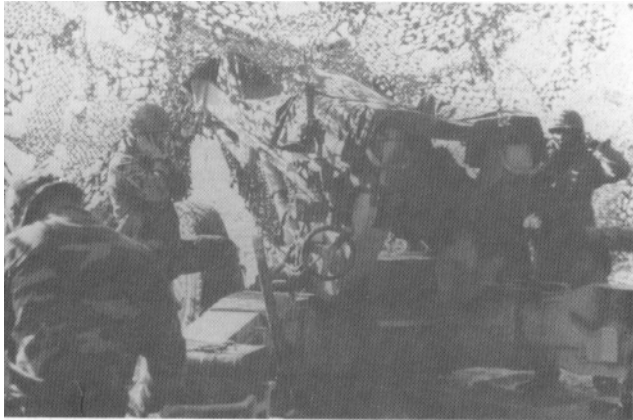


# Right by Piece

## NOTES FROM UNITS



Soldiers from the 3-8th FA prepare to send a 155-mm round downrange. (Photo by LTC Arturo Rodriguez)

### Thunderbolts are ready

FORT BRAGG, NC—The day is gray and damp. A CH-47 helicopter strains from the weight of the 7 1/2 ton M198 howitzer slung beneath it. Soldiers emerge from their concealed positions on the perimeter and rush into the swirling dirt and hurricane-like winds to emplace the M198 howitzer. As the helicopter descends, the soldiers wrestle the howitzer into position and unhook it. The helicopter quickly departs to pick up another load. Three minutes later the howitzer is ready to fire. In the meantime, the fire direction center contacts the forward observer and computes firing data by using emergency fire direction procedures.

Suddenly, the stillness of the firing point is shattered by a thunderous shot from the howitzer—the first round in a time-plot registration goes downrange.

A scene similar to this one was repeated three times recently as the Thunderbolts of the 3d Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, conducted firing battery Army Training and Evaluation Programs (ARTEPs) to evaluate the state of training and combat readiness of each of its firing battery. This evaluation was especially important this year because the Thunderbolts were preparing to undergo the battalion-level ARTEP-based qualification test which, unlike previous ARTEPs, requires that the battalion attain certain minimum scores in tactical operations, gunnery, and nuclear missions.

Although the battery ARTEPs only lasted 36 hours, soldiers were evaluated closely on logistics and supply, maintenance, mess, gunnery, position occupation, nuclear operations, air movements, reaction to aggressors and NBC, communications, and numerous other individual and unit tasks.

Each Thunderbolt soldier hoped his battery would perform well, and everyone worked hard to achieve that goal. Battery A was judged to have performed the best overall, but only by a slim margin. Battery C achieved an impressive 94 percent accuracy in fire missions, while Battery B set the standard in air movement and nuclear operations. All three batteries proved they could accomplish the field artillery mission of moving, communicating, and, most importantly, providing timely and accurate fires in support of the maneuver forces. (CPT Al Mrozek)



LOUISBURG, NC—The new and the old: Specialist Four Ricky Fowler of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, North Carolina Army National Guard, use his modern M-11 decontaminating apparatus to decontaminate an old German M-105 howitzer while practicing NBC defense techniques. The World War II German howitzer is on display in front of the National Guard Armory in Louisburg, North Carolina. (Photo by CPT Floyd Whitney)



CAMP ESSAYONS, KOREA—Battery C, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, the first multiple launch rocket system COHORT battery for the 2d Infantry Division Artillery, arrived in the Republic of South Korea in April 1984. After an initial train-up and familiarization period, the unit went to the field and conducted a live-fire exercise in conjunction with a Republic of South Korea Honest John battalion.



**CAMP STANLEY, KOREA**—Members of the Salute Battery of the 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, demonstrate their firing skills during Armed Forces Day activities. (Photo by Geary McSpadden)



**FORT CAMPBELL, KY**—Soldiers from the 2d Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), complete the final hook-up of an M198 155-mm howitzer for a practice raid across the forward edge of the battle area at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (Photo by PFC Bill Powell)



**GUENZBURG, WEST GERMANY**—Sergeant Bernard Hamilton of the 36th US Field Artillery Detachment uses the drinking tube to drink water from his canteen at one of six stations on a timed nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) course during the 512th US Army Artillery Group's NBC Olympics. (Photo by SP4 Tamara Richmond)



## Training to survive

WEBSTER, SD—The 2d Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, was one of the first in the nation to complete successfully the requirements of Appendix C, FORSCOM Regulation 350-2. This occurred during Annual Training (AT) 83 at Fort Carson. Shortly thereafter, the battalion completed the requirements of a technical verification inspection (TVI). So for AT 84 the battalion staff wanted to put emphasis on survivability tasks and came up with some new ideas and developed some new training plans.

The name of every soldier in the battalion was placed in a box. Each evening, the battalion S1 drew eight names from each battery; these 40 individuals became casualties (killed in action) for the next day. From early in the morning until early the following day they were not available to their unit. What were the results of this action?

- Sustainability began to mean something. Each unit and section found out that they could function without key personnel. Without "good ole" sergeant or specialist or private so-and-so, they began thinking and getting the job done. They were not always as fast or efficient as their leaders and comrades but the junior enlisted men *did get the job done*.

- Cross-training became a reality. Our junior NCOs and specialists found themselves assuming positions of one and sometimes two grades above their own. Gunners sometimes had to become section chiefs overnight. Chiefs of firing battery discovered that they were the first sergeant for the next day. The cross-training was a huge success and will benefit individual soldiers and the battalion in the future.

- Those 40 casualties (eight per battery) were taken from the unit for a period of 24 hours and became a 40-man OPFOR detachment. From 0700 to 1100 hours, they received instruction on infantry and small unit tactics. Personnel of the Infantry BAT from Fort Riley, Kansas, taught these individuals to become aggressors. Then from 1200 hours that day to about 0400 the next day they conducted OPFOR activities against the 2-147th FA, which used its training assistant and a couple of training NCOs as the "permanent party" for the OPFOR. No one at battalion knew when or where the OPFOR would strike. The OPFOR knew the battalion's plans, but the battalion staff didn't know theirs. At first, no one wanted to be on the OPFOR list, but by the end of the AT those who had not gotten the opportunity were wishing they had. The OPFOR worked both day and night and used blank ammunition and pyrotechnics.

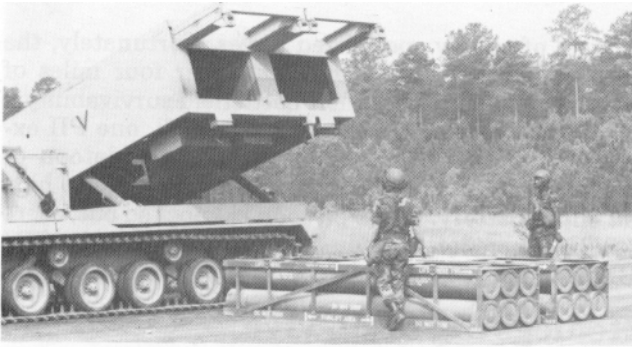


The 153d Combat Engineers Battalion, South Dakota National Guard, were at AT 84 during the same time period, and its Company B worked exclusively with the OPFOR each day—setting up roadblocks, cribs, minefields, etc. Company A was assigned to the 2-147th FA—with a platoon assigned to each battery. When obstacles were encountered, the commanders learned to call on these expert engineer personnel and equipment to clear them. By the end of the two weeks, the commanders were integrating these combat engineers into our perimeter defense, calling on their leaders for their advise on positioning, defensibility, and many other combat engineer skills.

- The 147th FA Brigade wrote a scenario that incorporated ideas noted above and also placed other demands on our battalion such as NBC play. In accomplishing this training, however, the battalion could not forget its main mission—to provide fire power to the brigade. During the first week, nonpersistent chemical attacks were initiated which forced units into MOPP situations and necessitated moves. By the end of the second week, chemical attacks with simulated persistent agents occurred. Units had to go into a MOPP 4 status, complete certain missions, displace, and then be decontaminated. MOPP 4 was maintained up to six hours for some of the units.

The evaluator comments at the end of AT summed up the training during that period: "All training was conducted in a tactical environment, using a tactical situation. The unit used a KIA program to take key personnel out of action for a 24-hour period. These personnel received individual and collective training at another location."

"Training to survive" had become a reality, and that reality had become very challenging and rewarding. This type of training doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of planning, revising, and most of all a lot of hard work. The battalion could not have accomplished this extensive training without the wholehearted support and cooperation of the 147th FA Brigade and the 153d Engineer Battalion. (CPT Orville D. Roberts, 2-147th FA)



**FORT STEWART, GA—**Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, ended a week-long Army Training and Evaluation Program (ARTEP) with the firing of the multiple launch rocket system (MLRS). This was the first firing of the rocket system at Fort Stewart. In the top photo, Sergeant Walter Chevis (left) and Sergeant Bullard direct the loading bars over the rockets. Then Sergeant Chevis pulls down the guiding cable that loads the MLRS. At top right, the crew watches the loading process as Sergeant Chevis guides the live rockets into the MLRS, and Private Two Joseph Welch, the driver, watches for any malfunctions in the process. Then the rocket is on its way to a target. (Photos by PV2 Patrick Burke)







## Surviving with Pershing II

FORT SILL, OK—An alarm blast shatters the silence; an inert camp springs to life. With practiced precision, soldiers scramble to their positions and unveil a massive, dormant missile. A computerized digital picture invades the weapon's computer system, and the firing chief shouts, "Clear the area!"

This was the scene on Friday, 19 October, as the only stateside Pershing II (PII) missile unit, Fort Sill's Battery A, 3d Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, participated in a 10-day survivability exercise alongside its two sister Pershing la batteries. The exercise, dubbed "Operation Autumn Thunder," was A Battery's first major tactical training since it was equipped with the Pershing II in late May. The remainder of the battalion is slated to convert to PII during 1985.

PII units in Europe can fire their missiles within 25 minutes after a release order is issued by the Army's European Headquarters. Within only 12 minutes, their missiles can hit a target 1,000 miles away. On the downward leg of its trajectory, each missile would lock onto a target with a newly developed radar system, which displays a picture of the target area, and would be guided into the target by specially designed fins.

PII is an entirely self-contained system; it has no umbilical cord that ties it to a central computer. It requires no central power source, and each missile can operate independently. In fact, each missile receives its power from diesel generators which can run for days using a single tank of fuel and which

are much quieter than turbine engines.

Although Pershing units are usually deployed about 100 miles behind the frontline, they will be the primary targets of enemy specialized forces. Fortunately, the new PII missiles can spread out over four miles of terrain. This increases their battlefield survivability a hundredfold over P1a missiles. After all, one PII expert notes, "It is a lot easier to hide a platoon of vehicles and soldiers in one position than it is to hide an entire battery. If one platoon is knocked out, there will be others left to fight." (Story and photo by SP4 Brian E. Padget.)

## Redlegs dig to survive

FORT LEWIS, WA—Redlegs of the 1st Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, learned how to survive on the modern battlefield last October. Training began with a 1 1/2-hour presentation which included video tapes on the enemy threat and various survivability techniques. The Redlegs then moved to Range 34 where the soldiers of Battery A, 1-11th FA, had to harden the positions of their six 155-mm M198 howitzers.

These positions displayed the various levels of protection which could be achieved with and without engineer support. Foxholes were dug for perimeter defense, and hardened positions were constructed for the fire direction center and mess facilities. The sites required from one-half hour to three days to prepare.

One howitzer was set up with no protection, and the crew worked directly out of the back of the truck. This type of site can be prepared in about one-half hour, but it can only be occupied for one or two hours in a high-intensity environment. Other positions were hardened by building a dirt berm, which gives a much better chance for survival. A direct hit would be necessary to destroy this type of site. Still other sites included sandbag bunkers for personnel, shells, and powder. Such a site would be constructed for relatively static support.

All the work in setting up the display areas was done by the Redlegs of Battery A. They spent three weeks digging positions and filling sandbags. In fact, they filled over 20,000 sandbags; 5,000 of these sandbags were used at one site alone.

Constructing a survivable site is time-consuming, but it is something that most soldiers have neither seen nor done. Environmental factors and costs often preclude this vital individual and collective training. The 1-11th FA personnel recognized this problem and are preparing a video tape which will capture this valuable training for future use and reference.



ANSBACH, WEST GERMANY—Redlegs of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, take their new multiple launch rocket system to the field for live firing.



**Members of the Veteran Corps of Artillery await the command to fire the Fourth of July Salute to the Nation at Battery Park, New York City.**

## Veteran Corps of Artillery

NEW YORK, NY—Our shores were unprotected; what little army we had was on the western frontier, too far away to be of any help in an emergency. The British were creating problems on the high seas, and there was a growing fear that they might attack New York once more. Under this kind of backdrop, the Veteran Corps of Artillery was born.

A group of officers and men of Washington's disbanded Army—many from the Second Regiment Continental Corps of Artillery—assembled at City Arms Tavern on Evacuation Day, 25 November 1790, in lower Manhattan and "voluntarily associated, constituted, and formed themselves into a separate and distinct Corps of Artillery of the State of New York, with such number of artillery companies as might from time to time be found desirable, the formation of such companies to be prescribed in the Act of 14 April 1786." This formation of 1790 has never been changed in the Corps.

Having chosen its officers, the Corps armed and equipped itself at its own expense according to the prescribed regulations of the Artillery of the United States Army in 1790; its officers were commissioned by the Governor. From 1790 to 1800, the Corps recruited 921 men who were organized into three regiments. Formal application for recognition as an independent Corps of Artillery was granted by George Clinton, Governor of the State of New York, on 16 February 1791. Records indicate that the Corps twice volunteered its services—first on 3 March 1803 and again on 19 October 1809—for the protection of its country and is on record as the first militia organization to volunteer its services.

On 25 June 1812, the Corps was mustered into Federal service and attached to the First Brigade of Artillery, New York State Militia, where it served "on call" until 2 March 1815.

On 17 September 1854, the Corps was declared to be a separate artillery Reserve brigade. Its commandant was given the permanent rank of brigadier general, and its vice commandant that of colonel. The Corps is comprehended under the National Defense Act as being one of nine historic military organizations liable for duty under orders of the President in time of war.

The Corps was given the option of choosing its own uniform; so, in 1900, it adopted the uniform to conform to the United States Army dress coat of 1812. This uniform is still worn today for ceremonial occasions.

As the oldest independent command in the state of New York, the Corps is afforded the position of Honor Guard for military parades in Manhattan and leads the Armed Forces Day parade up Fifth Avenue each year. On Independence Day, it fires a 50-gun salute to the Nation with its two 75-mm pack howitzers and participates in special events such as firing a 21-gun salute to the King and Queen of Spain when they visited Brooklyn in 1975. The Corps also serves as the military honor guard to the Governor on his request.

The Corps is assigned space for headquarters and drill purposes in the Seventh Regiment Armory in Manhattan and meets every Tuesday evening during October through May. It is assigned training facilities at Camp Smith, a New York State National Guard training site.

The Veteran Corps of Artillery has been in service for 194 years. Its first commanding officer was Lieutenant John Delamater, and its present commanding officer is Major General James W. Gerard II. (COL Malcolm G. Smith, Vice Commandant, Veteran Corps of Artillery)



FORT SILL, OK—The first of five pure Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalions to be activated under the Army's Force Modernization Program was formed at Fort Sill on 1 October 1984.

Six MLRS batteries already support the Army's heavy divisions in the United States and Europe, but the new MLRS battalions will support corps. The new battalion—6th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery—is assigned to the 75th Field Artillery Brigade and will support III Corps Artillery which has its headquarters at Fort Sill.

Soldiers to man the new battalion are coming from field artillery units all over the world. It will take approximately one year to train personnel to man the new battalion's headquarters battery and three firing batteries. Each firing battery will have nine self-propelled launcher-loaders.