA, C Battery, 2-319 FA, and C Battery, 1-319 FA respectively. Their *Warrior* spirit will live on in their new battalions as they continue to provide earth-shaking 155 mm rounds as an integral part of the 82nd Airborne Division.

<http://www.bragg.army.mil/82ND/18FIRES/Pages/default.aspx>
<https://www.facebook.com/18thfires#!/WarriorsATW>

3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery, Thunderbolts

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery (Airborne) (FA), *Thunderbolts*, 18th Fires Brigade (FiB) Airborne, began in January 2013, with assuming the quick reaction force (QRF) strategic reserve capability for U.S. Army Northern Command (USARNORTH). Soldiers completed an operational readiness survey which determined the readiness state of the battalion’s equipment and personnel for immediate, no-notice deployment to anywhere in the United States.

In March, the battalion participated in a joint interoperability live-fire exercise with 10th Marine Division from Camp Lejeune, N.C. Also, the battalion fared extremely well during the Division Artillery Readiness Test, where commodity areas and Fires processes within the battalion tactical operations center (TOC) and C Battery were evaluated by the 18th FiB. During Yudh Abhyas, B Battery demonstrated the capabilities of the M777A2 to the Indian army.

During the summer months, 3-321 FA focused further on joint training, bridging digital architecture gaps between general purpose forces and Special Forces. The battalion participated in numerous joint Fires exercises, to include Operations Vulcan, Jaded Thunder and



Paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery, turn the M777A2 Howitzer weapon system, while preparing to fire during a joint operations artillery exercise (JOAX). The Soldiers conducted day and night time fire missions in support of the JOAX. (Photo by SGT Brian P. Glass, U.S. Army)

other interoperability exercises with 682nd Air Support Operations Center (ASOC). During these training events, the battalion was able to bridge communication architecture gaps between the battalion and joint partners in order to further enable mission command and achieve synergy between domains.

In October, the battalion focused on their QRF culminating training exercise II, where the battalion was evaluated on their ability to support the USARNORTH mission.

<http://www.bragg.army.mil/82ND/18FIRES/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/18thfires#!/ThunderboltBN>

3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, Steel Rain

The 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery (Airborne) (FA), *Steel Rain*, 18th Fires Brigade (FiB) continued to provide lethal Fires capability in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and the 82nd Airborne Division's global response force (GRF) mission.

In February, *Steel Rain* deployed its B Battery headquarters, along

with a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) firing platoon and a Q-37 radar section, to Afghanistan, for nine months. Meanwhile the battalion participated in numerous joint and special operations live-fire and air-land training exercises throughout the south-eastern United States, as well as participation in a number of joint operational access exercises (JOAX), and the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., rotations with the division's brigade combat teams (BCTs) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

In August, the battalion supported 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger, in executing their annual multilateral exercise. The battalion fired 36 rockets in support of pre-assault Fires and targets of opportunity over the course of 14 days. The training included multiple air-lands utilizing hot panel on the launchers to conduct raid missions from Hunter Army Airfield, Fort Stewart, Ga., to Lawson Army Airfield, Fort Benning, Ga. This was a major accomplishment for the battalion in its endeavor to train on its GRF mission.

In October, the battalion deployed a HIMARS firing platoon to Avon Park, Fla., in support of special operations units participating in



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, 18th Fires Brigade, let the smoke settle after firing off rockets from the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during a live-fire exercise in Sept. 2013. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 27th FA)

the Jaded Thunder exercise. Back at Fort Bragg, the unit utilized new long range high frequency communications equipment to conduct digital fire missions and send meteorological data from home station to the forward deployed launchers over 600 miles away. Overall the exercise was a successful test of the battalion's ability to conduct interoperability with special operations units. *Steel Rain!*

<http://www.bragg.army.mil/82ND/18FIRES/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/18thfires#!/pages/3-27th-FA-BN-HIMARS/324284834905>

41st Fires Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Railgunner

Over the last year, the Soldiers of the 41st Fires Brigade (FiB), 1st Cavalry Division, once again demonstrated their versatility as a modular FiB by focusing on both core Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and Force Field Artillery (FFA) Headquarters (HQ) competencies at Fort Hood, Texas, the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., and in Kuwait. In October 2012, the brigade deployed A

Battery, 2nd Battalion, 20th FA, *Renegades*, A-26 Target Acquisition Battery (TAB), and elements of the 67th Forward Support Company (FSC) to NTC in support of 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, as the unit prepared for its deployment to Kuwait. The *Renegades* performed magnificently during the decisive action mission readiness exercise at NTC. In January 2013, the *Railgunners* deployed A Battery, 2-20 FA to Kuwait, in support of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

In February, 41st FiB deployed a brigade tactical command post (TAC), the 1st Battalion, 21st FA TAC, B Battery, 1-21 FA, A-26 TAB, and elements of the 575th FSC to NTC in support of 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division's rotation 13-03.

From March to April, the *Railgunners* focused their efforts on command supply discipline, digital fire support training, live-fire exercises (LFXs) and completed the brigade's capstone mission readiness exercise. In June, the brigade once again deployed the brigade TAC and 1-21 FA's TAC along with A Battery, 1-21 FA, A-26 TAB, and elements of 575th FSC to NTC in support of 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division's rotation 13-08. Following this NTC rotation, the 41st FiB Headquarters began final deployment preparations for service as the United States Army Central (USARCENT) FFA HQ in order to integrate joint and combined Fires through the area of responsibility and conduct military engagements with coalition partners.

In July, A Battery 2-20 FA redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas, upon successful completion of its tour of duty in Kuwait. The brigade headquarters deployed to Kuwait in August. Over the course of the last year, the 41st FiB deployed three batteries to NTC, deployed a firing battery to Kuwait in support of USARCENT, and deployed the brigade headquarters (-) to Kuwait in support of USARCENT.

The *Railgunners* are a fully modernized and modularized FiB consisting of three subordinate battalions and three separate companies. 'Railgunner Strong! First Team!'

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Hard Rock

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 41st Fires Brigade, *Hard Rock*, remained in the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) available phase, ready to answer the nation's call and integrate timely, accurate, and decisive Fires at a moment's notice. *Hard Rock* spent much of the year maintaining core competencies; participating in two Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint exercises, the III Corps war-fighter exercise, two brigade command post exercises, weekly digital fire support sustainment training, and providing training support for three National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., rotations. In addition, HHB Soldiers prepared for and deployed in support of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Force Field Artillery (FFA) Headquarters. The *Hard Rock* Soldiers are proud of their previous year's accomplishments and stand ready to fight and defeat the enemies of the United States with rocket and missile Fires.

Alpha 26 Target Acquisition Battery, Wolfpack

Soldiers from A Battery, 26th FA, *Wolfpack*, 41st Fires Brigade (FiB), spent the past year honing their skills as a target acquisition and survey support specialists. *Wolfpack* Battery Soldiers deployed to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., twice in the past 12 months, supporting decisive action rotational units with general support counter-fire radar support. This past year, the *Wolfpack* also upgraded their radars and certified on the AN-IPQ-37 version 9.

The *Wolfpack* continued to strive for excellence; developing new standard operating procedures (SOPs) for radar support integration

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with every combat training center rotation and home station live-fire exercise. As a result, the SOPs reduced sensor-to-shooter processing time and provided accurate and timely counterfire data for neutralization and destruction of enemy artillery systems.

The battery is again preparing to deploy to NTC in early 2014 in order to provide general support target acquisition capabilities for the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT).

2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, Deep Strike

Artillerymen of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery (FA), *Deep Strike*, 41st Fires Brigade (FiB), 1st Cavalry Division, entered Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 following an extensive training cycle focused on core Field Artillery (FA) tasks. By October 2012, the battalion's training had culminated in the deployment of A Battery, *Renegades* to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., further honing their warfighting capabilities. While supporting 4th Infantry Division with general support Fires, the *Renegades* solidified themselves as standard bearers by supporting every brigade combat team (BCT) live-fire exercise (LFXs) with live Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Fires. Upon redeploying from NTC 13-02, A Battery began final preparations for the forward-deployed, on-call deep Fires role it would soon assume.

In February 2013, Task Force (TF) Renegade began its 6-month deployment to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in support of Operation Spartan Shield. TF Renegade, comprised of 97 Soldiers from across the *Deep Strike* Battalion, conducted training with multiple U.S. forces and forces from other nations, to include the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Kuwaiti army artillery and Jordanian army artillery.

At Fort Hood, Texas, Soldiers of the *Deep Strike* Battalion continued to reinforce their competencies by participating in four live-fire exercises (LFXs) and one fleet synthetic training-joint exercise with 41st FiB and the U.S. Navy. Additionally, in March 2013, the battalion conducted its inaugural 'Blue Max Challenge,' which tested Soldiers and units in warrior tasks and battle drills, acknowledged the battalion's storied lineage, and recognized those Soldiers who distinguished themselves physically and mentally.

Further demonstrating the battalion's excellence, 67th Forward Support Company (FSC), *Beast*, continued their excellence by participating in and winning the 1st Cavalry Division's Phillip A. Connelly Award. B Battery, 2-20 FA, *Black Knights* continued their progression through a gated training path in preparation for an upcoming NTC rotation with 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, *Warrior Nation*, continues to support the battalion and batteries through deployment, training center rotations, and garrison operations at the highest level. '*Deep Strike!* Railgunner Strong! First Team!'

1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery, First Strike

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery (FA), *First Strike*, 41st Fires Brigade (FiB), began the year firing 48 reduced range practice rockets, qualifying 16 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) crews, two battery operations centers, and two platoon operations centers (POC) in October. Following the Artillery Table VI in October, Task Force (TF) 1-21 FA (-) began its gated training strategy in preparation for its January deployment to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif. TF 1-21 FA (-) deployed in support of the 1st Cavalry Division and provided general support Fires as part of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team's (ABCT's) rotation 13-03. Soldiers from B Battery, *Bulldogs*, Headquarters and Headquarters Bat-



tery, *Headhunters*, A-26 Target Acquisition Battery (TAB), *Wolfpack*, and 575th Forward Support Company (FSC), *Shadow*, deployed in support of NTC Rotation 13-03. In doing so, *First Strike* is the first active duty MLRS battalion to deploy to a direct action rotation with a battalion tactical command post (TAC), a firing battery, a Q-37 radar section, and a distribution platoon.

Following NTC rotation 13-03, the battalion returned to Fort Hood, Texas, and executed an intensive, gated training plan that set conditions for its next deployment to NTC in June 2013. TF 1-21 FA (-) deployed to the NTC in support of the 4th Infantry Division and provided general support Fires during 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team's (ABCT's) rotation 13-08. Soldiers from A Battery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, A-26 TAB, 589th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), and 575th FSC deployed in support of NTC rotation 13-08.

To date, 1-121 FA is the only active duty MLRS battalion to deploy twice to NTC in one year in support of direct action rotations. '*First Strike!* Railgunner Strong! First Team!'

The 589th Brigade Support Battalion, Iron Caissons

The 589th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), *Iron Caissons*, the 41st Fires Brigade's (FiB's) multi-functional logistics battalion, provided continuous, world-class sustainment support to the brigade. Through-



Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery, 41st Fires Brigade, build fighting positions at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., during the battalion's training rotation. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 21st FA)

out the year, the battalion focused on unified land operations by conducting numerous battalion-level field exercises, establishing the brigade support area and training on force protection and logistics support. The battalion conducted two separate convoy live-fire exercises (LFXs), training and validating eight gun truck crews on improvised explosive device (IED) lanes, direct and indirect Fires, medical evacuation procedures and mounted marksmanship. The battalion staff diligently worked on staff processes through two command post exercises, fleet synthetic training-joint exercise (FST-J) and military decision making process (MDMP) training exercises hosted by the Mission Command Training Center at Fort Hood, Texas. In addition, the battalion deployed the distribution company's ammo transfer holding point along with a maintenance team from the field maintenance company to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., in support of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 10th Mountain Division's rotation. Additionally the battalion deployed assets in support of 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 1st Cavalry Division's road march and line haul to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La.

Lastly, the battalion headquarters deployed a command post node

team to NTC with 1-21 FA in support of NTC rotation 13-08. In all endeavors, the *Iron Caissons* supported all aspects of the brigade's fight. *'Iron Caissons! Railgunner Strong! First Team!'*

75th Fires Brigade, Diamond

The 75th Fires Brigade's major events over this last year include the deployment of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB) as the First Army Service Component Command Fires Headquarters for U.S. Army Central (ARCENT) from Dec. 12, 2012 to Sept. 4, 2013. Highlights of the deployment included major partnership events with Kuwaiti, Emirati, and Jordanian militaries to enhance bilateral familiarization, interoperability, and safety between the U.S. and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations. The brigade welcomed a new commander, COL Michael R. Eastman, and wished the former commander farewell.

The 75th FiB conducted a culminating certification exercise from Oct. 29 to Nov. 8, 2012. In addition to the organic units, the exercise included infantry, cavalry and cannon artillery from the 1st Infantry Division, as well as fire support teams from 75th Ranger Regiment. Upon certification, the headquarters forward deployed to Kuwait.

3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, Red Dragons

3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery (FA), 75th Fires Brigade (FiB), is a Multiple Launch Rocket System/Army Tactical Missile System (MLRS/ATACMS) battalion capable of providing accurate, timely, and decisive rocket and missile Fires in support of unified land operations. During the past year, the *Red Dragon* Battalion resourced and executed an intensive Fires gated strategy to ensure the readiness of units returning from three separate non-traditional mission sets. Specifically, A Battery, 3-13 FA, redeployed from Afghanistan, while serving with the 1st Infantry Division in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), B Battery, 3-13 FA, redeployed from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where they served as a security force in support of Operation Spartan Shield, and a company-sized task force manned from across the battalion met all critical training gates to serve as part of a crisis response joint task force in support of Operation Continuing Promise in the Southern Command area of operations. Despite the non-artillery training focus associated with these missions, the Fires batteries reset, certified and live-fire qualified 100 percent of their crews within 120 days of redeployment. In support of the battalion, the 66th Forward Support Company (FSC) certified all available ammunition crews and maintained an aging M270A1 fleet that had not been effectively exercised in close to a decade.

In addition to training core competencies, the *Red Dragons* did their part to positively brand the brigade in the Lawton/Fort Sill, Okla., community by participating in installation and community competitions and by strengthening its community partnerships with local schools, women's shelters, veteran support agencies, and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs.

1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, Copperheads

The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (FA), *Copperheads*, spent the last year maintaining FA core competencies, as well as focusing on Army Warrior Tasks (AWT) training and preparing for the battalion's inactivation.

During the year, the *Copperheads* conducted three one- to two-week long field problems, consisting of certifying and qualifying on Artillery Tables (AT) I through XII. The battalion also conducted platoon lanes training, operating under a full spectrum of opposing forces engagements, ranging from complex ambushes, to civilians on the battle field, to reacting to counter fire. The highlight of these field training exercises was the battery-level rocket assisted projectile fire mission, conducted at 1:17am, at the end of each battery's training.

The battalion also had the opportunity to conduct a shoot for the 1st Infantry Division Artillery Association 'Big Red One Cannoneers,' executing a Fires demonstration for more than 50 Korean and Vietnam War artillery veterans. The event provided a live-fire training opportunity for 1-17 FA, as well as affording the *Copperheads* a chance to interact with members of the 1st Infantry Division Fires community who have shaped the organization's long and illustrious history.

1-17 FA also executed the 'Copperhead March.' This 12-mile ruck march competition, conducted overnight, was comprised of 12 stations, focused on training artillery tasks and Army warrior tasks (AWT). Soldiers were graded on their ability to complete the tasks and execute the ruck march in the shortest amount of time.

Effective Jan. 15, 2014, 1-17 FA will be inactivating in accordance with orders from the Department of the Army.

2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, Mission Ready

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery (FA), *Mission Ready*, 75th Fires Brigade (FiB), spent the first five months of the year deployed to Camp Redleg, Al Minhad Air Base, United Arab Emirates (UAE). For the deployment, the battalion fell in on M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) launchers in order to provide U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) with a surface-to-surface Fires capability in the southern Arabian Gulf region.

Additionally, the battalion partnered with the UAE's 97th HIMARS battalion to increase their proficiency and build our allies' capabilities. Following successful transition of authority to 1-14 FA, the battalion redeployed to Fort Sill, Okla., in May 2013.

Upon redeployment, the battalion completed reset in preparation for future deployments. Additionally, the battalion has completed Gate I of the Fires Gated Training Strategy, with a focus on the individual Soldier skills and leader certification that form the foundation for successful collective training. With the completion of Gate I, the battalion is postured to move into Gate II in January 2014, including its first live-fire since returning to Fort Sill.

The battalion has been a strong community partner since its return from deployment. Sixteen Soldiers from 2-18 FA supported the Lawton Kiwanis Club archery shoot, the battalion provided a color guard for the town of Duncan's Veteran's Day Parade, and individual Soldiers performed volunteer work in the community, ranging from collecting food for the Lawton food bank to individual-level community service.

100th Brigade Support Battalion, Century

Headquarters and Headquarters Company supplied personnel and equipment for various deployments throughout the brigade to include, a forward logistics cell in Kuwait, from Aug. 17, 2012 to May 12, 2013, 2-18 Field Artillery (FA), deployment to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), from Aug. 24, 2012 thru May 7, 2013, and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 75th FiB's deployment from Dec. 15, 2012 to Sep. 4, 2013.

The 258th Network Signal Company joined the 100th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) in June 2011. Prior to that, the unit had operated directly under HHB, 75th Fires Brigade (FiB). The move gave the unit battalion-level oversight for administrative management and training resources. The unit has supplied personnel and equipment to 2-18 FA's deployment to the UAE from Aug. 24, 2012 to May 7, 2013, as well as the 75th FiB's deployment to Kuwait, from Dec. 15, 2012 thru Sept. 4, 2013.

The 15th Transportation Company (TC) trained for and executed on-call support of the defense chemical, radiological, biological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) response force (DCRF) mission from Oct. 1, 2012 until Sep. 30, 2013. The 15th TC was then selected to provide similar support to the global response force (GRF) and deployed and trained for the mission in September 2013. After successfully completing the unit's commitment to the DCRF mission, 15th TC assumed the mission to support the GRF on Oct. 1, 2013, and currently continues to support the 18th Airborne Corps as its brigade-level transportation asset.



Leaders from 210th Fires Brigade and Third Republic of Korea (ROK) army discuss the progress of the Combined Counterfire Exercise at Warrior Mission Planning and Rehearsal Complex on Camp Casey, Republic of Korea. The 210th Fires Brigade trains with its ROK partners to strengthen the ROK-U.S. Alliance and ensure it is ready to 'Fight Tonight' and deter any threats against the Republic of Korea. (Photo by CPL Kim Han-byeol, U.S. Army)

210th Fires Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Warrior Thunder

As the only permanently forward-deployed Fires brigade (FiB) in the Army, the *Warrior Thunder* Brigade maintains constant 'fight tonight' readiness to defend the Republic of Korea.

Over the last year, the brigade completed multiple live-fire qualifications, including a joint Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) live-fire with the Third Republic of Korea (ROK) army. *Warrior Thunder* Soldiers also completed two ammunition combat load retrieval exercises, AN/TPQ-37 fire finder radar survivability training that included digging the radar position into the ground, a combined counterfire exercise with the Third ROK army, and the peninsula-wide Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise.

Despite a challenging training cycle, 210th FiB also began M270A1 launcher and M1068A3 command post upgrades, modifications, and new equipment training to improve the brigade's capabilities and enhance combat readiness.

Senior leaders from the *Warrior Thunder* Brigade and the ROK Field Artillery (FA) School signed a formal agreement on military cooperation that included collaboration on FA combat development, scholarly seminars, and education and research. As a member of the Combined Counterfire Task Force, leaders from the brigade participated in numerous tactical discussions with the Third ROK army to strengthen interoperability between the ROK-U.S. Alliance partners.

The 210th FiB Soldiers conduct community outreach and volunteerism like distributing charcoal briquettes to the needy, cleaning up the local Shincheon River, and planting 1,500 trees with their Korean neighbors for Arbor Day. The 210th FiB also participated in numerous events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

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6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, On the Minute

The 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery (FA), *On the Minute*, 210th Fires Brigade (FiB), 2nd Infantry Division, stands ready to defend the Republic of Korea (ROK). The battalion began 2013 with the 210th FiB culminating training exercise. The battalion executed a synchronized series of operations using live, virtual, and constructive environments on Camp Casey, Korea, and throughout the Korean training area. With the assistance of observer-trainer teams from the 18th FiB (Airborne), the *On the Minute* Battalion trained individual, section, platoon and battery tasks and validated its Mission Essential Task List (METL).

In March, the battalion conducted a week-long live-fire exercise in Rocket Valley, Saint Barbara's Training Area. Eighteen Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), nine battery and platoon operation centers, and three ammunition platoons qualified in all areas of crew, section and platoon operations.

Throughout the year, the battalion provided support to a number of theater exercises including Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, Warpath II, and the 2nd Infantry Division's warfighter exercise. These exercises provided valuable experience to the senior leaders and staffs throughout the Korean peninsula and strengthened the bonds between the U.S. Army and ROK army.

SPC Daniel Yesuf, a motor transport operator assigned to 579th Field Artillery, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, 210th Fires Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, secures an ammunition pod on the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT), on Camp Casey, Republic of Korea, as part of the Ammunition Combat Load Retrieval Exercise. (Photo by SSG Carlos R. Davis, U.S. Army)



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In July, the battalion conducted a change of command as LTC Mark Brock took the reins of leadership for the Soldiers of the *On the Minute* Battalion. In September, the battalion returned to Rocket Valley to conduct a combined live-fire with the Third ROK army. Korean K9 155 mm howitzers, U.S. and Korean MLRS, unmanned aerial systems, and national-level intelligence systems combined to fire hundreds of artillery shells and rockets, demonstrating the power and resolve of the Alliance. 'On the Minute, Deep Strike!'

https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-6th-Battalion-37th-Field-Artillery-Official-Page/171832902792?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser

1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery, Steel Behind the Rock

The 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery (FA), 210th Fires Brigade (FiB), had a tremendous year highlighted by tough, realistic training focused on 'fight tonight' readiness and strengthening relationships with the Republic of Korea (ROK) army. The *Steel* Battalion fired 198 rockets during three live-fire exercises. The 1-38 FA stressed its logistics and communications in the rugged Korean terrain during two field training exercises. The battalion conducted one of the first U.S.-Republic of Korea army (ROKA) combined thorough decontamination operations on the peninsula. The firing batteries conducted more than 20 field exercises integrating ROKA security elements, which strengthened the units' relationships and interoperability. The battalion also began no-notice platoon readiness exercises to validate its ability to 'fight tonight.'

The *Steel* Battalion and ROK 2000 Battalion initiated a leadership exchange program in which a platoon leader and platoon sergeant from both units cross-trained and shared lessons learned. The battalion fostered community outreach with schools and orphanages in the city of Paju. During this outreach, Soldiers taught and interacted with children while building a bond with the Korean community.

The 333rd FA Target Acquisition Battery (TAB), attached to 1-38 FA, upgraded their four radars to the Q37 version 9 (RMI), enabling easier maintenance and improved readiness. The 333rd FTAB demonstrated the success of this upgrade during two combined live-fire exercises with ROKA forces.

Finally, on July 10, the *Steel* Battalion welcomed LTC Donald Potoczny as its new battalion commander. Under his guidance and mentorship the *Steel* Battalion is looking forward to another year of great training and continued readiness.

https://www.facebook.com/SteelBehindTheRock?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser

212th Fires Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Gunstone

The 212th Fires Brigade (FiB) recently celebrated its second year after re-activation and continues to establish a cohesive Fires community at Fort Bliss, Texas, as a vital member of the 1st Armored Division.

Soldiers assigned to 212th FiB opened the year certifying B Battery, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery (FA), from the Wisconsin Army National Guard, and E Battery, 139th FA, from the Indiana Army National Guard, in preparation for their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

In February, 30 Soldiers from the 212th FiB headquarters supported the Air Force's Blue Flag 13-1. The exercise, held at the 505th Combat Training Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., prepared joint and



MAJ Rob Steffel, 212th Fires Brigade (FiB) operations officer, MAJ Reggie White, the brigade future operations chief, and MAJ Joe Shimerdla, the brigade aviation officer, 212th FiB, 1st Armored Division, observe computer monitors displaying exercise scenarios during Blue Flag 13-1. Thirty Soldiers from the staff of the 212th FiB supported Blue Flag 13-1, an exercise to prepare joint and combined air component commanders and personnel to support contingency operations worldwide at the home of the Air Force's 505th Combat Training Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla. (Photos courtesy of 212th FiB)

combined force air component commanders and personnel to support worldwide contingency operations.

During the training, staff of the *Gunstone* Brigade replicated a combined force land component command. The unit exercised the 12th Air Force Air Operations Center and the U.S. Southern Command's, 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD), on how to direct air operations from a theater Air Force level, using aircraft to gain superiority and support allied ground forces through interdiction, close-air support, reconnaissance, airlift and other missions.

In July, the brigade assisted the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Armored Division in Iron Focus, the division's intensive battalion-level training exercise to prepare units prior to deploying to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., and deployments in support of OEF.

The *Gunstone* Brigade primarily provided oversight and mission command for the exercise that lasted three weeks, spanned 3,200 square miles of training area, and involved 3,700 Soldiers, civilians and Afghan role-players. All Soldiers proudly participated knowing our efforts were critical in preparing the *Bulldog* Brigade for combat operations.

The 212th FiB continues to provide the FA community with a readily deployable Force Field Artillery Headquarters capability prepared to execute Fires mission command from tactical to theater level operations.

'Courage and Command!'

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/212th-Fires-BDE/192278077469708>



A Guided Multiple Rocket System (GMLRS) from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, fires a unitary rocket during the battery's live-fire exercise. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 4th FA)

214th Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Leaders

In January, 214th Fires Brigade (FiB), the *Leaders* Brigade, redeployed the last of their 128 Soldiers that deployed to Afghanistan who were divided into 11 security force assistance teams (SFATs) consisting of senior personnel from across the brigade. Immediately following the return of the SFATs, 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery (FA), held a field training exercise (FTX) in March, and deployed more than 200 Soldiers to United Arab Emirates (UAE) in April. The 1-14 FA's deployment is based on helping build a stronger UAE, and delivering timely and accurate Fires in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

The 214th FiB provides contingency forces and resources in response to National Interagency Fire Center requests for support in wild land fire fighting upon secretary of defense approval and Forces Command directive. The brigade has been training to provide one Fire Fighting task force capable of fielding 25 teams of 20 Soldiers/firefighters throughout the wild land fire fighting season. The team is composed of 500 deployable firefighters plus a command and control cell of 50 personnel.

The brigade is currently training core competencies and preparing to support the Global War on Terror whenever and wherever needed.

2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, *Deep Attack*

Over the past year, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery (FA), *Deep Attack*, 214th Fires Brigade (FiB), redeployed several key senior lead-

ers on security force assistance teams (SFATs) to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), while continuing to conduct and maintain core competency skills.

With the majority of the battalion senior leadership deployed, the remaining batteries and 696th Forward Support Company (FSC) continued to train on traditional artillery tasks and logistical support missions. A Battery, 2-4 FA also conducted numerous live shoots during the past year shooting Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS) unitary rockets supporting the Capabilities Development Integration Directorate (CDID) thereby retaining proficiency in delivering devastating, timely and accurate rocket and missile artillery Fires in support of maneuver forces conducting joint and combined operations.

In August 2012, C Battery, 2-4 FA was deactivated and its personnel were rolled up under B Battery, 2-4 FA, which had returned in June 2012, from Afghanistan. In September, both A and B Batteries executed a live-fire exercise (LFX) consisting of 12, M28A1 rockets for the Sergeant Major of the Army, Raymond T. Chandler.

January 2013, saw the return of the *Deep Attack* Battalion commander and several senior officers and noncommissioned officers. The battalion quickly re-integrated them and quickly began rebuilding the unit's MLRS crews. *Deep Attack* is fully prepared to answer the nation's call at any time.

2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, *Rock Hard*

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery (FA), *Rock Hard*, 214th Fires Brigade (FiB), supported the 4th Infantry Division's security force assistance team (SFAT) deployment to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 12-13 with 23 leaders, including platoon ser-



Steel Warriors, from 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, along with soldiers from the Emirati 97th Heavy Artillery Regiment, fire rockets as part of the first ever Joint Artillery Table VI live-fire exercise. (Photo by ILT Jason D. Stogner, U.S. Army)

geants and platoon leaders and the battalion executive officer. Despite the deployment of many key leaders, the battalion continued to train on its core competencies, including section-level certifications and maintaining its technical and tactical artillery skills.

During the past year, 2-5 FA supported Operation Daring Warrior, a multi-national exercise with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Singapore, firing 324 rounds in support of their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) certification program. The *Rock Hard* Battalion also conducted two battalion-level exercises and participated in one brigade-level field training exercise (FTX), firing more than 600 rounds. During the June brigade FTX, the battalion conducted section certifications and fired in support of a brigade time-on-target mission.

The battalion trained and prepared a 500 person fire fighting battalion task force in support of Northern Commands (NORTHCOM's) Wild Land Fire Fighting mission from June through October. The *Rock Hard* Battalion continues to stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the nation's enemies while supporting the 214th FiB and 4th Infantry Division with timely, accurate and devastating artillery Fires.

1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, *Steel Warriors*

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery (FA), *Steel Warriors*, 214th Fires Brigade (FiB), stand ready to provide timely and accurate rocket and missile Fires in support of worldwide contingency operations. The battalion conducted Artillery Table (AT) XII battery live-fire in October 2012, at Fort Chaffee, Ark. In February 2013, the *Steel Warriors* conducted AT VI section live-fire certification as part of a culminating training exercise in preparation for deployment

In April 2013, the battalion deployed to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The battalion has occupied Camp Redleg, an expeditionary base providing internal logistics support. The *Steel Warriors* are prepared to support U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) contingency operations and provide

High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) flyaway packages anywhere within the theater of operations. The battalion has conducted weekly digital systems sustainment training (DSSTs) and multiple exercises, including load/no fly emergency deployment readiness exercises (EDRE). The *Steel Warriors* regularly conduct small-arms qualification and readiness ranges on Al Minhad Airbase. The battalion also fosters and reinforces host nation relationships. Partnering with the Emirati 97th Heavy Artillery, the *Steel Warriors* have conducted weekly capability demonstrations and lectures. In September, the *Steel Warriors* conducted the first ever joint AT VI LFX with the 97th Heavy Artillery, successfully qualifying all launcher sections. The *Steel Warriors* also provide base defense and security for Camp Redleg, conducting multiple base defense exercises with British and Australian forces. The 1-14 FA continues to conduct Mission Essential Task List (METL) focused training in preparation for future operations.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/1-14-FA/145701958783389>

168th Brigade Support Battalion, *Make It Happen*

In December 2012, 168th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) said farewell to LTC M. David Waddell and hailed LTC Mark W. Mays. After the holidays, Mays began 2013 with a new vision, re-energizing the battalion's Soldiers and boosting esprit de corps.

In February, 214th FiB's mission to provide a security force assistance team (SFAT) near Kandahar Airfield came to its conclusion and 11 of the battalion's senior leaders redeployed to Fort Sill, Okla., and reintegrated into the BSB Family.

The 168th BSB completed several missions in support of 214th Fires Brigade (FiB) and the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Okla. Soldiers throughout the battalion executed Operation Long Haul, a series of convoys from Fort Sill to Fort Carson, Colo., to transfer excess equipment to 4th Infantry Division. In conjunction with two long haul missions in June, the battalion exercised its capabilities by providing



support to 3-29 Field Artillery (FA), 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, for their participation in the 214th FiB's live-fire exercise (LFX). Soldiers provided transportation of the battalion's equipment to and from Fort Carson, in addition to providing Class I, III (B), V, and IX support for the duration of the exercise.

The 168th BSB conducted its first ever 'Operation Fix It' in August, designed to create a healthy battalion maintenance program. For one week, the entire battalion, including command teams and staff, worked in the motor pool on nothing but maintenance. The operation resulted in 51 pieces of rolling stock serviced and rendered fully operational.

In September, 168th BSB conducted its culminating exercise, Operation Joint Eagle at Camp Gruber, Okla., involving numerous state National Guard units and local agencies throughout Oklahoma. The purpose was to provide a scenario for multiple agencies to practice responding to natural disasters and chemical threats. The 168th BSB played an integral role, successfully providing water purification and transportation support through the duration of the exercise. The 168th BSB is always on a mission to *Make-It-Happen*.

428th Field Artillery Brigade, Cornerstone

The 428th Field Artillery Brigade, *Cornerstone*, establishes the building blocks for U.S. Army and Marine Corps Field Artillery (FA) men and women. The brigade trains and develops the technical skill sets for our Advanced Individual Training (AIT) trainees, and trains, mentors and develops leaders in the Basic and Advanced Officer Courses to fight and win on today's battlefield.

This year, the brigade trained more than 10,000 Soldiers and Marines, reviewed all programs of instruction to ensure focus on our artillery core competencies, began a program focused on moderniza-

tion of all FA instructions and successfully completed an accreditation review. Over the next year, the brigade will train more than 9,000 proficient, competent, confident, and adaptive Soldiers and leaders for Army and Marine FA units.

2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery, Big Deuce

The 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery (FA), *Big Deuce*, delivers Fires and provides logistics support to the United States Army Field Artillery (FA) School. Over the course of this year, the *Big Deuce* Battalion upheld its reputation of firing more artillery rounds than any other unit in the Army by successfully firing more than 45,000 rounds in support of training. The battalion delivers Field Artillery Fires for Advanced Individual Training (AIT), the Basic Officers Leaders Course (BOLC), and the Marine Scout Observer Course. In addition to conducting artillery live-fire, the battalion also provides ammunition support to the FA School, transporting more than 80,000 rounds and logging more than 12,000 road miles, in support of training.

In March, the battalion was selected as the test unit for the Suspension Lock-Out System (SLOS), a modification to the M119A3 howitzer. The SLOS is designed to improve problems with stress to the gun and minimize displacement when firing max charges at high angle.

B Battery, with their WW2-era M101 howitzers named after Medal of Honor winners from Oklahoma, continued to serve as the Fort Sill salute battery. This is a mission the unit has performed with pride since the 1970s. Additionally, the battalion mascots, SFC Big Deuce and CPL Short Round, remain a source of pride for the Soldiers, the unit, and the installation. In September, the mascots moved into a brand new stable located near the unit motor pool.

The *Big Deuce* Battalion remains focused on supporting the mission of the 428th FA Brigade as it produces highly trained and adaptive

Soldiers from B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery, present honors in support of the Fire Center of Excellence change of command ceremony on the Old Post Quadrangle, Fort Sill, Okla. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 2nd FA)



Field Artillerymen. This unique mission allows the battalion to showcase the power, precision, and traditions of our time-honored branch. The *Big Dence* Battalion sets the standard for howitzer and fire direction crew drill, ammunition delivery, and ceremonial salutes.

1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, Hard Charger

The 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery (FA), executes initial military training, professional military education to develop fit, competent, disciplined Field Artillery (FA) leaders of character to enable maneuver commanders to dominate in unified land operations.

Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) is adapting to reflect the modernization and growth of the FA. We incorporated the following changes into the curriculum: additional training on precision Fires, focused training to produce better company fire support officers (FSOs), increased the use of simulations, increased the amount of gunnery training on digital systems, and began training on the M119A3. Students continued receiving 32 hours of joint Fires observer (JFO) training, with many reporting to their unit as certified JFO lieutenants. Upon graduation, students are able to perform duties as a FSO, fire direction officer, and platoon leader in cannon or rocket units.

The FA Captain's Career Course (CCC) has been validated using the Mid-grade Learning Continuum (MLC), the School of Advanced Leadership and Tactics (SALT) developed Common Core (CC) curriculum, and the integration of the Army Learning Model 2015 instruction methodology throughout its new program of instruction (POI). Small group leaders continue to develop fit, competent, disciplined, resilient, professional Soldiers and Marines, who are joint focused leaders that live their core organizations values, are experts in their profession, and can integrate and execute joint Fires to enable maneuver commanders to dominate in unified land operations.

Our 131A Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) decreased from 33 to 30 weeks, reducing the instruction of Firefinder radar maintenance. Due to the changes in the Army Modified Table of Organiza-

tion and Equipment (MTOE), the cadre adapted the focus of 131As. The 131As are no longer directly responsible for any single system, but an entire platoon. The WOBC students' curriculum now consists of instruction to ensure they can perform the duties to serve as radar platoon leaders and targeting officers at the brigade level. Each WOBC student will graduate the WOBC certified in precision Fires to include target mensuration only (TMO) and collateral damage estimate (CDE).

The FA Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC) is focused on operational Fires and targeting methodology at the division and corps levels. Facilitating the FA commandant's initiative for precision Fires, the WOAC has increased from nine weeks to 12 weeks, allowing students to receive additional training in TMO, weaponeering and CDE. All graduates will complete the course as certified TMO and CDE analysts.

1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery, Teamwork

The 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery (FA), trains Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and deploying Soldiers to be skill level one qualified in Field Artillery (FA). The 1-78 FA trained 6,157 Soldiers in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, and projects to train 5,649 Soldiers in FY14. Annually, 1-78 FA fires more than 16,000 rounds and spends 238 days in the field in support of the seven 13-series AIT courses and the Bradley Fire Support Team (BFIST) Course.

In FY13, 1-78 FA worked diligently with the Fires Center of Excellence Directorate of Training and Doctrine and the deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training (DCG-IMT) to revise the 13 series' program of instruction (POI) and to prepare for the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) accreditation. Specifically, Pocket-Sized Forward Entry Device (PFED) familiarization is now included in the newest 13F AIT POI. Each POI reflects updates associated with new systems, such as the M777 and AN/TPQ-50 LCMR. The 1-78 FA also ensures all fire support platforms are utilized during the week-long, end of course *Teamwork* capstone live-fire exercise (LFX).

Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery, 428th Fires Brigade, conclude their *Teamwork* capstone exercise with live-fires on M119, M777 and M109A6. (Photo courtesy of 428th Fires Brigade)



The technical and tactical skills of the *Teamwork* Battalion's non-commissioned officers were on display as 1-78 FA cadre trained the 13B AIT Soldiers to fire the FA weapon systems. The 1-78 FA cadre demonstrated the capabilities of the M109A6 Paladin, M777, and M119 as KOCO, a reporter and photographer conducted interviews and recorded the crew drill.

434th Field Artillery Brigade, Destroyer 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, Always First

The 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery (FA), 434th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB), serves as the first impression of the Army to thousands of new Soldiers and their Families each year. The strict training and discipline instilled by the drill sergeants and cadre of the *Always First* Battalion forms a foundation of the complete Soldier upon which all future training will build. Because the Soldiers who complete Basic Combat Training (BCT) in 1-31 FA go on to all different specialties in assignments across the globe, the cornerstone lessons and values taught have an impact on the future of the Army. Additionally, the direct interaction all six batteries have with the friends and family of our newest warriors contributes to the positive promotion of our Army profession and the principles we follow.

The dedicated cadre of 1-31 FA effectively balances discipline with innovation. While strictly adhering to time-tested principles of basic rifle marksmanship and physical readiness training, drill sergeants now incorporate and reinforce resiliency training techniques to improve performance in both fields. In support of the Army chief of staff's number one priority, 1-31 FA unit victim advocates expanded the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) training program to ensure techniques and procedures for prevention, care for victims, and reporting of sexual harassment and assault are as well known to the Soldiers as conducting drill and ceremonies.

Training the newest Soldiers in the Army is an arduous task with long hours and few breaks. However, the 1-31 FA *Proud Americans* accomplish this mission in a manner that is truly 'Second to None!'

1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, Gauntlets

The mission of the 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery (FA), 434th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB), is to conduct Basic Combat Training (BCT) to transform civilians into disciplined and motivated Soldiers who are trained in warrior tasks and battle drills, grounded in Army values, and physically and mentally ready to execute basic Soldier tasks in their future units of assignment.

The 1-40 FA consists of A through F Batteries, charged with the grueling task of teaching, coaching and mentoring more than two hundred Initial Entry Training (IET) Soldiers per cycle. During FY13, the *All for One* Battalion conducted 26 BCT cycles, training more than 5,600 IET Soldiers. Soldiers ascending into the Army must be compe-

SPC Stephanie Reid and PVT Jeffrey Wagon, both from 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, rappel down Treadwell Tower on Fort Sill, Okla., along with fellow Soldiers in Basic Combat Training (BCT). A graduation requirement for BCT, this training event helps build personal courage by pushing Soldiers to face their fears and trust their equipment. (Photo by CPT Pete Cox, U.S.Army)



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tent, physically fit, and proficient in multiple tasks. Thus, the cadre responsible for training are proficient trainers, able to instill confidence, competence and Army values into the IET Soldiers. Through cadre efforts, the battalion's focus on the foundational fundamentals ensures quality Soldiers ascend into the Army.

Also in FY13, the battalion introduced the modern basic training experience to COL (Ret) Lee Roper, and 116 former 1-40 Soldiers who deployed to Vietnam in September 1966, where they fired more than 360,000 rounds in support of Army and Marine forces along the demilitarized zone. The battalion will maintain communication with the former *Gauntlets*.

The battalion continues to build cohesive teams with both Soldiers and Families alike and continues to improve the Profession of Arms to better train Soldiers, the future leaders of the U.S. Army.

1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, Victory

The 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery (FA), consists of A through F Batteries. The battalion, as part of the 434th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB), conducts Basic Combat Training (BCT) by annually transforming more than 5,000 civilian volunteers into disciplined, motivated and fit Soldiers that are capable of contributing as a valued member of the team at their first unit of assignment. Throughout 2012-2013, the 'Peace Through Victory' Battalion focused on getting back to basics through the enforcement of standards and discipline. We created an environment in which innovation and empowerment of subordinate leaders led to systemic improvements in the execution of the BCT program of instruction. We continue to focus on the basic skills Soldiers need for success, such as: proper handling, firing, and maintaining their individual weapon; the application of tactical combat casualty care (first aid); physical readiness and resiliency training; the maintenance of situational awareness; voice communication skills; and basic map reading and dismounted navigation skills. This year the battalion hosted multiple leadership development events in cooperation with the

Lawton-Fort Sill community, those events included: Leadership Oklahoma Class XXVII; Youth Leadership Oklahoma; The Southwestern Oklahoma State University President's Leadership Class and the Fort Sill Command Sergeant Major and Sergeants Major Association visit. These events further strengthened our ties with the local community, business, industry, education and government professionals. Additionally, we supported numerous allied officer visits to provide our allies a brief overview of the United States Army Basic Combat Training.

Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry, Artillery Hell

It has been a busy year for Field Artillery (FA) Squadron, 2nd Cavalry, *Artillery Hell*, and will continue to be challenging in the future.

During October 2012, the squadron participated in a decisive action training exercise (DATE) at the Joint Multi-National Readiness Center, which included forces from 28 nations and encompassed over 29,000 acres of maneuver rights area between Grafenweor and Hohenfels Training Areas. This exercise was tailored toward a complex battlefield with elements of stability, offensive and defensive operations. This was an excellent training event for all who participated.

Following a quick reset, the squadron re-task organized, participated in a mission readiness exercise, and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Supporting security force assistance teams (SFATs), base defense, and infrastructure retrograde are the unit's primary missions. To achieve these missions, *Archer* Battery is providing security forces for six different SFAT teams. *Helraiser* and *Bulldog* Batteries have integrated infantry platoons into their organizations in order to conduct base defense. *Bulldog* also fielded six howitzer sections on three firing points around Regional Command-South (RC-S), where they continue to actively support squadron and all operations. *Cobra* is also providing base defense on a separate command outpost (COP). The squadron leadership is currently conducting a security force assistance mission by partnering with several Afghan uni-

Soldiers of B Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry, pose during a live-fire exercise at Grafenwohr Training Center, Germany. (Photo courtesy of FA SQDN, 2nd CAV)





formed police Kandak commanders in an advisory role. The squadron as a whole will conduct several retrograde missions during its tour, which ends in the spring of 2014.

173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (Airborne), *King of the Herd*

Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (FA) (Airborne), *King of the Herd*, redeployed in March 2013, to Warner Barracks, Germany, following their mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) XIII, where they were responsible for providing Fires for three brigade combat teams (BCTs) from six different firing points. Simultaneously, the battalion conducted counterinsurgency operations in Wardak province, while partnered with the 2nd Kandak, 4th Brigade, 203rd Afghan National Army (ANA) Corps. During the deployment the battalion transferred one major forward operating base (FOB) in Logar province and two command outposts (COPs) in Wardak province to the ANA.

This summer, the battalion executed a permanent move from Warner Barracks to the Grafenwoehr Training Area as part of United States Army Europe (USAREUR's) base realignment and closure plan. The entire battalion is now located at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, where it is training and preparing to conduct future operations. The first major event that the battalion was involved in was in support of Operation Unified Endeavor, a joint and multinational mission readiness exercise lead by XIII Airborne Corps.

The battalion is currently undergoing intense training to reestablish its primary mission of conducting a forcible entry parachute assault and providing Fires for the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) (Airborne). Beginning with airborne proficiency and following up with Fires training, the battalion will be prepared to support USA-

REUR and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) contingency operations by the end of December 2013.

You can check out the *King of the Herd* at: <http://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=126048058901&refid=5>

Fire Support Division, Joint Readiness Training Center

The officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs) of Fire Support Division (FSD) have been active; observing, training and coaching rotational units prior to deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and unified land operations, conducting a total of five mission readiness exercises, two decisive action training environments (DATE) and one theater enabling force rotation to enhance unit knowledge on security force assistance, near-peer threats, and base closure operations.

The Field Artillery (FA) operations observer, controller, trainers (OCT) continue to develop the D-30 howitzer training program. The Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., sent two officers and six NCOs to Finland, as ambassadors to train with the Finnish army to advance our ability to train soldiers deploying to OEF. They conducted five courses, training more than 125 soldiers on emplacement, howitzer functions, and automated fire direction with the Afghan ballistic computer.

The FSD OCTs continue to train 13Fs on how to put Fires back into fire support. The fire support program focuses on the basic fundamental of the fire support through fire support situational training exercises (STXs) that consist of fire support planning, equipment preparation and execution. This program trained six units of 13Fs. In addition, the joint forward observers (JFOs) continue to refine their skill set through urban and rural close air support STXs, focusing on how to be an extension of the joint terminal air controller (JTAC) to provide that additional capability to the maneuver units.

FSD continues to prepare for the transition to exclusive Depart-

SFC Lemmons from 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, discusses with members of 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, and Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers, the procedures for conducting crater analysis during their mission readiness exercise rotation I3-07, at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La. (Photo courtesy of FSD, JRTC)



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ment of the Army (DA) rotations and return to our core competencies of providing Fires from sensor-to-shooter.

First Army 479th Field Artillery Brigade, *Strike Hard*

During FY13, the 479th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) trained two Division West teams for deployment in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Training Mission-Afghanistan, with one team deploying. The brigade also supported three security forces assistance advisory teams (SFAAT). This was accomplished while still providing quality training to mobilized reserve units ranging in size from small detachments to entire brigades.

The 479th FAB supported multiple combat training center rotations to Fort Polk, La., and Fort Irwin, Calif., in order to provide our noncommissioned officers (NCOs) and officers valuable tactical experience that they used to ensure training at Fort Hood, Texas, met the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) standard. The brigade also sent personnel to Afghanistan, to perform theater reconnaissance in order to adjust our training to the current techniques, tactics and procedures (ITPs), which are being utilized in the areas where the mobilized units are sent. The Medical Training Task Force continued to demonstrate its value by touching more than 160 medical units, including specialties such as optometry and preventive medicine units. More than 11,000 Soldiers came through the 479th FAB training lanes, which included small arms ranges, crew served weapons ranges, counter-improvised improvised explosive devices (IED) lanes, driver's training, mounted gunnery, convoy live-fire, combatives and language training.

On July 16, 2013, COL John Leffers, and wife Ann, joined 479th FAB. On July 18, 2013, CSM James Higgins, and wife Denise, joined the 479th FAB. The brigade welcomes both Leffers and Higgins to the *Strike Hard* Family. 'On Target, *Strike Hard!*'

5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, *United in Victory*

The 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) continued to enable joint mission command and air-ground integration from theater-level down to the tactical level, as the liaison from U.S. Army Pacific and other designated Army forces to the Joint Force Air Component commander. The 5th BCD maximized its unique position as the only permanent component-level liaison in the 613th Air Operations Center (AOC) to enhance joint operations, exercises, and theater security cooperation activities throughout the Pacific. In support of U.S. Army Pacific Exercise Yama Sakura 63, 5th BCD coordinated air, ground and intelligence activities, and provided shared understanding between components and bilateral forces, while building the air-ground integration capacity of Japanese Self-Defense Forces.

During U.S. Army Pacific Command Exercise Talisman Saber 13, 5th BCD operated as a combined BCD, fully integrating Australian and New Zealand counterparts to enable unified action across the combined force; the exercise increased our combined capability and proved the strength of our alliance. The Pacific Ground Liaison Detachments also enhanced air-ground integration at the tactical level, supporting both air force wings and naval carrier strike groups, in planning and execution of Exercises Yama Sakura 63, Garuda Shield 13, Talisman Saber 13 and Red Flag-Alaska 13. They also improved joint interoperability in the Pacific by coordinating deployment readiness training with United States Army Pacific (USARPAC) and Pacific Air Forces units. Overall, the 5th BCD and its ground liaison detachments built stronger regional partnerships and demonstrated full operational capability to enable cross-domain integration in unified land operations throughout the Pacific.

<http://www.usarpac.army.mil/5thBCD>

5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment and Pacific Ground Liaison Detachments at the Missing Man Memorial on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (Photo courtesy of 5th BCD)





SFC Antonio Arellano, SFC David Stegman and SSG Justin Moon, with the 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, and SFC Justin Rotti from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Fires Center of Excellence, observe Fires for the German artillery at the first Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities (ASCA) live-fire since 1997. (Photo by LTC Nikolaus F. Guran, U.S. Army)

<http://www.facebook.com/5thBattlefieldCoordinationDetachment>

19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Team 19

The 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) participated in multinational conferences and training exercises with U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa. The plans section in coordination with Product Manager Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities (ASCA) continued to pursue the ASCA program and conducted the first ASCA live-fire exercise (LFX) since 1997. This took place at Baumholder Training Area with a German Panzer 2000 platoon and forward observers (FOs) from Germany, Italy, and the 19th BCD. The unit participated in numerous U.S. Air Force Europe/U.S. Air Force Africa exercises and supported training rotations at the Joint/Multinational Training Center.

Our ground liaison detachments have supported numerous multinational close air support (CAS) training events with our North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European partners. This year, we deployed two Soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) as ground liaison officers with U.S. Air Force squadrons and deployed Soldiers to conduct operational training with the 4th BCD (FWD) at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. We are employed in contingency operations and building partnership capacity with our allies.

The 19th BCD refined its battle drills and digital system training through an exercise with the 603rd Air Operations Center (AOC) *Wolf-bounds*. This exercise was significant in that it tested functionality of digital systems and procedures at the operational level for the BCD and the AOC in a lethal/non-lethal scenario.

In the coming year, the 19th BCD plans to continue to support multinational exercises, support contingencies in our two geographic

combatant command theaters and continue building relationships with our two supported Army component commands. *Team 19!*

XVIII Airborne Corps Fire Support Cell, Sky Dragons

2013 proved to be another dynamic and demanding year for the XVIII Airborne Corps Fires Support Cell (FSC). Focus throughout the first half of the year remained on staff integration and training in order to provide mission command as America's contingency corps.

The corps FSC—in conjunction with the corps headquarters—planned, coordinated and executed two joint operational access exercises (JOAX). The February JOAX 12-02 and June JOAX 13-01, both reinforced and showcased the corps unique early entry capability. The corps FSC, along with the 82nd Airborne Division's, 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), also participated in a joint forces exercise in vulnerability (JFE VUL) at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., in May, exercising the Air Force's ability to tactically deliver and recover combat forces via air insertions and combat landings in a contested environment.

The transition from contingency planning to preparation for the corps' scheduled deployment to Afghanistan, in early 2014, as members of the international security assistance force (ISAF) Joint Command (IJC) dominated the second half of the year. Integral to this training was an aggressive leader development program with the FSC spearheading much of the academic training regarding security forces assistance (SFA), as well as laying the foundation for the corps staff's understanding of the joint targeting process. Additionally, the FSC attended numerous reconnaissance and training events culminating with the corps' mission readiness exercise (MRX), United Endeavor (UE) 14-01, in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The XVIII Airborne Corps' FSC remains ready to deploy anytime, anywhere. 'All the Way!'

<http://www.bragg.army.mil/18ABC/Pages/default.aspx> <https://www.facebook.com/XVIII.Airborne.Corps>



US Marine Corps and Marine Forces Reserve Artillery Units

11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, *The Cannon Cockers*

December 2012 saw Headquarters Battery, 11th Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms, Calif., as part of Exercise Steel Knight. Headquarters Battery controlled and monitored regimental Fires at both MCAGCC and Camp Pendleton, Calif., in support of the division. In April 2013, Headquarters Battery, 11th Marine Regiment participated in Exercise Desert Scimitar aboard MCAGCC. During this exercise, Headquarters Battery supported division training objectives by controlling and supporting regimental Fires. In August 2013, Headquarters Battery led Regimental Summer FIREX13 aboard Camp Pendleton. Headquarters Battery continues to deploy well-trained fire support teams and joint terminal attack controllers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs).

1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, *Cobra*

Marines from the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, *Cobra*, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., continued their primary mission of providing ground-delivered Fires in support of maneuver operations. The battalion trained extensively and further strengthened its relationship with 1st Marines, participating in two integrated training exercises, as well as Desert Scimitar 1-13 and Steel Knight 1-13. In addition to these field exercises, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, took part in one battalion and two regimental firing exercises. They spent the first nine months of the year poised to deploy anywhere in the world within 14 days as part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB). In October, the battalion relinquished its MEB duties to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines and the 5th MEB, and continued its support of Western Pacific Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs). B Battery was deployed, in support of the 15th MEU, as part of Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 3/5 and A Battery was deployed, in support of the 13th MEU, with BLT 1/4.

2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, *Patriot*

The 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., is currently composed of E, G, and F Batteries, as well as Battery K, 3/12. The battalion provides direct support Fires for 5th Marine Regiment and the ongoing 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) rotation to Okinawa, Japan. The battalion provides batteries capable of firing the M777A2 155 mm howitzer and the M327 120 mm mortar, along with fire support teams for MEUs. Throughout the year, the battalion has transitioned back into its direct support relationship with 5th Marines, supporting multiple division and regimental level exercises. Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, was attached to BLT 1st Bn, 5th Marines for deployment to Okinawa with the 31st MEU. In

preparation for the MEU, Battery F fielded and became proficient in the use of the M327 Expeditionary Fire Support System. The battery organized itself into two self-sustaining platoons, consisting of four M327 mortars and four M77A2 howitzers. Upon Battery F's return, Battery E attached to BLT 2nd Battalion 4th Marines for their rotation to Okinawa with the 31st MEU. Prior to deploying, they conducted an aggressive pre-deployment training cycle, executing their training and readiness evaluation on both M777 and M327 systems. Battery K provided a cannon platoon to Battery R, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines to form a composite battery that deployed in support of OEF. During the summer, Battery G switched focus to prepare for their upcoming deployment with 2nd Battalion 5th Marines in support of the 31st MEU.

3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, *Thunder*

The Marines of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines, *Thunder*, are stationed at MCAGCC at Twentynine Palms, Calif. The battalion consists of Batteries I, K, M, and L 3/12. 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines executed an aggressive training plan that, in addition to battery and battalion level training, included Steel Knight 2012, Regimental Desert Fire Exercise, and the execution of Integrated Training Exercise 1-13.

The battalion focused training in two areas; first strengthening and building its habitual relationship and support to 7th Marine Regiment, and secondly, on increasing operational readiness to ensure the Battalion is capable of responding to any crisis or contingency. In support of 7th Marines preparation and deployments to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), the battalion provided fire support expertise and personnel to enhance the regiment's training and combat capabilities. As a force in readiness, the battalion conducted three strategic mobilization exercises in order to ensure its ability to move gear and personnel in a timely and efficient manner to support operations.

In addition to standard six-month deployment rotations to Okinawa, Japan, in support of the unit deployment program, the battalion was tasked to provide firing batteries in support of two non-standard missions. Battery K and Battery M deployed separately for six months to provide security forces in support of critical missions in the Middle East.

5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, *Steel Rain*

Marines from the 5th Battalion, 11th Marines, *Steel Rain*, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., continued their primary mission of employing rockets in an operational capacity in support of infantry battalions, recon units, light armored reconnaissance, coalition forces, for both pre-planned and responsive Fires in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Afghanistan. Two firing batteries were deployed during 2013; Battery R from January to August, and Battery Q from July to December. In total, the battalion fired more than 300 tactical rockets in support of combat operations in OEF. In training, the battalion fired approximately 250 reduced-range-practice-rockets and nine Guided Multiple



Marine Corps Artillery Detachment Sgt. Maj. Joe Thornton presents the organizational colors to Detachment Commander, Col. Douglas Thomas, during the July 25, 2013, ceremony in which Thomas relinquished command of the Marine Corps Artillery Detachment to Col. Wayne Harrison. (Photo by Ben Sherman, U.S. Army)

Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS) across five field exercises from battalion to division level events. Currently, the battalion remains focused on its core missions and training for future operations to include any Marine Expeditionary Brigade exercises and missions.

Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Throughout 2013, the Marines of the Marine Corps Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Okla., continued to serve as the liaison between the commandant of the Marine Corps and the commanding general of U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence, while providing instruction for both initial 08XX/2887 MOS qualifications and career progression training to Marine artillerymen. Serving as the focus for artillery training issues and validating training and education requirements, the detachment's Marines further developed the training continuum for the 08XX/2887 Occupational Fields; assisted in the drafting of tactics, techniques, procedures, doctrine and plans of instruction; and pro-

moted the advancement of artillery programs and education through direct coordination with the operating forces, Headquarters Marine Corps agencies and the Fires Center of Excellence.

During 2013, the Marine Corps Artillery Detachment trained more than 1,200 enlisted and officer students in entry level and career progression skills. Entry level and career progression for enlisted Marines was facilitated by the establishment of four distinct schools within the detachment: Cannoneer School, Enlisted Gunnery School, Observed Fires School and Target Acquisition School. These four school houses executed multiple iterations of 10 different programs of instruction to enlisted students, while also providing Marine specific and Joint Fires Observer training to supplement officer education during the Army's Basic Officer Leaders Course, Field Artillery Targeting Technician Warrant Officer Basic Course and Field Artillery Captains Career Course.

On July 25, 2013, Col. Douglas P. Thomas relinquished command of the Marine Corps Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, to Col. Wayne C. Harrison.



US Army National Guard

Air Defense Artillery Units



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery, conduct an Avenger live-fire at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 188th ADA)

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, South Carolina U. S. Army National Guard, America's Shield

Service Members from the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) continue to support the National Capital Region's (NCR) Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) mission providing training and administrative oversight. The 263rd is responsible for the planning and coordination of Exercise America's Shield and the culminating training events to certify Soldiers conducting the NCR mission. This year, the units were the 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery (ADA), *Shooter* Battalion North Dakota U. S. Army National Guard (ARNG) and the command and control element, Task Force (TF) Artemis, from the 164th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, Florida ARNG. Both elements successfully certified, deployed, and currently execute the vital NCR mission.

The 263rd also hosted the Joint Deployable Integrated Air and Missile Defense (JDIAMD) Joint Test & Evaluation (JTE) table top exercise (TTX). The TTX's are designed to develop, evaluate and validate tactics, techniques and procedures to support North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) integrated air and missile defense operations at the operational and strategic level.

Soldiers from 263rd AAMDC also deployed its mobile joint Air Defense operations center to Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah, in August 2013; integrating the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) into the Weapon System Evaluation Program (WSEP), while working with agencies from N/NC, SMDC, PEO-Missiles and Space, AFNORTH, EADS/WADS,

263d AAMDC, Mercury Solutions, A Battery, 3rd ADA (JLENS battery), AMRDEC Data Link Team, Joint Readiness Exercise (JRE), and Raytheon (NASAMS). The objectives of the integration test were to: integrate JLENS into the NORAD architecture and demonstrate distribution of JLENS data to regional participants, demonstrate transfer of actionable data from JLENS to NORAD weapon systems, demonstrate JLENS support of integrated fire control missions, and to collect data for the Joint Positive Hostile Identification (J-PHID) Quick Reaction Test. The positive event resulted in the JLENS being integrated into the NORAD architecture, as well as the JLENS track data being passed over Link-16 as a cueing source for multiple weapon systems. Engagements were performed, both air-to-air and surface-to-air. These results, the first of their kind, demonstrated the viability and versatility of the entire system as an Air Defense force multiplier. While all objectives were met, additional data analysis will follow, detailing the success and issues identified through this test.

The command also deployed Soldiers to the southwest border in support of Joint Task Force North (JTF-N), customs border patrol and the Air Marine Operations Center (AMOC) providing sensor coverage for detection for possible drug interdiction during Operations Hawkeye and Sky-Master.

The 263rd AAMDC continues to look forward to new and exciting challenges ahead. Additional requirements and an ever-increasing threat, coupled with ever-decreasing budget constraints continue to pose challenges, but the 263rd stands ready to meet its self-imposed mandate as *America's Shield*.

164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Florida U. S. Army National Guard

Task Force (TF) Artemis (164th ADA Brigade, Fwd 12), Florida U. S. Army National Guard (ARNG), was mobilized in April 2013, to provide mission command for the ground-based Air Defense portion of the National Capital Region (NCR) Integrated Air Defense System (IADS), in support of Operation Noble Eagle (ONE). TF Artemis' efforts to protect the NCR include the use of sensors, weapons systems and communications equipment.

The aerial threat to the NCR was made very real on Sept. 11, 2001. On that morning, a deadly attack on the U.S. resulted in thousands of innocent lives lost, including 184 service members and civilians at the Pentagon. This threat still exists. According to the Transportation Security Administration, the use of aircraft is still being considered by Al-Qa'ida as terror weapons. Foreign extremists are not the only threat, as demonstrated by an aerial attack on the White House in a stolen Cessna flown by a suicidal American, who initiated his flight on Sept. 11, 1994.

To counter these threats, a unique team was established, comprising a joint Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, multi-component (Title 10 and Title 32), and multi-state ARNG units (from Florida, New York and



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, fire an Avenger during an exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga., during the unit's annual training. (Photo by MAJ Madovoy, Florida U.S. Army National Guard)

North Dakota). Mission partners fly air assets from the United States Coast Guard and the District of Columbia Air National Guard.

TF Artemis' number one mission priority is to get missiles into the air and place supersonic steel on target against aerial threats if ordered by the appropriate engagement authority. We stand ready to accomplish this goal with Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians; standing on watch 24-hours a day, 365-days a year. The Continental North American Aerospace Defense Region has operational control of the mission, the 263d Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) has administrative control, and Uniform Code of Military Justice authority derives from U. S. Army North through the Military District of Washington.

Numerous inspections and evaluations are conducted to ensure TF Artemis is up to the challenge. A Ground-Based Alert Force Evaluation was conducted in July 2013, by the North American Aerospace Defense Command's inspector general, resulting in the TF being designated 'mission ready.' Two operational readiness evaluations will be conducted under the auspices of U. S. Army North (Fifth U.S. Army). The current rotation is the first to fully comply with the new personnel reliability program—a new policy that guides the selection, evaluation

Task Force Artemis leadership, from the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Florida U.S. Army National Guard, were presented with Florida state flag during a deployment ceremony in April 2013, held in the unit's honor. (Photo by SGT Pete, U.S.Army)





Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, are greeted home after their deployment. (Photo by MSG Kielbasa, U.S. Army)

and retention of personnel assigned to this mission to ensure their reliability and stability.

The commander, COL Grant Slayden, has achieved a unique distinction: he is the first TF commander to have served as a battalion commander, (1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery) during a 'shooter battalion' rotation in 2007-2008. CSM Ronald Lang was on three previous rotations, once as a battery first sergeant and twice as a battalion command sergeant major. The mission experience of the command team is fully reflected in the Soldiers they lead—57 percent have served on previous rotations. TF Artemis plans to enhance the operational capability of this mission by leveraging this previous mission experience.

1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, Florida U. S. Army National Guard, Lightning

The 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) understands the importance of the National Guard's overall readiness posture. Since coming out of reset late last year after deployment, the battalion has been aggressively focusing on improving its readiness posture training, as well as personnel and medical readiness.

Also working under the constraints of decreasing training budget, the 1-265 ADA made the most out of their annual training (AT) exercise to certify their Avenger and Sentinel crews at Fort Stewart, Ga. Faced with far fewer Stinger missiles as in previous years to qualify all

of their gunner crews, the battalion established an order of merit list to ensure that the Soldiers who were the most trained and had a higher probability of success during the live-fire training would be selected. All Soldiers participated in extensive table-top training exercises, and the live-fire exercise was a complete success.

3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, Florida U. S. Army National Guard

In July 2013, 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery (ADA), under the command of LTC Mike Forson and CSM Rusty Grimes, successfully completed the battalion's third rotation to the National Capitol Region (NCR), in support of Operation Noble Eagle. The *Lightning* Battalion was on point watching over the skies of the NCR during the presidential inauguration and the State of the Union Address. The Soldiers remained vigilant and performed with distinction throughout their zero-defect mission.

The battalion also deployed a minimum deployment package (MDP), which provided supplemental radar coverage during missions of national significance. During the course of the battalion's mobilization, the MDP conducted more than 10 missions spanning from coast to coast within the continental United States (CONUS). The MDP also conducted two missions in support of Joint Task Force – North and its inter-agency partners.

The battalion's rear detachment focused on Avenger/MANPADS



and Sentinel crew certifications, Army Warrior Task (AWT) training, and defense in support of civil authority (DSCA) training to prepare for potential missions supporting their state in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Also, while the battalion was deployed, three of its five armories underwent renovations, the last of which is scheduled to be completed prior to the battalion's full reintegration in October. Many Soldiers from both the rear detachment and the forward elements have been affected by the federal technician furloughs. The dual status technicians have been impacted with a 20 percent pay decrease until the end of the September. The command has been able to work around the adjusted technician duty schedules, ensuring their units remains ready and prepared for all future missions.

174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Ohio U. S. Army National Guard, Phoenix

Soldiers from the 174th Air Defense Artillery (ADA), *Phoenix* Brigade, conducted missions in both the continental United States (CONUS) and Overseas Continental United State (OCONUS) areas of operation.

A 40-Soldier detachment from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 174th ADA deployed to the National Capitol Region (NCR) in support of Operation Noble Eagle (ONE). The task force (TF) provided 24-hour-a-day protection from air threats by providing mission command for Air Defense assets around the nation's capital. For the first time, a single brigade held both mission command and the tactical response capabilities, while 2nd Battalion, 174th ADA remained in the NCR as the 'shooter' battalion. The battalion provided assets to engage threat targets in support of ONE. Major events during that time included the 2013 Presidential Inauguration and the 2013 Presidential State of the Union Address. The brigade is currently focused on generating and training the 1st Battalion, 174th ADA, as well as another command task force to deploy to the NCR in 2015, to continue to support ONE.

Police advisor teams (PAT) are 12-Soldier teams that deploy with a NATO counterpart team to train Afghan police units. PAT-1 mobilized in July 2012, and returned in June 2013, after successfully completing its mission with a Hungarian defense forces team in the Regional Command-North, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The PAT's continue a 20-year relationship between the Ohio National Guard and the nation of Hungary.

2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, Ohio U. S. Army National Guard

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, re-deployed to their home station in McConnellsville, Ohio, following a successful mission in support of Operation Noble Eagle (ONE), where they were responsible for providing short range Air Defense capabilities to enhance the integrated Air Defense system operations in the National Capitol Region (NCR).

In January 2013, the battalion reorganized back into an Avenger battalion to align with its original mission, after having had Soldiers dispersed for more than a year and a half in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) and NCR missions. On Jan. 24, 2013, B Battery, 2-174 ADA earned

distinction as the 2012 Hamilton Award recipient for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

The unit is currently coming out of the reset phase of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN), and has focused on individual and crew-level training with specific emphasis on individual Soldier readiness and wellness enhancing activities. Throughout the year, the battalion has continued to strengthen relationships with local communities through partnerships with local schools, veteran's associations, and community outreach activities.

As it looks ahead, the battalion strives to continue to generate readiness, optimize resources and enhance organizational culture and character in an effort to be well postured to execute future federal, state and community missions.

1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery, Mississippi U.S. Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery (ADA), is in the train/ready2 of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle. The battalion's subordinate battery locations are: Newton (Headquarters and Headquarters Battery), Bay Springs (A Battery), Forest (B Battery), Morton (C Battery) and Newton (D Battery).

In FY12, the battalion redeployed from Operation New Dawn in Iraq, during which time they were tasked with conducting Counter-Rocket Artillery Mortar (C-RAM) / Sense and Warn at 19 separate forward operating bases (FOBs).

In FY13, the battalion emerged from reset and executed an ambitious training plan that will enable the completion of Artillery Table IIIV qualification in FY14. Fielding was also conducted on the Air and Missile Defense Workstation (AMDWS), Forward Area Air Defense System (FAAD), Command and Control Shelter and Forward Air Control Terminal (FACT) systems.

An accelerated adoption of the 2014 Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) was approved, thus enabling the battalion to stabilize, increase the training operating tempo and effect a positive change in the operational readiness of its units.

The battalion is providing Sentinel radar and Enhanced Position Location and Reporting System (EPLRS) network support to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss., thus enabling the mitigation of its congested restricted airspace.

The battalion continues to be a dedicated partner to the Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). The battalion executed an ESGR lift on July 15, 2013. With the support of other Mississippi U.S. Army National Guard units, the battalion was able to successfully deploy 14 employers of the battalion's service members to our annual training (AT). Employers were thoroughly briefed by ESGR, recruiting and retention, and the Family programs personnel. They were also afforded the opportunity to observe their full-time employees execute collective training in a field environment. To further support ESGR and recruiting and retention efforts, the battalion partnered with ESGR personnel and conducted a luncheon, where more than 97 invitations were sent to various employers of the surrounding communities.

The battalion is preparing to support forecasted combat training center and National Capital Region's (NCR) Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) rotations.



US Army National Guard

Field Artillery Units



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard, fire a M119 howitzer. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 108th FA)

28th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Pennsylvania National Guard

1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard, Iron

The *Iron* Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery (FA), stand ready to support the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) with lethal direct support Fires and perform the duties of state active duty in time of crisis.

The battalion traveled to Camp Atterbury, Ind., for annual training where the battalion was able to focus on delivering accurate and timely Fires. The M119A2 equipped firing batteries were able to qualify through Field Artillery Table XII and executed their first ever emergency mission, or 'hip shoot,' since converting to M119A2 battalion. In addition, the *Iron* Soldiers were most proud of accomplishing a 'high-low' time-on-target fire mission. The commander challenged the batteries to complete this task, where the entire gun line simultaneously firing a high angle round followed by a precisely timed and cal-

culated low angle mission resulting in a mass impact, and the Soldiers answered.

Excellence has become a standard practice in the battalion. In 2011, our forward support company, G Company, 128th Brigade Support Battalion, was awarded the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence. This year, the battalion earned the National Guard Bureau's Region II Excellence in Supply Award. 'Gettysburg to the Marne'

1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery (FA), 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBC), 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard is based out of southeast Pennsylvania, with units in Carlisle, Hanover, South Mountain, and Philadelphia, as well as the 856th Engineer Company ADCON to the 1-108 FA, and located in Punxsutawney, Pa., creating Task Force (TF) Joshua. The 56th SBC is the only reserve component Stryker brigade in the United States Army inventory. Currently in their train/ready year three of the Army Forces Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle, the battalion was 'off-ramped' in February 2013, for a potential mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan, as part of a security force assistance brigade (SFAB).



Due to the drastic mission change, the battalion refined and refocused its training guidance on FA and engineer core competency. The battalion modified the remainder of the Training Year (TY) 2013 plan while facing significant resource shortcomings and a minimized planning timeline. However, the resilient 1-108 FA Soldiers were prepared and motivated for the challenge and successfully completed the following training events over the last six months, allowing the battalion to achieve and maintain a Training Level 2 rating for the third and fourth quarter. With the modified mission, the battalion conducted three separate live-fire exercises (LFXs) that resulted in qualifying howitzer sections through Table VI and howitzer platoons through Table XII. The battalion also executed the first ever M777A2 reverse trajectory direct fire at Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, Pa. The 856th Engineer Company successfully completed demolition training using C4 while conducting squad level tactics.

The battalion anticipated and prepared for the 'available year.' They aggressively trained and validated core individual Soldier specific mission essential tasks required of each Soldier. Soldiers participated in a wide-array of training events to include improvised explosive devices (IED)-defeat, land navigation, combatives, individual weapons qualification, and small arms marksmanship training by conducting a reflexive fire range. The battalion finished with a 98.6 percent qualification rate on individual weapons qualification. Attempting to achieve Forces Command requirements for a unit mobilizing, the battalion's assigned combat medics coordinated and instructed their own combat lifesaver course certifying 60 Soldiers.

Throughout the year, Soldier readiness endured as the number one priority within the battalion as monthly personnel reviews, dental screenings, periodic health assessments, and other events were executed in order to increase personnel readiness. As a result of the emphasis placed on this task, the battalion increased its readiness rate by 25.5 percent.

To promote the professionalism of the NCO corps, the battalion command sergeant major, CSM Kirk P. Dougherty, executed three NCO induction ceremonies inducting over 75 young men and women and welcoming them and introducing them to the NCO Creed and what it means to be an NCO, further strengthening and maintaining the backbone of the Army.

Amidst an aggressive training and personnel readiness plan (PRP), the community based nature of the National Guard called upon the 1-108 FA Soldiers to volunteer their time in order to support local community events, as well as state active duty (SAD) emergency support where needed. The battalion activated 90+ Soldiers in support of Hurricane Sandy in early November 2012, providing relief to citizens in need across five counties in south-central Pa. The battalion also conducted M105 ceremonial howitzer salutes for Army War College graduations, the Lancaster Barnstormers (a local independent league baseball team), a Memorial Day salute during a local parade in Hanover, Pa., and a Medal of Honor salute in Gettysburg, Pa., honoring Medal of Honor recipients. The 856th Engineer Company executed security operations for the annual Ground Hog Day ceremony, where an estimated 10,000 people were in attendance. The battalion supported the Regional Special Olympics at Messiah College in April 2012, and participated in the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Wreath Laying Ceremony along the Pennsylvania Monument, acknowledging a lineage dating back to the 90th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers during the American Civil War. The battalion took time in August 2013, to recognize a local 12-year-old boy, Matthew Ott, who each year raises thousands of dollars in order to support local veterans and their families. Ott was invited to the observation point at Fort Indiantown Gap,

where he witnessed howitzer direct and indirect fire LFX, mortar LFX and an A-10 Thunderbolt II flyover. Closing out the training year, Sept. 21, 2013, the battalion conducted its fourth annual Fallen Soldier 5K Run, dedicated to the Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the 56 SBCT's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in 2009.

At the conclusion of a recent awards ceremony, LTC Heasley stated, "I truly believe that I serve with the best Soldiers in the Army! Each one of you truly lives up to the 1-108 FA's motto of 'Non Sibi, Sed Patriae – Not Self, But Country!'" The 1-108 FA continues to maximize its time and resources to train the Army's best Soldiers and Field Artillerymen!

1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery (FA), headquartered in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., is the organic Fires battalion of the 55th Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCI), 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard. We have served the citizens of the United States, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Wyoming Valley since Oct. 17, 1775. Our colors proudly bear 27 battle streamers, reflective of our service from the Revolutionary War through World War II.

The past year presented the battalion with some unique opportunities and challenges, which allowed the leaders and Soldiers to display both versatility and agility. At the onset of Training Year (TY) 2013, the battalion mobilized and deployed more than 180 Soldiers, who backfilled the 1st Battalion 109th Infantry, 1st Squadron 104th Cavalry Regiment, and a military engagement team in Kuwait. The Soldiers conducted pre-mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss., prior to departing for Kuwait in December 2012.

The remaining members of the battalion prepared to refocus on core competencies and conduct artillery gunnery throughout TY13. The battalion developed and refined its gunnery program ensuring each military occupation specialty focused on the basics and deliberately progressed through their individual artillery tables. Due to manning constraints, the battalion deliberately focused on achieving section level qualification (TBL VI).

Shortly into the training year, 1-109 FA participated in unplanned and planned defense support of civil authority's missions including relief for Hurricane Sandy and security support during the 57th Presidential Inauguration. The October 2012 super-storm, Hurricane Sandy, caught the northeast United States off-guard with severe flooding and power outages lasting for days, but the proud members of the battalion selflessly left their families, some without power themselves, to aid the residents of Pennsylvania in varying stability efforts. Due to the devastating landfall in New York, members of the battalion volunteered for duty in New York arriving in time for snowfall to accumulate as they participated in distribution of sustainment items as needed within the metropolis. In just over one year, this was the fourth time the unit was activated for defense in support of civil authorities (DSCA), responding to more than 100 requests for assistance from local, county and state authorities.

Just more than two months following Hurricane Sandy relief efforts, all available personnel from the battalion supported the 57th Presidential Inauguration in January 2013. During this event, the 1-109 FA maintained command and control of Task Force (TF) Crowd. TF Crowd was an organized force of greater than 800 Soldiers and Air-



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard, present their salute on Pennsylvania Avenue during the National Anthem as part of the 57th Presidential Inauguration. (Photo by SGT Charles Patla, U.S. Army)

men from three states, including Delaware and Maryland. The main effort focused on assisting the U.S. Park Police with crowd management of over 700,000 civilians in the National Mall and presidential parade route along Pennsylvania Avenue, providing directions, medical evacuation, and other small services during the event. Significantly representing activities of the battalion, a young specialist took quick and decisive actions placing her into a corral of people to provide aid when she identified a civilian experiencing a severe medical problem. Later she learned that the civilian was undergoing a mild heart attack and her actions were able to get the civilian needed first responder assistance.

In late spring 2013, the 1-109 FA conducted annual training (AT) at Fort Pickett, Va., firing more than 950 main caliber rounds with less than 50 percent of the battalion in attendance due to deployment. Those Soldiers remaining behind focused on returning to the core competencies of artillery gunnery on the M109A6 Paladin platforms after last firing the weapon systems in October 2011.

The battalion consolidated crews across the formation to form six four-man Paladin crews, one platoon fire direction center (FDC) and battalion FDC. Over the course of the AT period, the battalion was able to accomplish gunners qualification testing, Paladin section qualification, M4 and M9 individual weapons qualification, crew served

weapons familiarization on the M249, M240, M2 and MK19, and finished the training period with a day at the rappel tower.

In August and September, the battalion welcomed home 180 Soldiers from their nearly year-long security force deployment. The high operation tempo, not to be outdone by finishing a deployment, the battalion began the early stages of manning and training for the Homeland Response Force mission anticipated to last for two years with transfer of responsibilities occurring in 2014.

2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, Florida U.S. Army National Guard

The 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery (FA), 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), *Combat Ready*, 28th Infantry Division, had a busy and exciting 2013. An aggressive training plan and tremendous leadership at all levels enabled the battalion to go from its first live-fire exercise (LFX) on the M119A2 last year to executing three LFXs in 2013. The battalion also exercised its sustainment muscles by performing rearm, refuel, resupply, and survey point (R3SP) operations during annual training, and is one of the few units in the state that conducts logistic package operations to its supported units during home station



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, Florida U.S. Army National Guard, ready a howitzer for air assault operations. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 116th FA)

inactive duty training (IDTs). The battalion's sustainment efforts culminated in its being selected as the Level IIIA National Supply Excellence Award winner. In addition, the battalion also brought home the Brigadier General William C. Bilo Support Forward award and graduated seven Soldiers from Air Assault School. 'Never Retreat!'

29th Infantry Division, Virginia U.S. Army National Guard

In July 2012, the last elements of the 29th Infantry Division returned from deployment in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). For two years, the headquarters supported the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Joint Command with distinction, marking the longest continuously serving unit in theater. Training Year (TY) 2013 found the division reassembled for the first time since 2010.

The division embarked on a three-pronged track to reset the headquarters into a ready and relevant force. First, the division began a training scenario that emphasized a back-to-basics staff process under the unified land operations (ULO) doctrine. Secondly, we pioneered a training program to integrate all the digital systems in the division. Finally, a slice of the headquarters was devoted to preparation of the Domestic All Hazards Response Team (DART) mission.

Much of the new ULO doctrine was published during our time on deployment. We began our training with a series of seminars over seven months of inactive duty training (IDT) weekends. Simultaneously, the staff prepared for an exercise based on the Caspian Sea Scenario. The exercise culminated during Annual Training (AT) 2013 with a command post exercise (CPX) at Fort A.P. Hill, N.J. Also during AT, the division had a unique opportunity to support an officer exchange with the UK, hosting the commander of 265th Royal Artillery (RA). This UK major came to us with a wealth of experience, including recent combat service time as a naval gunfire officer in Libya. His insights and motivation made a very positive impact on the division staff.

Additionally, one of our Fires warrant officers trained with the 265th RA. This training included familiarization on the Starstreak High Velocity Missile (HVM) and the Giraffe Air Defense and Counter Battery Radar System in the Royal Artillery School at Larkhill, UK.

The second line of effort was the development of a comprehensive digital sustainment training program. Concurrent with the refresh in doctrine, the division Fires section developed a program that integrated all our digital systems, organizing the training and establishing metrics to assess our progress. The digital sustainment training (DST) program was organized into a series of tables. Each table progresses from individual level tasks and skills (table 1) to section and warfighting function levels (Tables 2 & 3), to culminate with collective tasks across the warfighter functions the (tables 4, 5 & 6). Tables define not only what is to be trained, but assigns responsibility for training execution. The key to coordination mechanism is the Digital Sustainment Training Working Group (DST WG). This monthly meeting collects the training status, validates resourcing, and provides feedback to the commander. For issues requiring senior leadership involvement, the DST board meets quarterly, and is chaired by the deputy commanding general (DCG).

With the systems in place to manage training and reset underway, the headquarters prepared for the DART. Beginning in October 2013, the headquarters is responsible to provide command and control for a disaster response on the eastern half of the continental United States. To prepare for the tasking, the staff had seminars concurrent with the ULO seminars on incident management systems and interfacing with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). The Fires and effects warfighting function applied targeting methodology to IIA operations in a civil support scenario to streamline the training process. This training culminated in a CPX concurrent with the 2013 presidential inauguration.

Moving forward in TY14, the division will continue to follow this three-pronged approach. The staff as a whole continues to refine processes and improve proficiency in a ULO-type scenario. Preparations will focus on deployments to Germany and Korea, for CPX events. The DST WG continues to manage the technical training platform and

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integration of new equipment fielding. Now in the DART cycle, the division is supporting a civil support exercise in Bangor, Maine. The aggressive schedule continues to accelerate the division headquarters and ensure readiness in the coming years.

1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, Virginia U.S. Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery (FA), 116th Brigade Combat Team, 29th Infantry Division, continues to be a premier unit accomplishing any assigned mission. The primary focus of the battalion was our federal mission to destroy, neutralize or suppress the enemy by cannon fire. In addition to our artillery mission, 1-111 FA answered the call of the commonwealth for emergency civil support during Hurricane Sandy, while also providing support to multiple Virginia community events. In Training Year (TY) 2013, the battalion continued to show why the Field Artillery is the 'King of Battle.'

In training for our federal mission, the unit safely fired more than 3,000 rounds, which occurred over the course of four live-fire events throughout the year. In June, the battalion conducted an eight-day field exercise during annual training (AT) in which more than 2,000 rounds were fired, culminating with both firing batteries operating in split-platoon operations for the first time ever, while conducting emergency hip-shoot missions and sling-load operations.

In support of the commonwealth, the battalion was called to state active duty to support relief efforts during Hurricane Sandy. Based out of the Norfolk Armory, the battalion maintained command and control of two multi-function packages and numerous other teams of Soldiers who participated in dozens of missions, ranging from debris removal to high water rescues.

The professional Soldiers of the battalion continued to go above and beyond the call of duty as they volunteered to support many community events. The 1-111 FA continues to be a fixture for the annual 'Military Through the Ages' presentation in Williamsburg, Va. In addition, our Soldiers continue to partner with the Fourth of July Richmond celebration, 'Dogwood in the Dell,' providing thunderous cannon fire. Additionally, our Soldiers answered calls from local communities to provide both static displays and howitzer salutes. Throughout TY13, the battalion and its Soldiers displayed selfless service and never ending dedication to the commonwealth and its communities.

TY13 was a great year for the battalion. We were able to successfully conduct more training than ever towards developing our abilities

A section chief from 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, verifies the sight picture during a fire mission on the M119A2 howitzer.. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 111th FA)



to meet the needs and demands of the nation and the commonwealth. The battalion and its Soldiers sought out opportunities to give back to their communities and advance the image of the Citizen Soldier. Throughout 2012-2013 and into the future, the 1-111 FA will prove to be an elite unit that leads the way. 'Stonewall; Thunder!'

1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, North Carolina U.S. Army National Guard, Axehandles

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery (FA), *Axehandles*, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 29th Infantry Division, continued to demonstrate their readiness and versatility by training for their primary wartime mission while concurrently providing critical defense support to civil authorities (DSCA). As North Carolina's reserve to its state rapid reaction force, the *Axehandle* Battalion played a vital role in direct support of the 2012 Democratic National Convention, where Soldiers provided site security over multiple locations throughout the area of Charlotte, N.C.

In January 2013, leaders and fire supporters (BCT fire supporters are aligned to the battalion under North Carolina's stationing plan) down to company level participated in a warfighter exercise (WFX) at Fort Fisher, N.C. The WFX focused on restoring our ability to provide direct fire support to the 30th ABCT in a decisive action operation. During spring inactive duty training weekends and annual training (AT), our combat, observation and lasing (COLT) teams completed their M1200 Armored Knight fielding, while Bradley fire support teams (BFIST) focused on section level fire support training in their off-cycle year for Bradley gunnery. During AT at Fort Bragg, N.C., firing batteries completed another successful live-fire exercise through Table VI. Radar sections completed an extensive Q37 fielding, and our forward support company conducted tactical field resupply operations for the first time in nearly 10 years following a decade of counterinsurgency-based logistical operations.

Following an outstanding training year, 1-113 FA is positioned to advance to platoon collective training in Paladin operations in 2014, support company maneuver training with its fire supporters, and train support units to echelon logistical support in a traditional battlefield. *Axehandles!*

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, conduct a fire mission on the M109A6 Paladin. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 113th FA)





34th Infantry Division, Iowa U.S. Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Wisconsin U.S. Army National Guard, Red Fox

The 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery (FA), 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 34th Infantry Division, has proven its mettle by living the tenants of its motto, 'Eager to Assist,' and has developed a hometown force with global reach. Soldiers trained, executed and succeeded in accomplishing all Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) training aim-points, integrated combined arms operations into real world training scenarios, and supported multiple community events which secured the bonds that tie the unit to the community.

Operationally, 1-120 FA has taken great strides forward by integrating our newly acquired war fighting systems into a combined operations training scenario. The battalion fielded a Q36 Fire Finder Radar system and integrated it into offensive and defensive fire planning. The radar system was fielded, tested, and integrated into target tracking and surveillance operations which provided a sensor's view of the battle space. Externally evaluated battery defensive operations were conducted and 6400 mil firing capability was established with dug-in firing positions. Organic Raven and battalion controlled Shadow assets were employed in the battery defense, which allowed supporting units to provide indirect Fires to effectively target aggressing forces. The Profiler meteorological sensors provided precise atmospheric data which facilitated multiple first volley effects on target.

The integrated training plan was tested to its full extent by conducting a live-fire FA raid. Howitzers and crews were airlifted into a remote

firing point and conducted suppression of enemy air defense Fires in advance of air assault operations by the 127th Infantry Battalion. The timing of the movement and Fires was strictly adhered to, practicing critical communication links while in a dynamic environment.

Individual Soldier skills were evaluated during an air-lift supported, mass casualty exercise which tested the medics' and units' abilities to triage patients, transport casualties, secure transfer points, and complete the loop on Soldier reintegration. Numerous first-line leaders completed Small Arms Master Gunner and Master Gunner Heavy training. Each unit conducted AT4 familiarization and hand grenade qualification. Additionally, Soldiers completed combatives levels 1 and level 2 training.

In addition to conducting realistic and relevant combat skills training, multiple Soldiers participated in state missions and community support events. Soldiers in the battalion were mobilized to support state domestic operations during inclement weather, providing rescue and security support to civil authorities. Soldiers supported a local middle school 'walking school bus program' to provide escorts to kids who volunteer to walk to school as part of a wellness and mentoring program.

The 1-120 FA has completed a challenging training year which included the integration of multiple new systems into the planning and execution of our direct support mission. The battalion also has successfully conducted state missions to support civil authorities. Finally, the battalion has strengthened its bonds with the local community by supporting local youth initiatives.

1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery, Minnesota U.S. Army National Guard, Red Bulls

In 2013, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery (FA), 1st Armored

SSG Adam Petersen from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery, observes his unit's annual training in the field. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 125th FA)



Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 34th Infantry Division, continued reset operations following redeployment in mid-2012 from Kuwait. Mobilization in a non-standard security mission took its toll on FA proficiency, despite qualifying crews while deployed. Emphasis on individual and section-level core FA and logistical supporting tasks led the organization to a highly successful annual training period in June 2013, where the battalion culminated the year's training activities with a live-fire exercise. Manual gunnery was emphasized for a large part of the training period in order to increase proficiency and elevate Soldier confidence in their systems. The battalion qualified 16 of 16 howitzer sections, firing 1,563 rounds, conducted machine gun ranges and renewed proficiency in all FA battalion logistical support activities.

In 2014, the battalion will continue its focus on personnel readiness, leader training, and FA core competencies at the individual and section-level, transitioning into platoon-level training at the end of the training year. This will enable the battalion to provide accurate, timely and effective lethal effects in support of the 1-34 ABCT. Posturing for successful transformation to new structure will also be a top priority. In September 2014, the battalion will undergo a reorganization to include the addition of a third firing battery and growth of the fire

support and forward support company elements, growing from 533 currently authorized personnel to 684. 'Faithful'

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1stBattalion125thFieldArtillery>

1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, Iowa U.S. Army National Guard

The Iowa U.S. Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery (FA), 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) completed train/ready one of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) and FA training culminated by live-firing more than 3,100 rounds at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minn., during annual training (AT) in July.

The battalion completed the following tasks in Training Year (TY) 2013: conducted mission command over distance and exercised transfer of mission command with no disruption and fired into two impact areas simultaneously; completed FA Table XII qualification and Table VI qualification in fire support, radar, fire direction, and met/survey; conducted sling load and air assault operations for the first time in more than 10 years, successfully sling loading the M119A2 howitzer for the first time; conducted a simultaneous observation for the first

Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, conduct howitzer direct fire during Annual Training 2013 at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minn. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 194th FA)





time in 11 years; staff conducted the full military decision making process (MDMP) and completed the production of a tactical scenario for exportable combat training capabilities (XCTC) operations order to be executed in TY14; integrated the full suite of Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS), including Command Post of the Future communication over the secret internet protocol router through the command post node to higher headquarters in a different state; integrated Fires and maneuver through collaboration with the 1-133 Infantry utilizing their scheme of maneuver to develop a supportive scheme of Fires; conducted AT without forward support company who conducted National Maintenance Training Center rotation earlier in the training year.

The 1-194 FA achieved all established goals and aim points for TY13. The battalion ended the year in position to continue to battery-level certification and qualification during TY14 moving into train/ready year two on the ARFORGEN cycle.

35th Infantry Division, Kansas U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery, Georgia U.S. Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery (FA), *Hickory's Howitzers*, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 35th Infantry Division, completed a very successful train-ready-year-three during Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, in preparation for entering the 48th IBCT's Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle ready year. The *Hickory* Battalion culminated FY13 with Artillery Table XV certification at Fort Stewart, Ga.

The 1-118 FA completed an intensive training cycle in preparation for an expected FY13 Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) deployment that was off-ramped mid-year. Training consisted of quarterly live-fire exercises which included Artillery Table (AT) VI and AT XII certification prior to moving into a three-week training exercise at Fort Stewart in August, and then moving right into the 48th IBCT's FY13

three-week exportable combat training capability (XCTC) rotation at the same location. At XCTC, both *Viper* and *Steel* Battery's were AT XV certified for the first time since the battalion has fielded the M119A2 howitzer. In addition to AT XV, battery defensive lanes, mass casualty lanes and a brigade four-day war, the battalion also participated in the 48th IBCT's combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFX). The CALFX involved the massing of small arms, 60 mm and 120 mm mortars, Tube-Launched Optically-Tracked Wire-Guided Missile (TOW) and Javelin Missiles, AH64 Apache Helicopters and 105 mm artillery Fires on targets designated by 48th IBCT combat observation and laser teams (COLTs); demonstrating the lethality and power of the 48th IBCT. The *Hickory* Battalion fired more than 4,000 rounds of 105 mm during FY13 with zero unsafe rounds.

In addition to a successful training year, the battalion also achieved personnel and logistical excellence. With a medical readiness code (MRC) rate of more than 90 percent and a retention rate of more than 100 percent, the battalion's available Soldier strength is where it needs to be moving into the 'ready year.' The *Hickory* Battalion also received the remainder of its Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) during FY13 with the fielding of the Q36 Radar and Knight vehicles. The 1-118 FA is moving into our 'ready year' fully equipped, manned and trained capable of responding to any mission it may receive.

2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery, Illinois U.S. Army National Guard

Training Year (TY) 2013 was a very significant year for 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery (FA), 35th Infantry Division. The 2-122 FA executed an aggressive yet challenging training plan with a focus on the fundamentals of artillery and operating in a decisive action environment. The battalion was originally scheduled to attend a Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., rotation, but was off-ramped in the second quarter of the year due to financial constraints. The unit adapted well to this significant change in the schedule by maintaining Mission Essential Task List (METL) focused training and planning an annual training (AT) that provided similar challenges to test our capabilities. The training culminated during AT held at Fort McCoy, Wis. This event gave 2-122 FA the opportunity to accomplish several lofty goals during two weeks of intense training held in June 2013.

AT 2013 was a milestone event for our battalion. Several major training objectives were successfully executed within the battalion for the first time in over a decade. With our focus on getting back to basics, we performed many great strides while transitioning our training strategy away from counterinsurgency (COIN) operations. During AT, we exercised our ability to shoot, move, communicate, and survive, while challenging our leaders to conduct and maintain mission command. We successfully conducted multiple movements during both day and night, and included night resupply operations. Another focus of this training period was to familiarize battery leadership in utilizing the terrain in howitzer positioning. The technical aspects of artillery training included conducting fire missions from various formations, both digitally and manually, integrated the meteorological (MET) Profiler computer into operations, 'jump tactical operations center (TOC) operations,' and fielded the Q-36 Radar.

Another goal of the training year was continued improvement on our mission control systems. We successfully conducted three communication and TOC exercises that assisted the battalion with integrating our mission command systems into battalion operations and brigade

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery, Georgia U.S. Army National Guard, fire a M119 howitzer during a live-fire training exercise. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 118th FA)



mission command. This allowed us to maintain effective command and control over our Soldiers while maintaining the real world tactical environment for our battalion staff. Our staff successfully conducted TOC operations by utilizing current and future cells, which enhanced our abilities to conduct battlefield tracking and effectively plan operations. Because of increased staff proficiency, we were able to conduct 'jump TOC operations' while maintaining fire mission capabilities, a new milestone for the battalion.

Battery defense was another area of focus for us during TY13. As we transition away from forward operating base (FOB) operations, we identified a significant lack of experience in conducting defense. We challenged our battalion by exercising the fundamentals to survive in a tactically linear battlefield. Several examples were the battery's integration of the howitzers into perimeter defense, and the employment of quick reaction force (QRF). By providing opposing forces (OPFOR) to test our defensive integrity, we noticed great improvements in our unit's abilities to enhance protection as the training progressed.

Our achievements during this TY13 have provided our battalion a great opportunity to continue to focus on grooming our Soldiers and leaders to become expert artillerymen. Our Soldiers achieved great strides by accomplishing training tasks that this battalion has not achieved since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF).

36th Infantry Division, Texas U.S. Army National Guard 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, Mississippi U.S. Army National Guard

Powder, bullets and Family, three ingredients to a successful annual training (AT) this year for 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery (FA), *Strike* Battalion, 155th Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division. We took a unique approach to this year's training agenda and Family and put them together. AT began with the usual preparation for the field and certifying gun crews, working FA Table V and VI, and then

SFC Hillie gives COL (Ret.) Sellers a tour of the M109A6 on which his grandson, PFC Sellers, is currently assigned. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 114th FA)



a big show for the Families. The buses started rolling into the firing point at Camp Shelby, Miss., Saturday morning with parents, spouses, kids, uncles, cousins and friends. Family members were given an extensive tour by the Soldiers of the equipment they spend so much time on during weekend drills and AT. The grand finale included the powder and bullets, the gun crews were able to put their skills on display conducting fire missions for the Family members. Firing started off slow and built up to various volleys of fire. To cap off this experience, we selected random Family members, suited them up in the proper personal protective equipment, set up a 50 lanyard and let them send 'steel rain' down range.

We often measure our AT through after action reviews and assessments. This year's AT success was measured by the smiles of the Families as they left the firing point on a very hot and humid summer day at Camp Shelby and in Soldiers asking if we were going to do this again next year. What a great way to get Soldiers excited about next year's AT. 'Rounds complete!'

38th Infantry Division, Indiana U.S. Army National Guard 3rd Battalion, 115th Field Artillery, Tennessee U.S. Army National Guard

Training Year (TY) 2013's focus was on platoon-level collective training in order to set the stage for TY14 and a proposed rotation for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) to the National Training Center (NTC) and battery level certification. To meet that goal, the squadron's *Redlegs* maximized each inactive duty training (IDT) weekend to get the top five, section and platoon dry-fire certifications completed, all while meeting the Army Warrior Tasks (AWT), Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP), resiliency, military decision making process (MDMP) and civil support required training. Needless to say, every drill weekend was fully packed with good, solid training.

The year also saw an influx of new Field Artillery lieutenants to the squadron, and for the first time in several years, the squadron reached 100 percent strength for company grade officers. Keeping up with the newest and latest in the Army inventory, Fires Squadron fielded Version 9 of the Q-37 radar, which is proving to be an excellent, stable platform for counterfire and a huge improvement over earlier versions. Also fielded was the latest Improved Position and Azimuth Determining System (IPADs) upgrades and the new Joint Capabilities Release (JCR) tracker for wheeled vehicles. The Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ's) used the tracking systems to monitor convoy movements to and from home station and Camp Shelby, Miss.

TY13 culminated in a highly successful live-fire of more than 1,500 rounds during Artillery Table XII at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Hattiesburg, Miss., in August, and an additional 2-week warfighter-like command post exercise (CPX). The *Redlegs* and their Paladins conducted several live-fire hip-shoots, survivability moves, battalion mass fire missions, and Paladin maneuvers. The battalion also took the opportunity to focus on select battery-level collective tasks with each battery and troop undergoing an evaluated mass casualty and casualty evacuation exercise under the supervision of the squadron aide station. Combating the heat of south central Mississippi in late summer, the squadron also qualified all its crew served weapons, firing more than 15,000 rounds.



A Paladin from B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 115th Field Artillery (Fires Squadron), 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 38th Infantry Division, fires during a survivability move at Camp Shelby, Miss. (Photo by LTC Dana N. Hampton, U.S. Army)

The warfighter-like CPX gave a tremendous training opportunity to the squadron staff to fully exercise the Army Battle Command System (ABCS) with the regimental headquarters and work through the staff coordination processes needed to conduct decisive operations. The Squadron Commander, LTC Dana Hampton, stated, “This CPX has pointed to some short comings in our digital SOP we can improve on, but most importantly, it allowed the entire fire support team to better understand what it takes to support maneuver commanders in mission command.” The squadron fire direction center (FDC) proved to be true ‘Heroes of the Battle’ throughout the CPX, answering with responsive Fires and keeping missions moving throughout the offensive and defensive fights.

The squadron is well positioned entering TY14 and battery-level certification with Artillery Tables I-XV.

‘Steel Rain!’

1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery, Indiana U.S. Army National Guard, Redhawks

In 2013, 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery (FA), *Redhawk* Soldiers, stood down from supporting 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) deployments to the Sinai and Horn of Africa, to focus solely on building artillery proficiency. The year began with a battalion change of command, and recognition of its Family readiness group as the best in the Indiana U.S. Army National Guard.

The battalion focused on individual and platoon-level training throughout the spring, culminating in platoon live-fire lanes at Fort Campbell, Ky., in June. During annual training (AT), the support com-

pany fully established a field trains site, which enabled them to demonstrate their full field capabilities to both the 1-163 FA and Company G/1-320 FA. A command visit from the 76th IBCT command team and a Family day picnic with direct fire demonstration rounded out the *Redhawks’* AT.

The end of the training year saw the *Redhawks* preparing to field the M119A3 and M777A2 howitzers. This fielding will challenge the *Redhawks* and increase our lethality in support of the 76th IBCT. We look forward to meeting this challenge head on in the months to come!

40th Infantry Division, California U.S. Army National Guard 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, Oregon U.S. Army National Guard, Jungler

The 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery (FA), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 40th Infantry Division, had an extremely successful and challenging year in Training Year (TY) 2013. The battalion began the year aggressively, developing howitzer sections with certifications and achieved 14 of 16 fully manned and qualified sections in time for annual training (AT) in June. AT at Yakima Training Center, Wash., was an IBCT driven training event which required the battalion to coordinate training with and provide logistical support to more than 200 fire support personnel, mortar teams and attachments. Not



Soldiers of B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, fire a round from a M119A2 howitzer during a live-fire mission for combat training capabilities qualification at Yakima Training Center, Yakima, Wash. (Photo by SGT Julie Leanna Trotter, U.S. Army)

only did the battalion set up and maintain the tactical operations center and supporting Army Battle Command Systems, Command Post of the Future, Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, Very Small Aperture Terminal, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, and Blue Force Tracker, it had to jump the tactical operations center (TOC) half-way through the three-week field exercise to Gowen Field, Idaho, to support the infantry brigade's company attack lanes. All of this required the battalion to maintain communications capability and the common operational picture through satellite communications and Harris Radio with higher headquarters located 362 miles away.

During AT, the battalion safely fired more than 127 fire missions totaling 1,636 rounds, fielded the Q36 radar after a 10-year hiatus due to operational needs downrange and tracked rounds in both friendly and hostile modes. Additionally, the battalion convoyed over 1,036 miles, set up efficient refuel on the move operations, coordinated the draw and distribution of 4,187 mortar rounds, conducted a combined live-fire with the 2nd Battalion, 146th FA, Washington U.S. Army National Guard and ended the year completing 90 percent of all assigned Mission Essential Task List (METL). Furthermore, G Company won the 2013 state and regional level Connelly Competition for Excellence in Food Service and sets the stage for a competitive national level competition in early TY14.

Lastly, the battalion ended the TY fine-tuning split platoon operations, 6400 mil firing capability, as well as firing emergency missions (hip-shoots).

42nd Infantry Division , New York U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, Massachusetts U.S. Army National Guard

The Soldiers, NCOs, and officers of the 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery (FA), 26th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 42nd Infantry Division, had an intense 2013 training year (TY) and participated in multiple state active duty missions during floods and snow storms impacting Massachusetts.

Following section certifications, the battalion completed a live-fire exercise (LFX) in June at Camp Ethan Allen, Vt., successfully firing 340 rounds in order to complete the live-fire portion of Table VI.

The battalion's operations tempo remained high throughout 2013, culminating in two major exercises at Fort Drum, N.Y., in July/August 2013. The battalion participated in an 86th IBCT command post exercise (CPX) for 10 days, followed by a 15-day exportable combat training capability rotation. The battalion operated at the platoon level to accomplish Table XI, immediately followed by Table XII live-fire.



Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, conduct a sling load mission with a M119A2 howitzer at Fort Drum, N.Y. (Photo courtesy of LTC Fred West)

After Table XII, individual platoons occupied firing points in support of maneuver live-fire lanes adjusting fire en route to their objectives.

Simultaneous to maneuver live-fire support, the battalion also participated in several tactical lanes, including an air assault raid. Each firing platoon completed a FA tactical movement lane, while the firing batteries culminated their training in battery defense lanes. The battalion's forward support company (FSC) completed vehicle recovery lanes while the battalion medics completed mass casualty lanes, incorporating medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) aviation. All units performed at an incredible level of proficiency and successfully completed all missions, laying the foundation for deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, La., in June 2014. In total, the battalion successfully and safely fired 3,432 105 mm rounds during the exportable combat training capability rotation 2013.

1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, U.S. Army New York National Guard, Washington Grays

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery (FA), *Washington Grays*, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), began 2013 by supporting the massive recovery operations related to Super Storm Sandy. The *Washington Grays* then, for the sixth time since 2001, transitioned back to training on Mission Essential Task List (METL) FA tasks in order to continue to rebuild proficiency on core FA competencies. The firing

batteries conducted focused, disciplined FA table training culminating in a successful firing section certification and air assault artillery raid live-fire at Fort Drum, N.Y. The battalion also maintained intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) proficiency, clocking multiple hours of Raven flight operations while at Fort Drum. Headquarters Battery maintained proficiency on establishing the mission command center and completed the certification of the meteorological, fire direction, and survey sections. Our dedicated forward support company, G/427 Brigade Support Battalion, completed fielding of the forward repair system, containerized kitchen, and conducted rigorous sustainment lanes based training. The battalion is eagerly looking forward to conducting a full year of FA training this year and getting started on building toward the new composite FA battalion structure.

As always the *Washington Grays* stand 'Ready and Faithful.'

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/216324836071/>

45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard

The 45th Fires Brigade (FiB) has had an extremely busy and productive training year during Fiscal Year (FY) 2013. Commanded by



Soldiers from the 271st Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Fires Brigade, prove their water purification skills in freezing temperatures at Camp Dodge, Iowa. (Photo courtesy of 45th FiB)

COL Mike Chase, the 45th FiB is headquartered in a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Mustang, Okla.

During FY13, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (FA), 45th FiB and Battery B, 171st Target Acquisition (TAB) prepared for deployment to Afghanistan, while the rest of the brigade conducted planning and training operations for warfighter at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The 271st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) divided and conquered as they not only sharpened their skills in managing and operating supply support activities to include purifying water in freezing temperatures at Camp Dodge, Iowa, but also took part in the warfighter training exercise.

The warfighter exercise was one of the largest ever conducted at Fort Leavenworth. The 24-hour operations, high stress and realistic scenarios not only provided the FiB's Soldiers with mental agility training, but it also provided them with an opportunity to train on new communications systems. Signal support for all training was provided by the 45th FiB's 205th Signal Support Company.

A Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th FA, and a team from the 120th Forward Support Company (FSC), which operates the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), were called to active duty to conduct fire missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Members deployed to Afghanistan, for what the Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard expects to be its first artillery-focused mission in more than two decades. Members of B Battery, 171st TAB also deployed to Afghanistan, to operate the newest Q-53 counterfire radar.

The 271st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) honed their skills on logistical support operations by conducting multiple annual training events which allowed them to achieve their Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) aim points based on their modular capabilities.

1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, Missouri U.S. Army National Guard, Truman's Own

Every unit faces distractions that pull focus away from collective training. National Guard artillery units are faced with even greater challenges that include training for state missions, non-standard deployment missions, and travel distance to training sites. Despite the many distractions and challenges, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery (FA), *Truman's Own*, 45th Fires Brigade (FiB) has achieved great success with a Fires focused approach to training. Since 2007, the battalion has conducted live-fire howitzer training every year, despite deployments to Afghanistan, as a security force unit and to Kosovo, under an infantry Modified Table of Organizational Equipment (MTOE). During this same time, the battalion responded in support of their state mission to three state emergency duty missions. The battalion successfully completed all non-artillery missions due to its aggressive Fires focused training. The FA unit's primary mission depends on its ability to shoot, move, and communicate. These core competencies have enabled artillery units to thrive in a diversity of mission sets. The most valuable part of Fires-focused training is the attention to detail required in every aspect of the mission.

During the 2013 training year (TY), 1-129 FA was tasked with operating the joint reception, staging, onward movement and integration site for one week of annual training (AT) during the state's Vigilant Guard Exercise. The battalion then conducted the second half of AT with aggressive artillery training. For nine days in June, 1-129 FA trained on its combat mission of delivering accurate and timely Fires. With abbreviated training time, the battalion maximized combat training while accomplishing a multitude of training objectives. While the main focus of training was on conducting howitzer fire missions and battery occupations, the battalion also trained and qualified on crew-served weapons, warrior tasks and battle drills, and combat service support operations. Throughout the training, the professionalism of the artillerymen prominently shone. In four and a half days, the battalion flawlessly executed numerous fire missions and 29 occupations in a safe and efficient manner. Over the training period, the battalion expended 1,398 howitzer rounds, including high explosive, white phosphorus, smoke, and illumination round types. The artillerymen dominated the exercise with precision and accuracy, but mission accomplishment was made possible from the support Soldiers. Soldiers in the support roles equally performed with unblemished execution of their mission.

Successful artillery operations begin by ensuring individual Soldiers are trained and prepared to execute the mission. This means they are trained in their individual duties and are 'fit to fight.' The section certification process validates standardized crew drill procedures are efficient and accurate. Safety in fire mission processing is dependent on secondary checks and accurate procedures. Furthermore, crew members must be competent and confident in their duties to validate data or call 'check firing' when presented with bad data. The 1-129 FA continually places strong emphasis on manual gunnery and degraded lay procedures. Understanding manual operations builds confidence in Soldiers in both skill and competence with the weapon system.

The intensive detail and training required to execute howitzer fire missions prepares a Soldier to execute a wide variety of tasks. All Artillerymen understand the basics of shoot, move, and communicate include a multitude of tasks required to achieve accurate Fires, occupy within time standards, and establish and maintain digital communica-



tions. A basic approach requires aggressive training to maintain FA proficiency. These proficiencies enable artillerymen to accomplish any mission with confidence and professionalism.

Follow the 1-129 FA on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/1-129th-Field-Artillery-Battalion-Missouri-Army-National-Guard/114199088610600>



Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, perform a live-fire exercise with the M142 at Fort Hood, Texas. (Photo courtesy of 4th BN, 133rd FA)

4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, Texas U.S. Army National Guard

The headquarters of 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery (FA), 45th Fires Brigade (FiB) is based out of San Marcos, Texas, with a total of 434 Soldiers assigned. A Battery is located in New Braunfels, Texas; B Battery is located in San Marcos, with the battalion and a forward support company. The battalion also has two detachments located in Wichita Falls, Texas.

The battalion went to north Fort Hood, Texas, for their new equipment team (NET) fielding from January through March 2013, where they were fielded 16 M142 launchers, 20 M1084's and five Rigid Wall Shelter Command Posts. After the drivers' training and load testing, the units took charge of their new equipment and couldn't wait for annual training (AT) so they could shoot them.

The battalion had a lot of dignitaries at Fort Hood for the unit's live-fire with the new equipment – more than 100 personnel in all were present for this event. The battalion was able to shoot 66 rockets with 14 crews certifying.

In August 2013, the battalion had a change of command with outgoing commander, LTC Carlton Smith, and incoming commander, LTC Edward Dextraze.

65th Fires Brigade, Utah U.S. Army National Guard, America's Thunder

Soldiers from the 65th Fires Brigade (FiB) have kept busy during the past year participating in training missions designed to improve the unit's capabilities. In 2013, the brigade participated in fleet synthetic



Soldiers and leaders from the 65th Fires Brigade know preparation is key for successful training. (Photo courtesy of 65th FiB)

training-joint (FST-J) exercises, Yama Sakura 63 (YS63), Saber Strike 13 and Operation Clydesdale.

The FST-J exercises helped Soldiers from the brigade to improve their joint Fires capability by combining efforts with the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force to simulate war conditions.

At YS63, Soldiers at Camp Chitose, Japan, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Wash., participated in a bilateral exercise. Combining face-to-face coordination and interaction with advanced battle command systems, the Soldiers executed a successful training event for all involved.

Saber Strike is a multi-national North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) exercise. Partnering with the 28th Infantry Division, the 65th FiB manned a Fires response cell and expanded the shaping and battle-fighting capabilities of the host nations by adding Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) systems to their organic fire support assets.

The brigade also took part in Operation Clydesdale, with the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, at Dugway, Utah. The exercise allowed Soldiers of the brigade to establish and refine tactics, techniques and procedures for brigade-level Fires in a field environment.

Regardless of the mission, the 65th FiB stands ready to not only meet, but exceed all expectations. The brigade takes pride in the accomplishment, expertise and professionalism of its Soldiers. *America's Thunder!*

1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, Utah U.S. Army National Guard, Big Red

The 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery (FA), 65th Fires Brigade (FiB) trained on all the Army Warrior Tasks (AWT) and battle drills required for mobilization to Kosovo. Annual training (AT) was the culminating event that would have been used as a certifying exercise. With the mobilization cancelled, the leadership decided to stay with the plan to train as if they were deploying.

The Battalion Commander, LTC Darcy W. Burt, emphasized an aggressive training plan. Each unit within the battalion was put through



Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, conduct a road march. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 145th FA)

a series of pre-mobilization training, including battle drills and AWTs. The battalion started AT with a battalion run around Memory Grove Park, Salt Lake City, Utah. This was a great opportunity for many Soldiers to visit, for the first time, the monument that was erected in 1927 for those who have served in the 1-145.

In addition to the tasks of basic soldiering skills, a new event was introduced to 1-145 FA. The unit decided to come up with an event that challenged Soldiers in a ‘Tough Mudder’ or ‘Spartan Run’ type of event. Individual units were challenged to go through a series of events that were timed and graded their proficiency. Once the individual units had practiced the events, commanders chose two eight-person teams per unit to go head-to-head in the competition called ‘The Big Red Challenge.’ This event was a great success and fell right in line with Burt’s guidance to make it a “memorable exercise.” The winning team of the challenge was a team from HHB, 1-145 FA.

2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery

The 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery (FA), continued its reset phase of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN), while continuing to prepare for future federal and state operations. Under the direction of LTC Brent F. Anderson, the battalion completed an extremely successful annual training (AT) at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah. The AT exercise was one of the most successful and effective the battalion has conducted in many years. The battalion was able to receive twice the normal allotment of artillery ammunition this year, receiving nearly 3,000 rounds, including high explosive, illumination, smoke, and rocket assisted projectiles.

In addition to the high allotment of artillery rounds, the battalion staff headquarters utilized new, high-tech equipment for the first time.

Battle tracking computers, modular tactical operating centers, and integrated communications equipment provided a learning environment for the battalion staff and proved to be a well-received addition to the FA battalion’s way of training. With the updated equipment, planning and execution of tactical operations was effective and efficient, providing for valuable ‘real life’ training.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, unload powder canisters from their tactical truck. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 222nd FA)





The battalion continued its support of the 65th FiB, taking the lead on planning, executing, and sending Soldiers and staff to San Diego, Calif., in support of the Navy's Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint Exercise (FST-J). For FST-J participants, the virtual theater of operations may be the same or very near the same as any place on earth and it allows our Utah National Guard Soldiers the opportunity to participate in joint Fires operations without the price tag of actually deploying the unit.

1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, Georgia U.S. Army National Guard, Granite

In April 2013, Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery (FA), 65th Fires Brigade (FiB), Task Force (TF) Granite, deployed to Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Their mission is to provide base defense and flight-line security for the second largest airfield in Afghanistan.

The battalion was conducting live-fire exercises (LFXs) during AT 2012 at Fort Stewart, Ga., when they were notified of the mission. After the LFX, the battalion stored its guns and began making preparations. Soon the Soldiers of the *Granite* Battalion began the Soldier readiness processing (SRP) and training process, completing the majority of their squad level tactics and Individual Warrior Assigned Tasks (IWAT) during Phase I and Phase II Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element (PTAE) at Fort Stewart.

TF Granite mobilized in February 2013, and received a spectacular send off by the city of Elberton, Ga., where the 1-214 FA is headquartered. The unit traveled to Camp Shelby, Miss., for six weeks of mobilization training that consisted of theater specific and collective training exercises and evaluations with emphasis placed on establishing

and conducting entry control points, mounted patrols and flight line operations.

Since arriving in Afghanistan, the Soldiers have executed numerous patrols and support missions while working diligently to maintain and improve base security. TF Granite expects to redeploy sometime in early January 2014. After reuniting with the rear detachment, 1-214 FA is looking forward to manning their 155 mm, M109A6 Paladin howitzers and returning to the swamps of Fort Stewart to conduct fire missions. 'We Hear and Strike.'

115th Fires Brigade, Wyoming U.S. Army National Guard, Cowboy Thunder

Soldiers of the 115th Fires Brigade (FiB) focused on mission command systems and communications during the 2013 training year (TY).

In June of 2013, during annual training (AT), the brigade headquarters tested the concept of an Early Entry Command Post (EECP). Deploying a small cross section of its tactical operations center (TOC) to the field 10 days in advance of its main body, the EECP was able to establish digital communications via Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) systems with subordinate Fires elements and maintain mission command. This EECP was able to establish continuity of operations giving the TOC ample opportunity to deploy and establish its position and ensured a smooth transition of operations. The 115th FiB was able to support organic and aligned-for-training Fires battalions over an extended period of time during AT utilizing the EECP. The brigade successfully executed mission command over

SFC Ryan Rosenberg, of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, Task Force Granite, positions a vehicle in his patrol into a security position during a patrol outside of Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 114th FA)



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WIN-T systems throughout the AT period, due to communication exercises held throughout the training year.

In July 2013, targeting and fire control personnel from the 115th FiB were deployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., in order to provide Fires support to the 34th Infantry Division, *Red Bulls*, while conducting operations in support of Operation Talisman Sabre. The 115th FiB cell was instrumental in allowing the 34th Infantry Division and I Corps to practice mission command in a joint/coalition environment.

2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, Wyoming U.S. Army National Guard, Powder River

Shoot, move and communicate took on an expanded role for the Wyoming U. S. Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery (FA), 115th Fires Brigade (FiB).

'Shoot' still maintained its operations focus with the most visible end result being a barrage of reduced range practice rockets impacting safely in Camp Guernsey, Wyo. The battalion became the example of safety and responsibility for Camp Guernsey, during a shoot where local land owners, elected officials and others were invited to watch the live-fire exercise. It was an event that followed voiced concerns about the potential fire hazards from artillery, specifically the use of Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS).

With the battalion's M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) on display, the Soldiers of 2-300 FA executed each fire mission with the precision accuracy that is the hallmark of Army artillery. The demonstrations resulted in smiles and expressions of awe by the civilians, along with a better understanding of the safe use and training of even the most lethal of Army weapon systems.

Communication between the newest private all the way up to the battalion command sergeant major has always been a trait shared in the battalion. The camaraderie and esprit de corps has helped the battalion become a leader in retention efforts in the Wyoming U.S. Army National Guard. It has also served to facilitate changes—from fielding HIMARS, to a string of full-spectrum operation missions, to the end of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' and the recent inclusion of women across the *Redleg* rocket community.

1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, Minnesota U.S. Army National Guard, Thunder

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery (FA), *Thunder*, 115th Fires Brigade (FiB), conducted a battalion live-fire exercise focused on qualifying up to Table XV battery qualification. The battalion has stabilized and set its leadership teams in place now, as they are three years removed from its most recent deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

The battalion is currently focused on platoon and battery-level training proficiency, while maintaining individual readiness in this fiscally constrained environment. The battalion is posturing its officers and NCOs for military education requirements in order to assist its sister battalion with its up and coming re-organization in 2014, when the 1-125 FA adds an additional firing battery to its formation.

The 1-151 FA is currently in the training phase of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) and continues to prepare for future operations.

1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, Wisconsin U.S. Army National Guard

In January 2013, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery (FA), 115th Fires Brigade (FiB), deployed to Afghanistan, for a nine-month High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) mission. The unit returned to Wisconsin on Oct. 18, 2013, with no personnel or equipment losses.

In April, the 1-121 FA completed their first live-fire exercise, certifying eight crews with 24 rockets over a three-day period. The certification prepared the battalion to train A Battery for its deployment to Afghanistan, in May 2014. The live-fire exercise (LFX) coincided with the battalion's first phase of a split annual training. During the annual training period, the battalion also completed crew-served weapons qualification.

In August, the 1-121 FA conducted the second (LFX), replicating the mission rehearsal exercise A Battery will complete at Fort Bliss, Texas, during their post-mobilization training. The battalion successfully fired 36 rockets over a two-day period.

Key leadership personnel from A Battery, 1-121 FA completed their pre-mobilization Army Warrior Tasks as part of a training program led by Wisconsin's Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element. A Battery began pre-mobilization training in August, and will continue to train on drill weekends through January. A Battery will complete the pre-mobilization training during a three-week annual training in March 2014, prior to mobilizing at Fort Bliss.

1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota U.S. Army National Guard, Steel Rain

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery (FA), 115th Fires Brigade (FiB), moved into the new Watertown Readiness Center in June 2013. It's a pristine facility that includes three classrooms, learning center, distance learning area, workout room, state-of-the-art presentation hall, full industrial kitchen, and a VBRICK system. The VBRICK system is electronic message boards placed throughout the building to share and convey messages to the Soldiers.

The readiness center is an 85,000 square foot structure that sits on

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, recently moved into the new Watertown Readiness Center. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 147th FA)





30 acres of land. The funding appropriation began in 1995, and in that time, the government and the National Guard were able to raise the necessary \$25,000,000 necessary to purchase the land and build a readiness center to accommodate three units consisting of 340 personnel. Construction has been ongoing over the past two years. Though the building is complete, contractors are still working the land around the building and motor pool.

Due to the readiness center's advanced climate control features, it is one of the greenest structures in our area. It incorporates a geothermal heating and cooling system, light emitting diode (LED) lighting on the outside of the structure, a runoff pool for irrigation, and strategic placement of the offices to utilize the sunlight for heating in the winter. The state has since closed four outdated, energy exhausting armories.

138th Fires Brigade, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard, Kentucky Thunder

2012-2013 for the 138th Fires Brigade (FiB) has maintained the high operations tempo of the past decade with multiple deployment sourcing requirements within the Horn of Africa, Jordan, Afghanistan and Kuwait. These 'in lieu of missions' have included, but are not limited to, providing security, training foreign military forces and giving military-to-military training to host nations.

The motto for the Kentucky National Guard is 'Unbridled Service,' indicative of our proud association with horses in Kentucky, while the brigade motto is 'Kentucky Thunder,' which lends to the proud sounds coming from our weapon systems when providing Fires. The following articles highlight some of the accomplishments from units within the 138th FiB. We are proud to selflessly serve our nation and communities as Army National Guard *Redlegs*.

3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, Florida U.S. Army National Guard

In February 2013, The 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery (FA), 138th Fires Brigade (FiB), deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Similar to when the battalion deployed in 2005, the 3-116 FA was presented with a non-standard mission. Currently, the unit is to provide command and control for three security force (SECFOR) companies and perform critical site security in the Middle East. This mission was sourced from both the organic FA battalion and a line company from the 222nd Military Police Company from the New York U.S. Army National Guard.

The organic structure of the FA batteries fell far short of the required personnel for the SECFOR companies and a strategic organization change was implemented to ensure they could meet the mission strength requirements. The officer and NCO corps worked closely together to ensure the right set of leaders were chosen to both maintain a solid presence and functioning rear detachment, as well as the correct set of leaders for mobilization, all lessons learned from past experience and mobilizations. This organization restructure is only temporary as the battalion prepares to restructure with one less battery upon the implementation of the new Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) post mobilization.

Further adding to the complexity of mobilization, the battalion was



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, fire a rocket during a live-fire exercise. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 116th FA)

fielded with the new robust M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) weapons system, no sooner than they had received their mobilization order. The 3-116 FA was one of the last units in the Army to migrate from the aging and outdated M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) weapons system to the M142. The unit simultaneously planned, prepared and executed pre-mobilization training requirements while performing exhaustive new equipment fielding and training. The culminating training event of the fielding was an impressive live-fire exercise. The battalion now finds themselves performing SECFOR missions on highly strategic camps and national security assets, working proudly side-by-side with our active component counterparts.

1st Battalion, 623d Field Artillery, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard, Morgan's Men

The 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery (FA) has had another busy year. The battalion received word that they would be deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), in addition to still fulfilling standard annual training requirements. Careful consideration went into the selection of Soldiers, based on their skill sets for both the forward element and the rear detachment.

The pre-mobilization process began during Annual Training (AT) 2012, and they were able to complete all of the administrative and training requirements within six months with no additional days added to their training calendar. The battalion achieved the highest percentage rate of any unit that has mobilized from Kentucky, since the War on Terrorism began, with over 98 percent completion rate on the individual warrior tasks and battle drills. This not only saved money, but minimized the impact on time spent away from friends, Families and employers with a streamlined mobilization process. In the last 10 years, The National Guard has served in an important role on the War on Terrorism with *Morgan's Men* answering the call for mobilization three times in the last 10 years.

The 1-623 has previously performed tasks from convoy security to detainee operations and is now serving in a training capacity. For the Soldiers of *Morgan's Men* Battalion, pride is why they serve their country, state and community. The forward element looks forward to returning home and reuniting with friends and Family, as well as with the rest of the battalion.

2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard, Longrifles

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery (FA), *Longrifles*, redeployed to Kentucky in June 2013, following their nine-month mission protecting Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, and other sites in East Africa, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

The battalion provided security for two entry control points, an ammunition supply point, two flight lines, U.S. ships docked at the Port of Djibouti, two forward operating sites in Ethiopia and Kenya, and multiple civil affairs missions in Djibouti and Ethiopia. The *Longrifles* also maintained a quick reaction force for Camp Lemonnier, and a site security team assisting the U.S. Air Force in the recovery of personnel and critical equipment in East Africa and Southwest Asia.

Soldiers from across the battalion conducted 31 military-to-military missions with soldiers from Djibouti, France, Comoros, Burundi, Japan, Uganda, Mauritius and Kenya. The medical section assessed conditions at 14 hospitals in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, allowing Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa to plan for medical evacuation of U.S. personnel throughout the region.

The maintenance section achieved a 97 percent operational readiness rate and travelled a total of 1,152 miles conducting vehicle recovery operations across Djibouti, and Soldiers of the battalion contributed 14, 600 hours of volunteer service in the Djiboutian community.

The battalion has begun to train again for its traditional artillery mission and continues to uphold its motto, 'Arma Parato Fero,' or 'We Bear Arms in Readiness.'

2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery, Indiana U.S. Army National Guard, Raiders

On Sep. 14, 2013, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery (FA), 138th Fires Brigade (FiB), the French army and the Norwegian army, exchanged fire data in a joint Fires proof-of-concept during Bold Quest 13.2, at Camp Atterbury, Ind. The purpose of the live-fire was to assist French and Norwegian forces to digitally transmit a call-for-fire between coalition systems. Bold Quest 13.2 is a multi-faceted, international capability demonstration designed by the joint staff. More than 1,000 participants from 13 different countries participated in Bold Quest to assess digitally aided, close-air support technologies, along with tactics, techniques and procedures to help reduce friendly fire incidents, enhance combat effectiveness and increase situational awareness. The 2-150 FA provided 155 mm howitzer support to the international capabilities demonstration. Lab work between the U.S. and French forces included connecting both nation's premier fire support command and control systems; the U.S. Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) and the French Advanced Technology Lightweight Artillery System (ATLAS), digitally linking the two systems to open a line of communication. The French ATLAS system has the capability to talk to U.S. systems. As joint fire support systems become ever more complex and sophisticated, there is a need to main-

tain the digital interoperability of them. A French team of forward observers relayed firing coordinates back to a French contingent embedded with the Indiana National Guard battery. The French ATLAS artillery system, which is the equivalent to the American AFATDS, has the ability to interconnect and exchange fire missions. Upon receiving the call-for-fire, approval was given for the firing mission by 2-150 FA fire direction center (FDC), and the artillerymen sent 155 mm rounds down range.

E Battery, the target acquisition battery (TAB), 139th FA, returned home to Indiana in October 2013, after serving a nine-month tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan. This was a 35-man target acquisition battery (TAB), detecting and locating enemy indirect fire weapons systems. E Battery, 139th FA, or E TAB, as it is more commonly known, was organized into three radar sections, a Target Acquisition and Sensor Management Team (TASMaT), and the battery headquarters. Two of the radar sections (one AN/TPQ-36 and one AN/TPQ-37) were located on Kandahar Airfield and provided general support target acquisition capability to Regional Command-South (RC-South). The remaining AN/TPQ-36 section was located on an outlying forward operating base (FOB) as a direct support asset of the land-owning brigade. Accomplishments of the radar sections included significant increases in the maintenance and readiness of the systems, acquisition of more than 30 targets of indirect fire launch sites, closure and transfer of 100 percent of radar equipment at the outlying FOB, and conducting a complete change out of one Q-36 for a newer system.

The TASMaT was embedded within the RC-South joint Fires cell. It was responsible for tracking and communicating with all radar systems in the regional command. Included in this role was constant communication with field service representatives in order to facilitate repair, upgrade and retrograde of systems in a timely manner. Additionally, the TASMaT produced storyboards for all indirect fire (IDF) events and conducted pattern analysis of all attacks.

The battery headquarters conducted command and control, administrative, and logistics functions for the TAB. Close coordination was maintained with both the division headquarters battalion and joint Fires cell to ensure all administrative, logistical and tactical/operational requirements were met. The supply section procured repair parts and life support needs, as well as maintaining accurate accountability of all equipment and spearheading all efforts to retrograde and transport equipment before, during and after the mobilization.

103rd Brigade Support Battalion, Thunder Support

103rd Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) based in Harrodsburg, Ky., successfully supports the 138th Fires Brigade (FiB). The Soldiers of 103rd BSB, *Thunder Support*, also continue to strive for excellence in other areas of the Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard, conducting numerous mission-essential sustainment tasks at annual training (AT) while at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center, Greenville, Ky., and supports local community events.

Within the community, the 103rd continues to have a strong relationship, providing a military presence at community events such as county fairs, as well as offering color-guard details for local parades, ceremonies and funeral details honoring deceased veterans.

The 103rd BSB is currently in the reset year of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle and continues to execute civil support and logistic support operations, assisting local civil authorities, supporting the commander's tactical and operational objectives while continuing to prepare for future operations. *Thunder Support!*



SGT Matthew Howard from C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Fires Brigade, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, low crawls through a water obstacle during the final event of the Army National Guard's National Best Warrior Competition at Fort Benning, Ga. Howard won the competition and was named the National Guard's 2012 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. (Photo by SGT Jerry Boffen, U.S. Army)

142nd Fires Brigade, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, Razorback

The 142nd Fires Brigade (FiB), located throughout northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas River Valley, remains a ready, competent and capable force despite the challenges facing the Field Artillery (FA) community and Army today.

In an era of constrained resources and emerging threats at home and abroad the 142nd FiB is uniquely positioned to conduct both standard and non-standard FA missions in support of the president's defense strategic guidance.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 began with the brigade receiving a notice of sourcing for missions in the Horn of Africa and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The Horn of Africa mission called for 600 of our finest Soldiers to deploy in support of a security forces mission. The OEF mission required 45 Soldiers of our target acquisition battery to provide indirect fire detection in Afghanistan.

As artillerymen who love to shoot, we realized this would be a challenging training year. In an innovative spirit common among Citizen-Soldiers, our staff developed a bold plan that would incorporate our standard FA training program, while accomplishing the required pre-mobilization trainings standards. On an accelerated timeframe, we achieved platoon level certification and battery re-certification for all assigned Paladin and Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) units. In addition, we certified all ammunition sections and fire direction centers. These tasks normally take a year to complete; we completed them by the end of the second quarter. While conducting this training we fired more than 1,800 155 mm rounds and 64 MLRS rockets.

Our focus shifted to pre-mobilization training of more than 600 artillerymen during the third quarter. In April, the notice of sourcing for both missions was withdrawn; however, we pressed on and completed all pre-mobilization training and Soldier readiness processing (SRP)

requirements by the end of May. Today, we remain ready to deploy and respond to a standard or non-standard FA mission.

Training was not the only focus for the 142nd during FY13. As part of the National Guard, the 142nd has a constitutionally unique dual-mission to support missions at home and abroad. While accomplishing standard and non-standard FA tasks, during what can best be described as an ambitious training year, the brigade also responded to numerous emergencies in support of the people of Arkansas. The staff structure of a FiB makes it ideal to support domestic operations. While some assume combat support and combat service support units are best suited for domestic response, we have found in large-scale domestic operations seasoned, combat arms staff are better suited to conduct the necessary staff operations for a statewide or interstate domestic response.

Our strength does not come from our staff alone; our Citizen-Soldiers are our bedrock. Living and working in communities throughout Arkansas' River Valley and northwest Arkansas, our Soldiers are highly proficient, resilient and combat ready. SSG Matthew S. Howard from Clarksville, Ark., demonstrates the type of Soldier we have in the 142nd FiB. Howard earned the Army National Guard's Best Warrior title, non-commissioned officer division in 2012, during a grueling three-day competition against the best Soldiers from all 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia.

Looking to FY14, our brigade is positioned for another great training year. Our staff is preparing for two warfighter exercises. Understanding the shift to the Pacific directed by the defense strategic guidance, we actively sought the opportunity to train with the 2nd Infantry Division during a November and December warfighter exercise in Korea. In addition, we will conduct a second Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey, (GAAT) scenario warfighter exercise at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in May, all while training on our core FA mission to maintain our current level of readiness.

Our nation faces a wide range of challenges that span from domestic, international and cyber threats, to our growing national debt and deficit. In July, the Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, revealed the findings of the Department of Defense (DoD) Strategic Choices Management Review. The overarching theme: we will become a leaner and more flexible force while preserving the tenants of the president's strategy, such as strategic deterrence, homeland defense and the rebalance to the Pacific.

In addition to being a combat ready and cost effective FiB, the 142nd is community based. Forward deployed in nine communities across northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas River Valley, the 142nd connects the FA community to the public. In an era without a draft, with less than one percent of the population who have served, and with a decrease in operational tempo, maintaining public support for the Army and FA community is now more important than ever. As realized through the Abrams Doctrine, incorporation of the National Guard into the operational force ensures the necessary public support for military operations.

1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery, Alabama U.S. Army National Guard, Dragons

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery (FA), have endured another year of constant change with unparalleled success. The battalion was ramping up for the Sinai multinational force observers (MFO) mission when they received word of the mission being cancelled. This marked the second consecutive year the battalion was

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forced to plan and execute an annual training (AT) event in less than 30 days, due to a mission cancellation.

Despite the uncertainty, the battalion continued to show strength and resiliency and performed admirably during AT13, at Camp Blanding, Fla. All artillery tables were qualified to include illumination, coordinated illumination, time-on-target (TOT), battalion TOT, adjust fire air burst, and direct fire. The battalion successfully fired more than 1,800 rounds in a six-day span at Camp Blanding, while performing platoon operations with the M777 howitzer.

A Battery received the 'Top Gun' award from LTC David K. Pritchett on Nov. 3, 2013, for outstanding performance during 2012 and 2013. The award is given to the howitzer section performing best throughout the year and incorporates physical training, individual weapons qualification, artillery skills proficiency test and live-fire exercises.

LTC Mark D. Presley, Birmingham, Ala., took command of the battalion on Nov. 3, 2013, and looks forward to being a part of the *Dragons*.

1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, Fireballs

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery (FA), 142nd Fires Brigade (FiB), trained hard during Training Year (TY) 2013 and successfully completed platoon certification and live-fire prior to a mid-year transition to pre-mobilization training. The battalion conducted crew, section and platoon certifications in the first four months of TY13, followed by two live-fire inactive duty training (IDT) weekends which included live-fire raids and sling load resupply operations. Additionally, Soldiers of the 936th Support Company conducted demolition exercises with the 875th Engineers. The remainder of TY13 was spent completing pre-mobilization training and equipment reset. In TY14, the battalion will return to Mission Essential Task List (METL) training due to the cancellation of the previously scheduled deployment.

2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, Diamond Fire

The Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery (FA), 142nd Fires Brigade (FiB), started Training Year (TY) 2013, artillery focused and conducted live-fire exercises (LFX) during the first and second quarters. They were able to achieve and sustain artillery table 10-12 certification, while firing 969 artillery rounds including special munitions before the end second quarter, TY13. After an aggressive approach to artillery training, 2nd Battalion began preparation for a pending mission in support of the Horn of Africa. The Soldiers of 2nd Battalion merged with the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 142nd FA and transitioned into pre-mobilization training (PMT) under Task Force (TF) Thunder. For the remainder of the third quarter of TY13, 2nd Battalion conducted training in support of the non-standard mission. More than 800 Soldiers participated in PMT #1 for TF Thunder and completed the prerequisite training for PMT #2. The 2-142 FA once again demonstrated flexibility and made a quick transition back to artillery skills proficiency testing and artillery safety certification, after receiving notification of being 'off-ramped' from the Horn of Africa mission. The remainder of fourth quarter TY13 consisted of tactical/administrative/logistical operation center training and artillery sec-

tion certification. The 2nd Battalion fully transitioned back to artillery training and is scheduled to have the firing batteries section qualified at the start of TY14.

1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery, Tennessee U.S. Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery (FA), 142nd Fires Brigade (FiB), mobilized in April 2012, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, for direct support of the Jordanian Operational Deployment Program (JODP). The nine-month deployment began with a move of pre-trained Jordanian soldiers to Afghanistan, which the 1-181 FA supported with a 12-man combat advisory tactical team (CATT), who accompanied the Jordanian soldiers. The 1-181 FA(-) spent the next two months assisting Jordanian forces in building their next battalion to train and replace those soldiers who had just departed for Afghanistan. Once the Jordanian battalion was built, the training began. The Jordanian soldiers were trained in all infantry tactics, mounted and un-mounted, for all conceivable tactical maneuvers. This mission was formerly controlled by the United States Marine Corps and was still led by this entity. The 1-181 FA had an embassy team of three personnel working directly with the embassy protocol team and the United States Marine Liaison to ensure all cultural boundaries were maintained. The 1-181 FA was also handed the task of training a 360-man security force team. This was not an easy task due to the stretching of resources and man power. The 1-181 FA pooled all resources and attacked the task head on and successfully trained both entities at the same time at two different locations. After a six-month train-up the 1-181 moved the trained soldiers into Afghanistan in the same manner that the U.S. deploys. The 1-181 then began the tedious task of building the next rotation of Jordanian soldiers for training. The training was in mid-tour when the 623rd FA battalion replaced the 1-181 and the unit was redeployed to Camp Shelby, Miss., in March 2013. During the deployment the 1-181 also supported Operation Steppe Eagle in Kazakhstan, with a platoon of Soldiers to assist in the multi-cultural exercise. The 1-181 FA's success during this deployment was revealed in Afghanistan, when the Jordanian soldiers revealed that their training had equipped them to handle the rigors of combat. They were instrumental in several combat efforts in country and succeeded in blending in with the forces of the United States and other countries to increase the effectiveness of operations in Afghanistan. A Battery, 1-181 FA has been deployed to Afghanistan, in support of OEF since September 2013.

A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery, mans a M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 181st FA)





217th Brigade Support Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, Hammer

During Training Year (TY) 2013, the 217th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) was able to provide full spectrum operational support to the 142nd Fires Brigade (FiB). The battalion proudly supported the 142nd FiB, and all of its assigned units, by focusing on those functions to keep the Soldiers 'In the Fight:' arm, fuel, fix, move and sustain. The 217th BSB drew, transported, stored and issued all ammunition for the entire brigade, to include 72 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) rockets, 800 155 mm rounds, as well as all firing components. Over the course of TY13, approximately 71,000 gallons of bulk fuel were transported and issued to the brigades various units, and the battalion's maintenance contact teams worked in conjunction with its sister units to ensure that vehicles and ground support equipment remained operational. The 217th BSB Soldiers produced approximately 7,000 gallons of water from a local lake on Fort Chaffee, Ark., that was pumped, purified and distributed for consumption. Working in conjunction with other brigade elements, they ensured Soldiers remained fed through consolidated mess operations, and the distribution of more than 550 cases of meals, ready to eat (MRE's).

Throughout TY13, the Soldiers of the 217th refined their Army Warrior Task (AWT) skills by participating in pre-mobilization training with other brigade Soldiers, trained on and completed aerial sling-load operations, developed the battalion staff and the support operations section in the area of military decision making process (MDMP) and logistical estimates, and closed out the year with a battalion change of command. The battalion continued the Guard's tradition of supporting their local communities through the participation in various parades, ceremonies and festivals. The 217th BSB remains ready to support brigade operations and looks forward to a busy and successful 2014.

169th Fires Brigade, Colorado U.S. Army National Guard, Shamrock

The 169th Fires Brigade (FiB) conducted diverse training and emergent disaster relief operations in 2013. Ranging from unified land operations training, to real world civilian support response efforts, 169th FiB continued to develop flexible, ready and resilient Soldiers for both state and federal missions.

The 169th FiB continued the previous year's high intensity conflict exercise using a Korean scenario with a command post exercise (CPX) focusing on transitioning from offensive operations to stability operations. 169th FiB also conducted a live-fire exercise (LFX) utilizing the Korean CPX scenario to frame the training.

The 169th FiB transitioned to civil support training while conducting Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training in Incident Command System levels 100, 200, 300, and 400. Training culminated in participation in Vigilant Guard 13 as a higher command for the homeland response force with embedded chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), two additional CERFP elements, and seven civil support-teams from across multiple states.

Little do we know, our civil support training would be put to the real-world test. The 169th FiB deployed a battalion headquarters and

two company/battery-sized elements to assist civil authorities with wildfire and flash flood disasters. The 169th FiB led the ground search and rescue and re-engineering efforts across a 100 square mile disaster area.

The 169th FiB Soldiers also deployed as Military Advisor Team 6 to Afghanistan, with our State Partnership Program partner, Slovenia. The brigade also hosted our other state partner, Jordan, as they field their newly acquired High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery, Illinois U.S. Army National Guard

The 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery (FA) spent this past year enhancing proficiency across our core Mission Essential Task List (METL) utilizing our M777A2 howitzer Fires platform. As Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 was the first live-fire exercise (LFX) with the M777A2, the battalion remained co-located and the focus was on familiarity, training was kept at a crawl pace. This year we were able to move into more of a walk phase, allowing the firing batteries to conduct multiple survivability moves and progress through the FA certification tables while gaining confidence and knowledge on the weapon systems. The organic forward support company (FSC), 2-123 FSC, focused on its inherent support roles of maintenance, distribution and field feeding while continuing to grow its force as a relatively new unit.

In addition, the battalion is still supporting the National Guard response force (NGRF). Homeland support missioned unit (HLSMU) is our tasking for the state of Illinois. In an effort to maintain our directed mission readiness for this assignment, 2-123 FA conducted in depth civil disturbance training, fixed site security training, access point control training, and less-than-lethal taser training at multiple echelons.

The battalion recently concluded the installation phase of its software enhanced version of Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below/Blue Force Tracker (now Joint Capabilities Release – JCR), as well as the JCR-Logistics platforms (previously Mobile Tracking System – MTS), with the new equipment training (NET) scheduled for August TY14.

3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, Colorado U.S. Army National Guard, Lightning

Lightning Battalion, Colorado's 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery (FA), 169th Fires Brigade (FiB), participated and trained in full spectrum operations.

In June, more than 100 Soldiers from Headquarters Battery and the 188th Forward Support Company (FSC) were ordered to state active duty as the core elements of two separate task forces (TFs) requested to support wildfire fighting operations in southern Colorado. Elements from across the Colorado National Guard, both Army and Air Force, fell under these TFs to provide security checkpoints, firefighters, communication support and space imagery for the incident commanders.

Just one week after completion of the wildfire missions, the 3-157 conducted annual training (AT) at Fort Carson, Colo. AT was artillery focused with additional training in Army Warrior Tasks (AWT), crew-served weapons qualification, and aerial medical evacuation. The training culminated with a high-intensity tactical scenario, 'the 96-hour war.' Incorporated into this 'fight' were platoon live-fire qualifications and a hot panel shoot with two launcher sections flying via C-130 to Fort Sill, Okla. The launchers, loaded with full pods of M28A1 rockets, were driven to nearby Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., where they



Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, participate in medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) training. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 157th FA)

were loaded into a pair of C-130s from the 302nd Airlift Wing. Once the C-130s landed at Fort Sill, the launchers off loaded and fired 12 rockets, and immediately flew back to Colorado.

In September, the battalion was once again activated in response to the most devastating flooding in Colorado's history. The initial call up consisted of Soldiers from A and B Batteries and 188 FSC, to conduct search and rescue operations for people stranded by the flooding. Once the flood waters receded the mission moved from search and rescue to recovery. Throughout the entire month of October, Soldiers from the 188 FSC provided maintenance and recovery support to Army engineer units from across the country, where they rebuilt washed out roads that isolated numerous communities between Denver and Fort Collins.

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas U.S. Army National Guard, Western Kansas Redlegs

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery (FA), 169th Fires Brigade (FiB), underwent reorganization of the Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) force structure since redeploying from the Horn of Africa in February 2012. During annual training (AT) in June 2013, 322 artillerymen and support personnel performed live-fire operations at the section level for the first time since June 2010. M109A6 Paladin howitzer crew members completed 246 fire missions, resulting in 846 high explosive projectiles impacting safe and observed within a five-day, live-fire exercise (LFX) at Fort Riley, Kan.

Throughout AT13, Echo Target Acquisition Battery (ETAB), 161st FA, stationed in Great Bend, Kan., provided counter-battery target acquisition, meteorological data and survey support for in-state elements: the 1-161 FA and the 2-130 FA. In addition, ETAB assisted the 1-129 FA, Missouri U.S. Army National Guard, by providing mission essential meteorological data in order to facilitate accurate predicted indirect Fires throughout their training exercise.

During Training Year (TY) 2013, the Soldiers of the battalion honed their warrior skills by completing artillery proficiency testing and team building exercises, such as the Leader's Reactionary Course

(LRC) at Fort Riley, Kan. In TY14, the 1-161 FA will conduct artillery core competency training in accordance with the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) by executing two LFXs. In addition, the battalion will prepare to assume the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) mission in TY15 in support of domestic operations.

147th Brigade Support Battalion, Colorado U.S. Army National Guard, Mule Train

This year, the Colorado chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) enhanced response force packages successfully met all evaluation standards during the 2013 CBRN enhanced response force (CERFP) exercise evaluation, and was subsequently validated by the Joint Inter-Agency Training and Evaluation Center. Riding high on the achievement, Colorado CERFP proceeded to successfully accomplish all missions during the Vigilant Guard 13 training exercise. The Colorado CERFP task organization consists of the 147th Brigade Support Battalion (169th Fires Brigade) and 140th Air Force Medical Group (-).

On July 25, 2013, Colorado CERFP successfully completed a training exercise designed to add a new air mobilization capability. The unit was called upon to respond to an incident scenario in which a tornado had torn through a region near Watkins, Colo., leaving a hazardous chemical spill, and numerous casualties in its wake. Because traffic congestion and debris prevented ground vehicular movement to the incident location, the team was unable to drive to the scene, calling for an air mobilization response; a capability never before trained by the Colorado CERFP. All casualties were successfully extracted, decontaminated, treated and evacuated. The training exercise video, scenario briefs, and operation orders are posted on the Colorado CERFP Face Book page: <https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoCERFP>



A M777A2 from 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery, participates in a fire mission. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 103rd FA)

197th Fires Brigade, New Hampshire U.S. Army National Guard, Granite Thunder Brigade 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery, Rhode Island U.S. Army National Guard

During Training Year (TY) 2013, the 1st Battalion, 103d Field Artillery (FA), 197th Fires Brigade (FiB), was able to complete two battalion live-fire exercises (LFXs). During the month of April, each firing battery (A, B, and C) was allocated one weekend to conduct a LFX at Camp Ethan Allen, Vt., with 89th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) combat observation laser team (COLT) support. This provided a total of three weekends of training for the battalion fire direction center (FDC) section.

Annual training (AT) was conducted at Fort Drum, N.Y., in July, which included all five assigned units (Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, A, B, C Batteries and 1207th Forward Support Company). The battalion conducted a seven-day field training exercise (FTX) which incorporated section and battery certification. The battalion FDC section was able to receive and process several brigade-level driven fire missions. The firing batteries fired a total of 1,200 rounds during the live-fire portion of the FTX. Due to numerous deployments, this was the first time the organization had the opportunity to certify as a complete battalion since 2004.

1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery, Michigan U.S. Army National Guard, Red Lions

This year, Michigan's *Red Lions* eagerly transitioned to train-ready year one. Sections spent 2013 completing their Artillery Skills Proficiency Test (ASPT) and section level qualifications. The howitzer and



2LT Masterson of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery, observes PV2 Lichner construct a surveyed firing chart during the unit's 2013 Annual Training, exposing him to manual gunnery prior to attending Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC). (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 119th FA)

fire direction section chiefs took advantage of their time at home station and in the field, honing their skills and ultimately certifying their respective sections at the battalion's annual training (AT).

The 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery (FA), 197th Fires Brigade (FiB), culminating training event occurred during AT in July. While at Camp Grayling, Joint Multinational Training Center (CGJMTTC), Mich., all three batteries conducted live-fire exercises (LFXs), firing more than 1,200 rounds. In addition to their live-fire training, the battalion improved their combat effectiveness by training, rehearsing and conducting sling-load and low-cost, low-altitude operations. These efforts allowed all three firing batteries to be re-supplied with Class I/V via UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

As the *Red Lions* move forward and expand their capabilities, the battalion continues to prove they can adapt to any situation or environment. The 119th Soldiers will test their skills and resolve in November, by conducting extreme cold weather training to prepare for winter LFX at Camp Grayling in 2014.

As this year comes to a close, the Soldiers of the battalion can reflect on setting and passing their 2013 milestones while always training to meet the next challenge. The commander's intent continues to push the individual Soldiers and units in new and exciting directions. In 2013, the 1-119 FA showed that they train and live by their motto, 'Prepare the Way.'

1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, Michigan U.S. Army National Guard, Sudden Death

Soldiers of the *Sudden Death* Battalion, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery (FA), 197th Fires Brigade (FiB), Michigan U.S. Army National Guard, returned to Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) training at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center (CGJMTTC), Mich., by conducting their new equipment training (NET) and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) fielding during the third quarter of the 2012 training year. SSG Darwin Brooks, a HIMARS section chief for A Battery, 1-182 FA stated "We have been waiting a long time for

this, and we are again training on what we love and what we signed up to do!”

While the NET fielding focused on equipment and the transition of the battalion from the M270 track vehicle platform to the M142 HIMARS platform, the section certification and qualification focused on people. Qualification live-fire was the culmination of many months of Soldier and section level training that involved written and hands-on tests in addition to practical exercises. For many Soldiers, the artillery skills being tested and evaluated presented new challenges and opportunities, because these Soldiers have not conducted their FA mission for several years due to the battalion’s multiple deployments over the last few training years. The battalion has not conducted a live-fire exercise (LFX) since July 2009, and during that time the battalion had not been fielded the HIMARS platform.

Given these challenges, the 100 percent pass rate for the 2012 NET fielding training was quite impressive. Every MLRS repairman, wheeled vehicle mechanic, launcher/ammunition crewman, and fire direction crewman successfully completed training. The success of the NET and fielding proved the battalion was ready to deliver safe, fast and accurate Fires.

During Annual Training (AT) 2013, the battalion deployed on the centennial of CGJMTC to conduct Artillery Tables I through VI. These tables include all skills necessary to manage a firing section, a fire direction section, and ammunition reload section. Each section is required to certify as a team with all training validated by the battalion master gunner, SFC Douglas Cann, and certified by the battalion commander, LTC Edward Koledo.

In an attempt to build a close partnership with our active component counterparts, the 2nd Battalion, 289th FA, currently assigned to Camp Atterbury, Ind., on an active component/reserve component mission was invited to participate in training. They responded with an artillery sense of urgency by sending three 13Ms, their operations NCO, and training officer. The 13Ms, integrated effortlessly into A Battery and completed the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test (ASPT), safety tests, Artillery Tables I through V, and successfully fired during the qualification LFX.

With certification and a flawless qualification complete, the battalion and battery commanders are confident that Fires can be delivered safely, timely and accurately in support of the mission.

With no internal observation assets and a requirement to observe all Fires, the 182nd reached out to B Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB), 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), who is equipped with the RQ-7B (Shadow) Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). They were able to incorporate their UAS operations into the HIMARS live-fire event, which expanded training opportunities and highlighted the unit’s superior capability of observing artillery. B Company, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation further assisted in observation using their newly acquired UH-72A Lakota Light Utility Helicopter. Observers aboard the Lakota were able to provide real time feedback and ‘eyes on’ observation while the Shadow was able to provide 12-digit grids to all 48 rocket impacts. The opportunity to integrate multiple units was mutually beneficial providing a welcome expansion to training and an increased awareness of capabilities across the state of Michigan.

In addition to hosting the 2-289 FA, the battalion also hosted a contingent of Soldiers from Latvia, including the FA battalion commander, executive officer, and fire direction officer from a mixed battalion of mortars and tubes. “The Michigan National Guard is one of the first State Partnership Program participants and has been working in partnership with Latvia for 21 years,” according to MAJ Scott Walker, the state partnership officer. The Latvian officers were impressed with the HIMARS and its capabilities, and hope to add something like it to their gun lines in the future.

The *Sudden Death* Battalion will continue to train hard and strive to meet all annual requirements. The 1st Battalion 182nd FA is up to the mission of delivering lethal Fires in order to dominate the operational environment and retain the title, ‘King of Battle!’

3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery, New Hampshire U.S. Army National Guard, Granite Steel

The 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery (FA), *Granite Steel* Battalion, New Hampshire U.S. Army National Guard (ARNG), organic to the

A High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), from A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery, fires during live-fire qualifications. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 197th FA)





197th Fires Brigade (FiB), *Granite Thunder* Brigade, ARNG, convoyed to Fort Drum, N.Y., in July 2013, to conduct its first live-fire exercise (LFX) since September 2009, when it first fielded the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

The *Granite Steel* Battalion redeployed from a year long deployment in support of Operation New Dawn in late August 2011, and began its retraining as a HIMARS battalion. The focus of 2012, was reset operations and a focus on retraining in its core artillery tasks. In September 2012, the battalion went to Fort Devens, Mass., to conduct Fire Control Panel software fielding/training, Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below fielding/training, tactical operations center (TOC) Security Course training, artillery skills proficiency training/testing, and HIMARS safety training.

The training in preparation for the July 2013 LFX was intense. The *Granite Steel* Soldiers had to develop new standard operating procedures (SOPs), relearn HIMARS artillery safety, conduct Artillery Skills Proficiency Testing, certify on the 13P and 13M artillery gunnery tables, train on its Mission Essential Task List (METL), and train on the multitude of mandatory training requirements.

The *Granite Steel* Battalion met the challenge. Through the hard work, dedication and strict enforcement of standards, the battalion was able to accomplish platoon-level qualifications, Table XII, a full year ahead of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) requirement, in a safe and professional manner. The Training Year (TY) 2014 training plan will continue to challenge the Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion and build upon their capabilities to deliver accurate and timely rocket and missile Fires. *Granite Steel!*

1st Battalion, 426th Field Artillery, U.S. Wisconsin U.S. Army National Guard Regional Training Institute

The 1st Battalion, 426th Field Artillery (FA), Wisconsin U.S. Army National Guard Regional Training Institute (RTI) located at Fort McCoy, Wis., maintained its usual busy pace this past year — a year that once again included some notable ‘firsts.’ One such achievement was National Guard Soldiers instructing active duty personnel in the Non-commissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) 13 Series. The battalion trained 55 active duty Soldiers during two 13F30 and one 13B30 course. The ‘One Army School System’ is truly in effect at the 426th RTI.

Twelve 426th RTI instructors attended Excalibur/M777 new equipment training (NET) field training with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas. This training further enhanced instructor skill sets and enabled collaboration by artillery regiment from different units. It also marked the first incorporation of National Guard and active duty Soldiers in rolling out new equipment together.

The 1-426 RTI solidified its standing as a 13 series NCOES schoolhouse with its third consecutive accreditation as an ‘Institution of Excellence’ by Fort Sill, Okla. During a week-long visit, the Fort Sill accreditation team noted the professionalism and overall knowledge of 426th RTI instructors. The 426th in its entirety was also recently accredited by Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) as an ‘Institution of Excellence.’

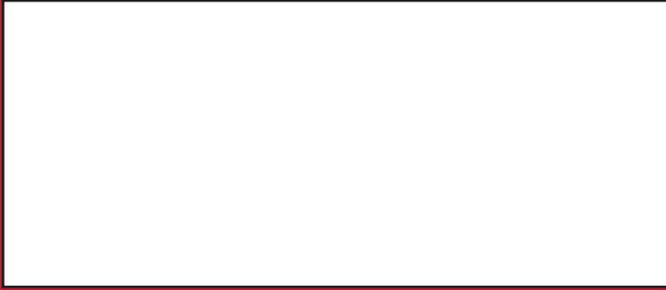
The 426th RTI continued to be in demand as an artillery regiment training destination with 437 *Redlegs* graduating from 51 courses this past year, to include one entire California U.S. Army National Guard platoon for pre-combat training in M777. ‘*Excellentia Normalis!*’

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/475055>

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 426th Field Artillery, pose for a unit photo. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 426th FA)



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SSG Joshua Price of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, prepares to jump from a Royal Canadian CC-130J Hercules during a joint operational access exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C. The Joint Operational Access Exercise 13-02 is a combined joint training exercise designed to prepare elements of the 82nd Airborne Division, along with its partners and enablers, to respond as part of the Global Response Force. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Vernon Young Jr., U.S. Air Force)