



Fires

The 2016



Red Book

A highlight of the outstanding achievements accomplished by the Fires community throughout 2016 and a look ahead at the future of the Fires force.

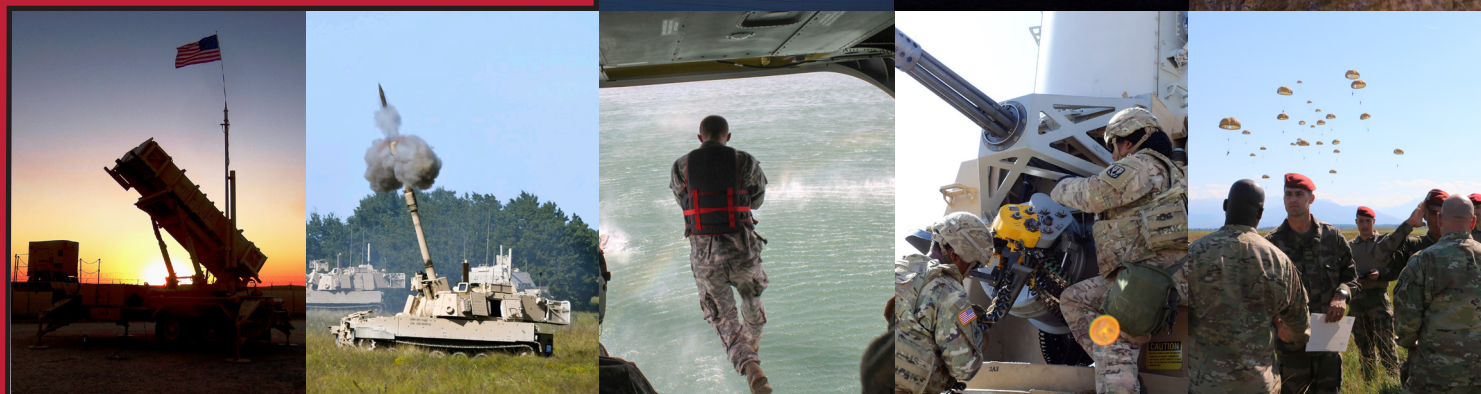


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Fires, January-February 2017

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Purpose

Originally founded as the Field Artillery Journal, Fires serves as a forum for the discussions of all Fires professionals, Active, Reserves and National Guard; disseminates professional knowledge about progress, development 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, all of which contribute to the good of the Army, joint and combined forces and our nation.

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New Fires Bulletin App

The content you expect on your devices.

The journal for U.S. Artillery professionals is changing apps. The resources that you have grown to expect, feature articles on topics that affect you, conversations on current and future doctrine are available for Android and iOS devices.



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Col. Stephen Maranian

U.S. Army Field Artillery School
commandant

State of the Field Artillery 2016

This has been a significant year for the field artillery and the United States Field Artillery School. Several developments and initiatives came to fruition; at the heart of which was the publication of our Field Artillery Vision.

"Be the world's premier field artillery force; modernized, organized, trained, and ready to integrate and employ Army, joint, and multinational Fires, across multiple domains, enabling victory through unified land operations."

The vision defines five lines of effort (LOEs), comprising the Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leader Development, Personnel, Facilities and Policy domains, and provides a common direction forward.

The five LOEs are: 1) Enable readiness in the operational force; 2) Educate and train competent, adaptive professionals; 3) Modernize the force; 4) Advance targeting and joint/multinational Fires integration; and 5) Personnel development and talent management. Each encompasses several initiatives and programs.

1. Enable readiness in the operational force

Line of effort 1 includes several initiatives; however, crucial to this LOE is routine and consistent dialogue with Fires and maneuver leaders in the operational force to seek input to ways that the FA school can enable readiness. To this end we've conducted multiple Fires and FA forums where ideas have been exchanged and valuable lessons learned collected and disseminated.

We've also increased cooperation and understanding between the branch and several multinational partners by hosting joint and multinational partnered training, and by conducting site visits to a few of our allies and partners. Information collected from all these engagements has informed our programs of instruction (POI) in an effort to provide the best training possible for our force.

2. Educate and train competent and adaptive professionals

We must be masters of our craft. As a critical part of the combined arms team, it is paramount that our fire supporters are able to contribute significantly immediately upon arrival at their gaining units. To ensure this, we continue to refine and enhance the quality of training for our Soldiers and leaders at echelon.

We've made a significant impact improving our core competencies. Highlights include inserting joint Fires observer training into our professional military education; the effort to modify and intensify our Master Gunner Course; embracing the Joint Air Ground Integration Cell (JAGIC) concept; bringing back and securing funding for the Joint Operational Fires and Effects Course (JOFEC), and enhancing our Brigade Combat Team Pre-Command Course (BCT PCC) Fires Orientation by emphasizing what the integration of Brigade Fire Support Element with the Air Defense Airspace Management/Brigade Aviation Element (ADAM/BAE) cell brings to the fight.

Joint Fires observer training

First, we've redefined the skill set of our 13Fs, to include an increased emphasis on accuracy and precision. We accomplished this by extending the 13F Advanced Individual Training (AIT) course to cover critical material in the appropriate depth. Now, 13F AIT graduates, know how to use all fire support equipment to achieve accurate target locations, are familiar with JFO techniques and have conducted significant practical hands-on training in the live, virtual and constructive domains. Appropriately, we renamed the 13F the joint fire support specialist. Beginning in the fall of 2017, 13Fs will receive qualifications as JFOs while attending AIT in preparation for certification at their units.

We've also added JFO qualification to the Basic Officers Leader Course (BOLC-B) program of instruction. Every BOLC-B

graduate is a qualified JFO requiring gaining units only to complete certifications through a comprehensive practical exercise.

Master Gunner Course

To assist the fire support community in meeting the tasks and standards within TC3-09.8 Field Artillery Gunnery, we've added a 13F joint fire support module to the Field Artillery Master Gunner Course.

Graduates of this course will be able to integrate, execute, and sustain joint fire support training, the Fire Support Certification program, and will be able to serve as joint Fires subject matter experts for the fire support coordinator. To continue this momentum, we're aiming to expand the length of our Master Gunner Course to roughly eight weeks, and make it available in three tracks tailored to the 13-series military occupational specialties.

Joint Air Ground Integration Cell

Our division artillery brigades, field artillery brigades, and brigade combat teams continue to perform extremely well, have empowered much change and are invaluable members of the team. We must continue to support and resource them so they are able to routinely do all that our maneuver forces need them to do as well as serve as experts on standards and competencies. One successful endeavor in this area is the Joint Air Ground Integration Cell (JAGIC) construct.

The JAGIC is an execution cell that collocates the capabilities of the Air Support Operations Center with the Fires Cell, Air Missile Defense, Army Aviation, and Airspace Element in the Division's Current Operations Integration Cell.

As the JAGIC concept within the divisions continues to develop, it is imperative for those units going to Mission Command Training Program facilitated warfighter exercises to continue to share their lessons learned with the force. In order to address training gaps associated with JAGIC personnel, we've reestablished and resourced the Joint Operational Fires and Effects Course that will be operational in January of 2017.

Brigade Combat Team Pre-Command Course Fires Orientation

Following two successful pilots this year, the U.S. Army Forces Command commanding general requested that the Fires Center of Excellence sustain the Brigade Combat Team Pre-Command Course Fires Orientation, and conduct three courses per year for all active component and reserve component brigade combat team commanders. We've incorporated critical training and commanders' guidance for Fires, fire sup-

port coordinating measure /airspace control measure use, and the roles, functions, and importance of fire support element's integration with the Air Defense Airspace Management/Brigade Aviation Element or most commonly known as the ADAM/BAE cell.

3. Modernize the force

To maintain our status as the world's premier field artillery force we must continue to modernize. To accomplish this we're working diligently to obtain capabilities and employ cutting edge technologies that will ensure an advantage over potential peer or near-peer adversaries. This plan will be used for resourcing, development, and acquisition of these advanced capabilities.

We must continue to give our operational Fires headquarters all the tools necessary to deliver Fires in support of their maneuver headquarters. This includes updating the Field Artillery Brigade Army Techniques Publication (ATP), finalizing the DIVARTY ATP, and being heavily involved in the development of the Deep Operations ATP. It also includes giving these headquarters the organizational, materiel and training tools necessary to succeed on the battlefield.

DIVARTYs and FABs must deliver to the division and corps commanders the ability to integrate operational to tactical-level, cross-domain Fires. As the Force Field Artillery headquarters for divisions and corps, FA units' integration and synchronization of Fires is the critical link between Fires and maneuver which will enable maneuver commanders to dominate in Unified Land Operations.

4. Advance targeting and joint/multinational integration

In the future, we must continue to coordinate and integrate Army, Joint, Inter-organizational, and Multinational (JIM) Fires, and conduct targeting across all domains to defeat the enemy and preserve both freedom of maneuver and freedom of action across the range of military operations. As a part of this coordination and integration, the LOE of Advance Targeting and Joint/Multinational Integration includes the continuous development and maturation of the newly designated Army Targeting Center (ATC), and the transformation of our MOS 131A—Field Artillery Warrant Officers into Mission Command Targeting Systems Integration experts.

Army Targeting Center

In 2016, the Chief of Staff of the Army approved the designation of the Fires Targeting Center as the Army Targeting Center. It is now the Army's proponent for target-

ing. The ATC's primary focus is joint training policy, doctrine and integration. The ATC provides a significant outreach to operational units to assist them in implementing and sustaining joint targeting accreditation and certification programs.

We anticipate future growth of the ATC in the coming years to provide the operational force a reach-back capability to assist them in their targeting needs.

Field artillery warrant officer- MOS 131A

To sustain momentum enhancing the targeting process, our 131A field artillery warrant officers must become systems integrators of targeting mission command systems in order to leverage our sensors and data. As targeting experts they must have a comprehensive knowledge of all the technical data and resources available and know how to pull together the targeting process. We are currently working on transforming the 131A POI to leverage the latest variant of the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System and all other mission command systems. Once completed, this POI will enable 131As to synchronize a more robust common operational picture to assist the commander in the targeting process and making decisions.

5. Personnel development and talent management

DIVARTY, FAB and BCD commanders and their command sergeants major play a critical role in talent management and growing leaders from an early point in their careers. It is also important to get young leaders assignments and training which develops them for the branch and for our Army.

To assist in this effort, within the FA Branch we've made significant updates to DA Pamphlets 600-3 and 600-25 to guide commanders as they conduct talent management within the FA Branch. Additionally, it is imperative that we optimize opportunities such as Cadet Troop Leader Training and outreach efforts by the Field Artillery Proponency Office to ensure we are attracting the best possible talent into the FA Branch.

The King of Battle

Ultimately the Field Artillery Branch is about our people. Of the total force of 985,000 approximately seven percent of that force is field artillery – the Army is getting a big bang for its buck. All of our Redlegs should be proud of what they have accomplished in 2016, and where we are headed in 2017.

King of Battle! Redleg 6!



Brig. Gen. Randy McIntire
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School
commandant

Back to the future

As 2016 comes to an end, and I look back over my first six months of serving as the Air Defense Artillery commandant and branch chief, I am amazed by the talent, professionalism and commitment our Soldiers, leaders and civilians bring to the fight every single day. I also realize that the complex and uncertain world we live in requires our continuous need to modernize and shift priorities to maintain our edge over an ever evolving threat. It is incumbent upon us, as our nation's air defenders, to keep pace and remain the most lethal air defense force in the world.

As 2016 began, we focused our efforts on developing modernization fielding plans to enhance our systems capabilities. We began testing of Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System that will transform and fundamentally change the way we man, train and organize our forces in the future. We will continue to adjust our doctrine and explore organizational changes to achieve maximum efficiency.

Now, as the year comes to an end, branch transformation and air and missile defense (AMD) modernization still remain my No. 1 and No. 2 priority. However with near-peer global competitors employing highly lethal threat sets using low-budget technology, our strategy of employing short-range air defense (SHORAD) has re-emerged as a focus for our branch, and is now my No. 3 priority. These priorities are consistent with my desire to design and develop the future AMD force. Yes, we are heading back to the future!

These changes, must be coupled with our ongoing efforts to lessen the hardships of our Soldiers and their families while continuing to meet our deployment missions. At a staggering 58 percent, our units are the most deployed force in the Army. Yet, air defenders remain mission-focused and are proving their resiliency despite the strain of multiple deployments and unaccompanied overseas assignments. Both the Department of Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense understand the impact the sustained commitment of ADA forces overseas has had on our Soldiers and their families. As Gen. George S. Patton once said, "Wars

may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men." Other senior leaders and I are extremely proud of our Air Defense Soldiers, and are actively pursuing alternative solutions to reduce the stress on the force. We remain committed to mitigating these challenges.

Under the leadership of Col. David Baxter and Command Sgt. Maj. John Young, the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade continues to transform our training, education and leader development programs while reorganizing the school under a singular Fires brigade. In addition to major modernization across all facets of air defense, there is renewed emphasis on SHORAD and the critical protection it brings to our brigade combat teams. We will expand our work to resolve the risk to our maneuver formations.

Leader development will be the most important aspect of ADA branch transformation. The ADA school is in step with the Army Leader Development Strategy and it is nested with the Army Human Dimension (HD) Strategy. The strategy is designed to produce Soldiers and leaders who, not only operate effectively in the complex operating environment of the future, but thrive in complex and ambiguous environments.

Growing the strategic force

This was another busy year for the Terminal High-Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) force as it grows and modernizes. On the operational side, B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment relieved D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment on a rotational basis in Guam. E Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment completed new equipment training (NET), fielded new Configuration-2 hardware upgrades and deployed to Guam replacing D/2nd ADAR as a permanent change of station. E/3rd ADAR will remain on Guam as a permanent station assignment. A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment and A/2nd ADAR split contingency force mission responsibilities. On the growth side of the force, in January and October respectively, E Battery, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment and its sister unit B Battery, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment activated at Fort Hood, Texas. NET for E/62nd ADAR is approximately one



The Oozelfinch, mascot for the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery branch, stands in the crowd during the Army versus Air Force football game. (Courtesy photo)

third complete. B/62nd ADAR begins NET in 2017. We reached a significant modernization milestone in May, when we fielded software build 2.2.1 to B/2nd ADAR. It was the first time that all THAAD batteries and the Institutional Training Base (ITB) were on the same software build. In July, D Battery, 2nd ADAR was upgraded to Configuration-2 hardware. In December, B/2nd ADAR turned in their Configuration-1 hardware and they will receive the Configuration-2 hardware upgrade in 2017 after their reset cycle. Additionally, we started the fielding process for the THAAD Portable Planner, THAAD Table-Top Trainer, and software build 2.8.0 in December. The fielding will continue next year for the entire THAAD force, including their higher headquarters and the ITB.

As the THAAD force ramps up in size and modernizes, the ITB has increased the number of students who receive training and instruction through CJ LeVan Hall. The Institutional Conduct-of-Fire Trainer is being tested for future upgrades to keep pace

with modernization. Plans are being made to field new equipment and training capabilities.

Air Defense Artillery Soldiers from the Army National Guard continue to execute the air defense mission of protecting the National Capital Region in an exemplary fashion. This “highest priority” mission is currently being executed by Task Force Swamp Fox comprised of Soldiers from the 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, and the 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery of the Florida Army National Guard. In addition, the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade of the Ohio Army National Guard and their battalion, 1-174th ADA deployed in support of European Command’s exercise Tobruk Legacy. Two units conducted National Training Center rotations. C Battery, 1-174th ADA conducted an NTC rotation to support 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division. B Battery, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery completed a



NTC rotation in support of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The ability of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade and 49th Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense organizations to work together has resulted in tremendous success that was contributed to the United States Northern Command’s homeland defense mission.

I would also like to congratulate and send my highest regards to the 2016 recipients of the James A. Shipton, Henry A. Knox, and Hamilton Awards. Respectively, the awards went to: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin M. Kruthers, assigned to the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany, recognized as the



Soldiers from the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade attach a Patriot missile pod to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during air assault operations. (Courtesy photo)

outstanding air defender of the year; C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, 108th ADA Brigade, Fort Campbell, Ky., commanded by Capt. Rudy Pirollozzi and 1st Sgt. Kevin Peterson, recognized as the outstanding active ADA unit of the year; and B Battery, 1st Battalion, 188th ADA; Grand Forks, N.D., commanded by Capt. Christopher Walker and 1st Sgt. Shawn Heck, recognized as the outstanding Army National Guard ADA unit of the year.

The Fires Center of Excellence command team, Maj. Gen. Brian J. McKiernan

and Command Sgt. Maj. Carl A. Fagan, continue to lead the FCoE through this exciting period of multiple transformation initiatives. I have truly enjoyed the opportunities, challenges and experiences the United States Army Air Defense Artillery School has opened for me in 2016. I have the privilege of working with the most talented professionals. It is amazing that although the branch is composed of only 1.8 percent of the total Army, we are one of the most sought out tools in the DoD tool box and the Army's most deployed force. This is a tes-

tament that each and every member of the branch is an extremely valuable member of the team — I sincerely appreciate the hard work that you all have been doing to maintain the global presence of air and missile defense in the service of our nation and its allies. Your efforts to deter our enemies and reassure our allies plays a vital role in our National Defense Strategy. I look forward to continuing the transformation of the branch and facing the challenges 2017 will bring.

First to Fire!

Marine Corps implements force integration plan, graduates first female artillery officers

By Lance Cpl. Julien Rodarte



2nd Lt. Katherine Boy, right, and 2nd Lt. Daniel Lowery prepare to load the next round into a M777A2 howitzer at the Field Artillery Basic Officers Leadership Course at Fort Sill, Okla., May 12. Loading the round is one of the first steps on the gun line but one of many steps in the process. (Courtesy photo)





Second Lt. Virginia Brodie points out an enemy position to 2nd Lt. Katherine Boy at the Field Artillery Basic Officers Leadership Course at Fort Sill, Okla., May 12. Brodie and Boy are the first two female Marine artillery officers to complete the course. (Courtesy photo)

The Marine Corps' first female artillery officers graduated from the Field Artillery Basic Officers Leaders Course at Fort Sill, Okla., May 17.

In the joint Army and Marine course, the Corps' newest artillery officers met operationally relevant, gender-neutral military occupational specialty standards in order to graduate. This approach matches qualified Marines with the most suitable occupations in an effort to enhance the combat readiness of the force.

"The officer's course here is difficult," said Col. Wayne Harrison, Marine Artillery Detachment commander. "It has a mix of technical and physical requirements that challenge the students."

One of the female officers who passed the course was 2nd Lt. Virginia Brodie. She graduated number one of the 137 students in both the gunnery portion of the course and

in overall score and was recognized as her class' distinguished honor graduate.

"I really love this job and want to be a fire direction officer in a fire direction center, so that makes it easy to put in the extra time and effort," Brodie said.

2nd Lt. Katherine Boy graduated the 19-week course as well. She finished in the top five percent of her class and was named one of the class' honor graduates.

Their path to the operating forces was no different than their classmates. Like all officers, they first had to earn a commission from a four-year college, a military academy or an enlisted-to-officer program, then attend The Basic School (TBS) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. At TBS, officers receive six months of training and education and are selected and assigned to an MOS-producing school based on their performance, needs of the service and personal preference.

When the Department of Defense opened all jobs previously closed to women, Brodie and Boy became eligible for selection to artillery school. With the support of their leadership, they volunteered and were ultimately assigned with others from their TBS class to train at Fort Sill.

Throughout the five-month course, officers learned everything they need to know about fire support and gunnery to be an effective field artillery leader.

"In fire support, they are the eyes and the ears," said Capt. Isaac Williams, an instructor at the course. "They're the ones actually observing the round and making corrections to make sure the round hits the target."

Fire support Marines send enemy locations to the fire direction center, which uses what the students learn in the gunnery portion of the course to deliver fire.



“The gunnery side of this course is extremely difficult,” said 2nd Lt. Marlin Adams, a student at the course. “There is a lot of math and specific details into making sure we’re delivering timely, accurate and safe fire from our howitzers.”

Instructors and leadership from the artillery course said that even though these are the first female Marine artillery officers completing the course, nothing has changed.

“The Army has [already] integrated females in this MOS for quite a while, so nothing really has changed in the way that we instruct the students,” said Williams. “We are not going to raise or lower the standards. The standards have been set. Marines need to keep above an 80 percent academically and pass all of the physical tasks. If they can’t meet this they will not become an artillery officer.”

Top: Second Lt. Katherine Boy, right, leads a fire direction center at the Field Artillery Basic Officers Leadership Course (FA BOLC) at Fort Sill, Okla. The fire direction center is responsible for calculating and transmitting fire coordinates to the gun line. (Courtesy photo)

Middle: Students at the FA BOLC set up a firing position. Students at the course learn how to quickly emplace their weapons and set up a stable firing position. (Courtesy photo)

Bottom: A student at the FA BOLC awaits a call for fire. Officers at the course are taught how to properly execute fire missions. (Courtesy photo)

The course will continue maintaining standards to produce the best artillery officers possible.

Boy said she is thankful she had the opportunity to be in the course and is excited to see what artillery has for her future.

“I think everyone brings their own mindset and way of thinking, and the more variety of people that you can get in an MOS who are excited to be there and willing to

work hard, the better it’s going to be to accomplish that MOS’s mission,” said Boy.

The Marines will participate in Marine Artillery Officer Basic Course and receive instruction in joint Fires observation, target mensuration operations, Marine logistics and a command post exercise before officially receiving their o8o2 MOS and reporting to their first duty station.

Target Handoff System Version 2

Providing Marine Fires support through joint effort

By Jennifer Thomas

Throughout 2016, Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center Software Engineering Directorate at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division at China Lake, Calif., worked together to complete Block I development of Target Handoff System Version 2 (THS V2) for the Marine Corps Product Manager for Fire Support Systems.

Joint effort

THS V2 merges two, proven science and technology products to create a 100 percent, government-owned, Android™ application. The Army's Maneuver, Aviation, and Fires Integrated Application (MAFIA), developed

by the Battle Operations Software Suite (BOSS) program, and the Navy's Kinetic Integration Lightweight Software Individual Tactical Combat Handheld (KILSWITCH), developed by the Digital Precision Strike Suite program, collaborated efforts to produce the application.

To create the merged product, MAFIA supplies ground Fires and digital communication capabilities to build upon KILSWITCH's close air support, imagery and mapping capabilities. These combined talents allow THS V2 to provide the solution for Marine Corps joint terminal attack controllers and joint forward observers.

Description

For Block I, the software is loaded on the Samsung Galaxy Tab® S2 tablet, a commercial technology with processing power to effectively run the THS V2 application. This current hardware uses one of the newest Android releases, which is a familiar operating system, to ensure ease of use while reducing training time. The device also provides a reduction in size and weight over the current dismounted Fires system, allowing Marines to easily wear THS V2 as a portable software and equipment suite that supports maneuver planning, Fires planning, precision targeting, route planning and navigation.

Marines locate a target using a laser range finder with the Target Handoff System Version 2 during Bold Quest 16.2 (Brian Kornett/AMRDEC)



THS V2 remains hardware flexible by keeping pace with technology improvements. Product Manager for Fire Support Systems plans to update hardware every two years. At a minimum this will include upgrading to one of the latest Android devices on the commercial market. THS V2 also supports standard National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency maps without requiring network connections. The native imagery formats used are easy to obtain and easy to load. Real-time video is streamed from the connected Soldier Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Receiver 2.5.

THS V2 uses tactical data systems and current communication equipment to acquire target information from sensors, such as laser range finders (LRFs), and to pass the information to air and ground weapon platforms through verbal or digital messaging. It directly interfaces with combat network radios and generates messages accessible to any participating agency involved in the delivery or coordination of fire support activities.

Using a similar functionality, the next generation of the Army's Pocket-sized For-

ward Entry Device Increment II is developed by the same team, so the systems will be interoperable.

A primary focus of the THS V2 program is ease of use. As previously stated, familiar technology and intuitive user interfaces are used by THS V2. To further simplify THS V2's use, the inclusion of the StartGuides™ Quick Reference Guide Application (QRG App) is intended to increase a Marine's ability to prepare, operate and maintain the kit. The QRG app includes all tasks, from properly connecting cables to setting up digital communications. The QRG App also addresses configuration of already-fielded capabilities such as radios and LRFs, truly consolidating multiple technical manuals and quick reference guides into an effective, single, interactive set of instructions.

Evaluation

In October 2016, THS V2 went through a Field User Evaluation at Bold Quest 16.2 in Savannah, Ga., to allow Marines representing the system user community to shape the final months of development before fielding. During the evaluation, they positively assessed the system's ease of use, and af-

terward, many of their recommendations were implemented, which included increasing effectiveness of the QRG App and continued simplification of digital communications setup.

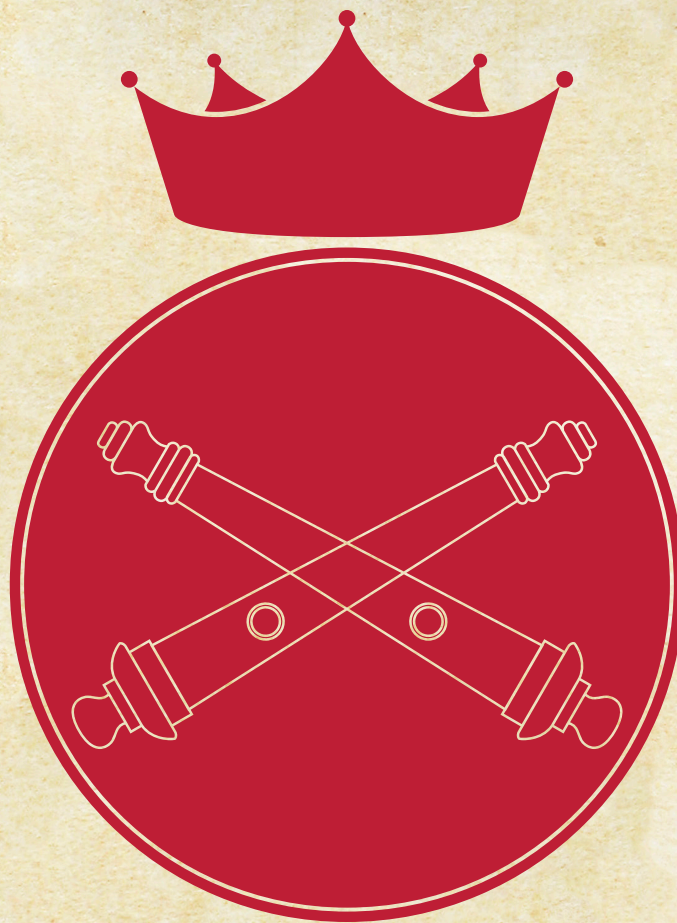
During the evaluation, Marines also provided positive feedback for the StartGuides QRG App. They commented that setting up, establishing and maintaining digital communications are highly perishable skills due to lack of digital system training opportunities which leads to minimal employment of those capabilities. Because the QRG App provides interactive step-by-step instructions focused on these areas, Marines predicted the digital communications issues will no longer be a concern. One Marine recommended a QRG App for every digital system and stated he would have used legacy systems more if they had been fielded with a similar training tool.

Way ahead

THS V2 is undergoing its final stages of testing prior to fielding in April 2017. Initially, the Marine Corps will field 122 kits to the fleet and follow up with a more expansive fielding later in the year.

Marines using the StartGuides Quick Reference Guide app to set up their Target Handoff System Version 2 kit. (Scott Payne/AMRDEC)





KEEPING THE KING ON HIS THRONE, PART III

The timely delivery of multinational Fires

By Maj. Jason Carter, Maj. Andrew Eickbush and Capt. Robert Auletta

The “Keeping the king on his throne” series highlights observations of the Fires warfighting function at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, to compel a shift from being technically competent but tactically isolated, to technically competent and tactically integrated (See Figure 1). Part III of the series will discuss what observer coach trainers at the JMRC call “the lost space,” or the area between the maximum effective range of a brigade’s organic capabilities and their boundary established by the division. It is within this space that this paper intends to focus: the deep area in which we routinely observe units challenged to adequately shape opposition forces.

Unified Land Operations within a decisive action training environment (DATE)

has become the backbone to all major rotations that occur at the JMRC. The DATE scenario’s hybrid threat provides a realistic approach which exemplifies the threats that our nation could face in future conflicts. The complexities that rotational training units (RTUs) must assess and counter are limitless and typically overwhelming. Success is frequently found by engaging the enemy early, often, and on the RTU’s terms rather than on the enemy’s. A constant observation from every major rotation over the last two years is that the brigade is not able to shape the enemy prior to their subordinate battalions entering into a direct fire engagement. While each rotation has their own specific reasons and events that led to this undesired outcome, three consistent trends can be pulled from them:

1. Brigade staff members struggle to understand the brigade’s shaping fight.
2. They struggle to understand how to target within it.
3. They don’t understand, and subsequently underutilize, available assets in support.

This paper does not attempt to prescribe the way in which brigades should fight the shaping fight, but rather discuss the conceptual existence of this fight and the opportunity that it enables to set the right conditions for tactical success.

Shaping operations and ‘the lost space’

Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP) 3-0 defines shaping operations as “... an operation that establishes conditions

for the decisive operation through effects on the enemy, other actors and the terrain.” It defines a decisive operation as “... the operation that directly accomplishes the mission.” Ultimately, shaping operations sets the condition for the overall success, or in the event of an inability to accomplish, the failure of the decisive operation.

A common trend at JMRC is to associate shaping operations, especially as it pertains to the Fires warfighting function in the “deep fight” only with destructive effects. However, ADRP 3-09 references Fires in support of deep operations and states, “Fires in support of deep operations disrupt enemy movement, command and control, sustainment and Fires assets.” The key word in this doctrinal reference is “disrupt.” Brigade staffs routinely recommend to the commander (if referenced at all) within the commanders guidance for Fires that the purpose of deep Fires is to “destroy HVTs [High Value Targets]” or “destroy enemy reconnaissance.”

While the commander’s guidance for Fires and the information collection (IC)

plan are separate echelons on the Commander’s Guidance Worksheet, they are inherently linked by design. As referenced in the introductory paragraph(s) of this article, there is an area of time and space that is routinely overlooked within the shaping efforts: “the lost space.” (See Figure 2) Staffs often view this area as outside of their respective area of operations because their organic systems are unable to have destructive effects.

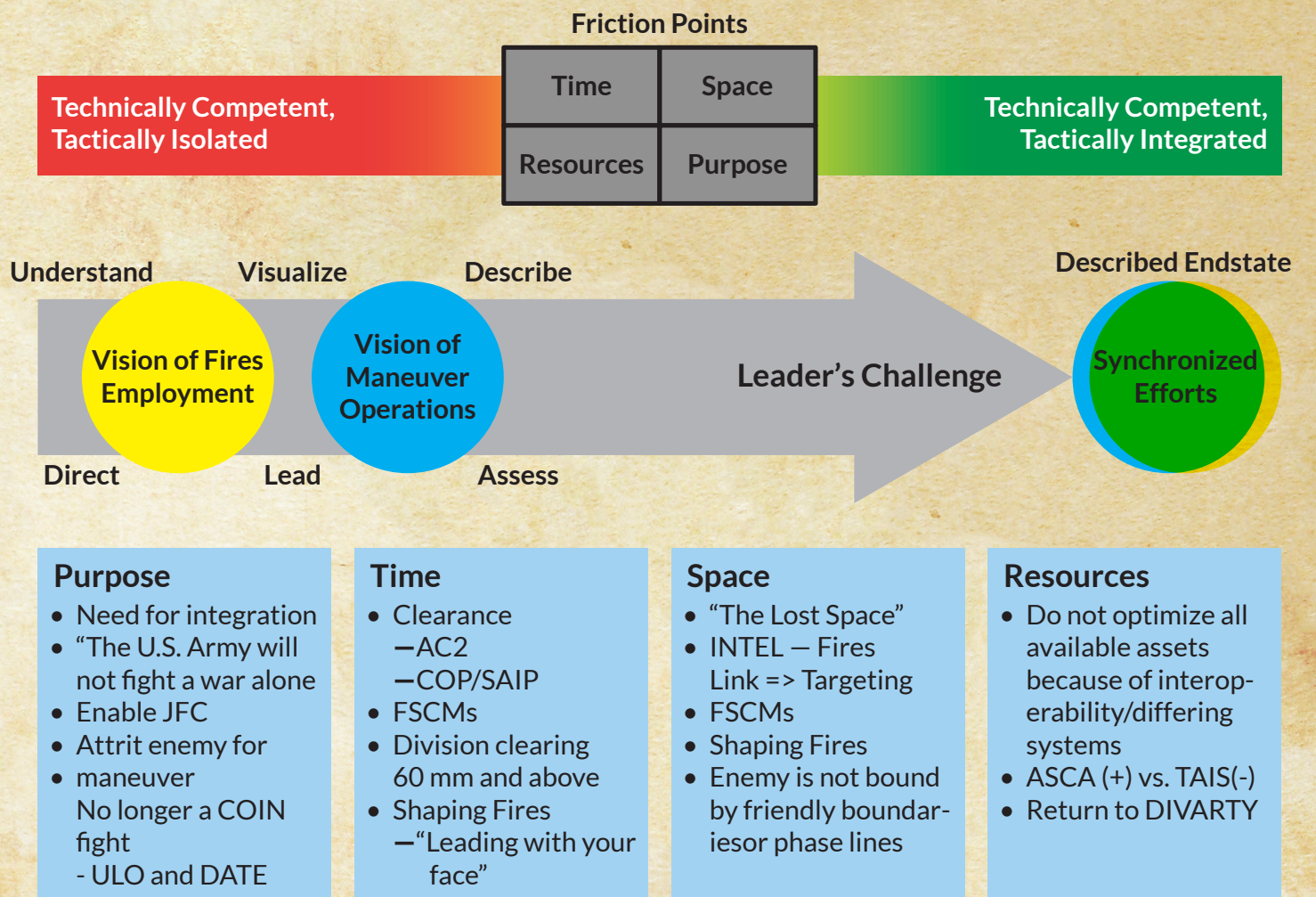
The problem statement of “the lost space” is inherently defined by the increased enemy rates of march and range capabilities which require U.S. and multinational brigades to shape earlier and deeper than their organic weapons can range if they are to set conditions for success. Furthermore, the introduction of new technology has changed the range in which the brigades can target, but few have changed how they conceptually understand how to effect within this range. To quote a senior artilleryman at JMRC, “When you should kill is derived by the max range. Where you should shape is derived by the enemy. Shaping operations

prevent battalions from leading with your face.”

The deep fight vs. the close fight

A common trend at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center is to refer to the “close fight” as the area 3 to 5 kilometers in front of the forward line of troops, and anything beyond this area as the “deep fight.” In the mindset of the authors of this paper, we view the aforementioned 3-5 kilometers range as the near-close fight, or as we have come to call it, the “knife fight.” It is in this area that the maneuver forces are (hopefully) engaging the remaining elements of the opposition force that did not meet the requisites of the High Value Target List. The area that we refer to as the “deep fight” extends far beyond the maximum range of the brigade’s organic capabilities. It is in this area that brigade staffs should focus on named areas of interest (NAIs) and target areas of interest (TAIs) to detect and comprehend the enemies’ scheme of maneuver, which will inevitably shape the enemy forces.

Figure 1. An illustration of the “King on His Throne Concept.” (Rick Paape)



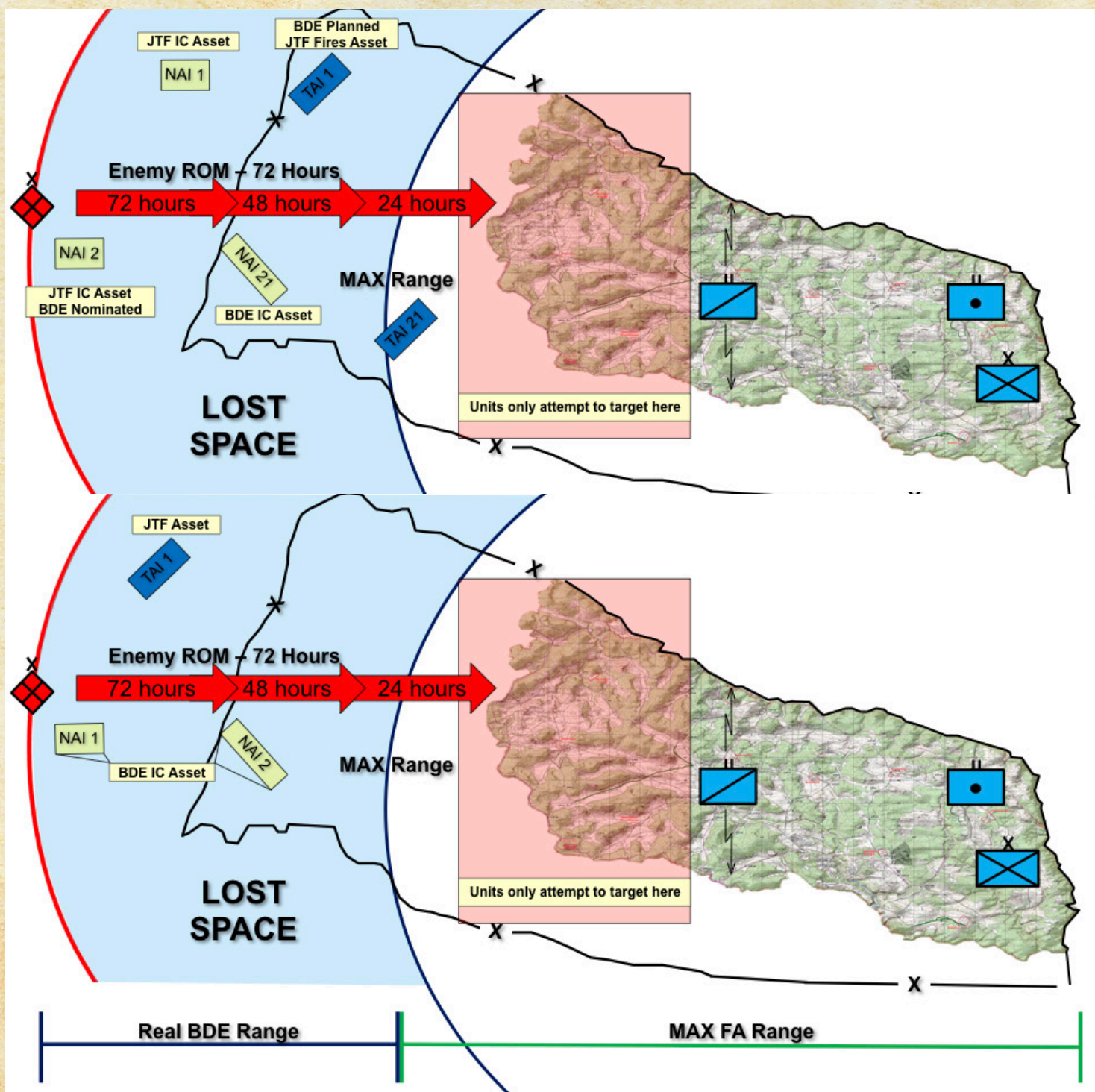


Figure 2. Two illustrations of the "lost space." (Courtesy figure)

To adequately employ and utilize NAIs and TAIs, we must first understand the intent and desired outcome within the establishment of these collection efforts. ATP 3-60 states "Event templates help identify critical enemy activities. It also identifies any named area of interest where specific enemy activities or events will help confirm or deny the adoption of a particular COA [course of action]." Army Training Program (ATP) 3-60 goes on further to state "The best places to attack HPT [high payoff tar-

gets] become more refined during war gaming. These places are known as a target area of interest. A TAI is a point or area where the commander can acquire and engage HPTs. Decision points or decision time phase lines are used to ensure that the decision to engage or not to engage occurs at the proper time."

Therefore, we must acknowledge that our collection assets utilized within our IC plan far outrange our organic artillery. Nonetheless, a consistent observation

throughout numerous rotations is that rotational brigades struggle in their employment of NAIs and TAIs. From a lack of understanding, inability to tie NAIs/TAIs to terrain, and unmanageable requests to a lack of direction and synchronization, lack of understanding on capabilities and effects and misplaced NAIs/TAIs all contribute to the overarching issue. Perhaps even more importantly, we often observe the inclination from brigade staffs that NAIs and TAIs have to remain mutually inclusive, as op-

posed to the thought process that they may be exclusive.

Moreover, there is almost a direct correlation between the number of NAIs and TAIs established as part of the IC plan, to the number of targets established on the Fire Support Execution Matrix (FSEM) within each battle period. A repetitive trend within the Fires community at JMRC is an abundance of targets on the FSEM (40 plus targets) with a failure or inability to allocate rounds to each target. The same trend exists within the IC plan, with over 40-plus NAIs and TAIs planned, and an inability to tie the required collection assets.

Brigade staffs must understand the proper employment of NAIs and TAIs to adequately detect and then shape opposition forces in “the lost space.” Granted this is based on a thorough understanding of leveraging higher headquarters assets (discussed in following paragraphs) as it applies with the established NAIs and potentially subsequent TAIs or target reference points (TRPs). Still, the quote “when you should kill is derived by the max range. Where you should shape is derived by the enemy,” clearly extends our “deep fight” from the max range of our organic systems, to the area in which we should shape based on enemy forces. Although a unit’s higher headquarters (division) will define the boundaries, overall range and therefore individual formations “lost space,” commanders at all echelons need to allow sufficient time and space to avoid the latter part of that quote, “leading with your face.”

Shifting from the deep fight to the close fight

Shaping operations are tied to decision points on the Decision Support Matrix (DSM). As referenced in ATP 3-60, “Knowing target vulnerabilities and analyzing the probable effect an engagement will have on enemy operations allows a staff to propose the most efficient available engagement option. Key guidance is whether the commander wishes to disrupt delay, damage or destroy the enemy. During war gaming, decision points linked to events, areas of interest or points on the battlefield are developed.” Noted again is the notion that destructive effects are not the only option available to a commander.

Two key observations from the above doctrinal reference are intrinsic to understanding “the lost space.” First and fore-

most, “the lost space” and the shaping efforts available when a commander utilizes this space are dependent on enemy operations. The best and most detailed plans often do not take into account the notion that the enemy will always get a vote. Within these enemy formations and the additional time and space available to a commander under this concept, enemy force tempo is one of the most critical areas that we must effect prior to the close fight. Take for example any sport you enjoy watching, whether it be football, hockey or soccer. The defense does not stand by their goal line/net waiting for the other team to build momentum and construct plays. Rather, they echelon their players, create a defense in depth and attempt to foil the opposition before they are able to execute their plan. Within the Fires warfighting function and the IC plan, units must tie the collection efforts to the engagement assets (both lethal and non-lethal) to conceptualize and attrite the enemy force prior to entering the close fight. In doing so, units are then able to disrupt enemy formations, ipso facto their tempo.

The second significant observation is the proposal and utilization of the most efficient engagement option available to the commander. Units need to understand how to leverage higher headquarters assets. Naturally, through the targeting process, this presents another common trend observed at JMRC. While juxtaposed to one another is either the underutilization or over reliance on division artillery assets [within a JMRC rotation, this includes 16x M270A1s (Multiple Launch Rocket Systems), and 18x M109A6s (Paladins)]. As depicted in Figure 1, “the lost space” is outside the max effective range of the brigade’s organic assets, excluding their complement of IC platforms. If units are able to effectively plan and resource the necessary NAIs and TAIs, the next step (although occurring simultaneously within the targeting process) is to apply higher headquarters assets to engage the enemy formations. Vital to the overall effectiveness is the synchronization of time and space from brigade to division. From permissive fire support coordination measures and complementary High Payoff Target Lists (HPTLs), to nested IC plans and reactive DSMs (note, the enemy gets a vote), brigades have the capability to mitigate and utilize “the lost space.”

The final question then often arises: at what point do brigades transition from the

deep fight to the close fight? Is it based on range? Percentage of enemy attrition? The decisive effort/operation being engaged? Are we taking into account that the enemy does not abide by our graphics, and ultimately get a vote? The issue is that doctrinally, there is no correct answer, but merely the guidance and tactical risk that the commander is willing to assume. More often than not at the JMRC, what we see is the collective staff recommendation to shift from deep to close is based on range, consequently tied to a phase line. The rhetorical nature of the question obviously cannot prove this decision to be incorrect, yet often times it proves not to be the most effective method. The mitigation strategy must therefore become the shaping efforts that brigades are conducting beyond their organic weapon systems, and overall effectiveness on the enemy formation prior to engaging in the close fight.

The “Keeping the king on his throne” series is a three-part series intended to discuss and offer interpretations on altering routine trends of the Fires warfighting function based on observations from the JMRC. The series began and will end with the premise that Fires as a warfighting function is “technically competent, tactically isolated,” but is vigorously working to become “technically competent, tactically integrated.” The series was written from observations from the brigade combat team level and below, in an attempt to offer ways in which the Fires community can more efficiently visualize and describe Fires in support of the commander, at all levels.

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Maj. Gen. Brian McKiernan, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Okla., commanding general, speaks at the Counter Unmanned Aircraft System Summit. (Courtesy photo)

Fires Center of Excellence hosts Counter Unmanned Aircraft System Summit

By Rick Lewis

The Fires Center of Excellence hosted its third annual Army Counter Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS) Summit at Fort Sill, Okla., Dec. 6-8, 2016.

The summit, which was broken into a two-day government only session and a one day industry portion, attracted over 300 participants from various Army centers of excellence (CoEs), joint and service agencies, combatant commands and members of the science, technology, and acquisition community.

"The turn-out for the C-UAS Summit was tremendous," stated Lt. Col. Rhonda Williams, the lead C-UAS action officer for the Fires Center. "It clearly reflects the importance and urgency the Department of Defense has placed on defeating a threat which

has steadily proliferated in both number and capability over the past few years."

Currently, there are more than 600 types of UAS used in over 80 countries. The Consumer Electronics Association estimates that 700,000 new UASs will be sold to commercial and recreational users in the U.S. this year alone.

"The production of small UAS is simple, rapid and inexpensive," said Williams. "We expect UAS technological capabilities to increase tremendously as commercialization of the product continues to evolve."

During recent combat operations in the Crimea, Ukraine and Syria, UAS capabilities, both fixed and rotary wing, have been successfully integrated into military operations to provide reconnaissance, surveillance,

intelligence and target acquisition capability against soldiers, installations and infrastructure, often with lethal effects.

"Throughout the Ukraine conflict, Russian-backed separatists have not only used unarmed reconnaissance drones to inform their forces about the opponent's movements and positions, but also successfully integrated UAS targeting capability for artillery Fires," said Williams. "The artillery Fires effects on static and maneuver formations were devastating."

"We normally set the mood at C-UAS summits and other key events by showing unclassified video footage of these attacks. It definitely drives home why it is important to defeat the threat UAS as a combat enabler."



Religious support in multi-theater operations

By Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Fisher

In 2016, the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment was deployed to simultaneously support two different areas of operation. The battalion headquarters and B Battery were located in Bagram, Afghanistan, supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel with Counter Rocket, Artillery and

Mortar (C-RAM) capabilities. A battalion command element, A and C Batteries deployed to various locations in Iraq supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. This provided unique challenges for all sustainment operations to include religious support (RS).

Religious support is a commander's task. The battalion Unit Ministry Team (UMT) is the commander's proponent to ensure Soldiers can practice their religion freely. This task becomes complicated to impossible when the orders have the unit separated into completely different combat



Left: An army chaplain conducts a religious service for the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery. Top-right: The chaplain team poses for a group photo. Bottom-right: An Army chaplain conducts a religious service for two Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery. (Courtesy photos)

theaters as well as multiple austere locations within those theaters. To accomplish this task the UMT took a systematic approach:

1. What is the mission? Understanding the mission, duties, and needs of our Soldiers drove our preparations using

the five W's will reveal what resources are available in providing RS.

2. What are the religious needs of our Soldiers? Religious planning begins with a religious preference query through the S1 shop. This list of religious preferences is almost always incomplete and inaccurate as Soldiers change in their

thinking and do not always update their records. Having an accurate picture of what religious needs are represented informs what resources need to be available for Soldiers. As an interesting side note, the identifier, "No Religious Preference" is being used more and more by Soldiers as their religious

preference. I have found this does not mean that Soldiers have no interest in religion, or have no religious needs, Soldiers simply do not want to identify with any particular faith or denomination. During the lead-up to the deployment, the UMT makes a priority of helping those Soldiers understand that giving a general idea of their faith background, for example, Christian, Buddhist, or Agnostic, is very helpful in getting accurate numbers for resourcing purposes.

On this deployment, the UMT faced two major challenges in providing RS. The first challenge was location. It became apparent from the beginning that travel between Afghanistan and Iraq would be nearly impossible. In Iraq, travel between camps would prove to be difficult and time constraining. During the planning process, we determined that trying to provide direct RS to all our Soldiers would be too difficult to be an efficient use of the UMT resource. The second challenge involved travel constraints. In Iraq, travel to and from the austere camps where *Strike Fear* Soldiers were emplaced proved to be much more difficult than we had initially planned for. At Al Taqqadum Airbase for example, travel could only go in and out at night and flights were often canceled. Many times, it was easier to get to Kuwait than it was to get to another location within Iraq. It was not uncommon that those who came to ATAB to visit were stuck for over a week trying to get a flight out. Because of these constraints we took the “area coverage” approach to RS.

Bagram has a robust RS program with established chapels and communities of faith. All it took for coordinating RS for our Soldiers there was contact with the UMTs on the ground. They took responsibility for our Soldiers and provided RS. Iraq was more challenging as there were simply not as many UMTs available. The force manning



Above: Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, attend a religious service during their deployment to Afghanistan. Right: An Army chaplain blesses the sacramental wine during a religious ceremony in Afghanistan. (Coutesy photos)

levels restricted the amount of Soldiers on the ground and UMTs were no exception. This meant there was usually only one UMT per camp or task force. The 2-44th UMT took responsibility for ATAB at Camp Manion. This camp reflected the joint nature of the other camps in the area with a Marine headquarters element, Marine Infantry Company providing security, Army artillery providing Fires, Army air defense artillery providing C-RAM capabilities, Air Force personnel providing airfield operations, Navy Corpsmen and Army Forward Surgical Teams providing medical capabilities and a host of Army National Guard and Reserve elements providing sustainment. The camp also had a contingent of Army and Navy Special Forces. We provided RS for everyone on the camp and worked closely with their unique unit chaplains who would come to visit or check in with their personnel in other ways. Maintaining constant contact with outside UMTs



was vital for the RS mission to be successful. Similarly, coordination amongst the UMT and Chaplain Corps allowed for RS to *Strike Fear* Soldiers throughout the Iraq AOR, ensuring our spiritual needs were met.

Area coverage in a collegial environment facilitated RS throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. We could not have provided for our Soldiers any other way. Chaplains and religious affairs specialists worked together to provide excellent religious support for our Soldiers as we took care of their personnel on Camp Manion.

Active U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps FA and U.S. Army ADA OCONUS Units

Alaska

Fort Richardson

2nd BN, 377th FA

Fort Wainwright

2nd BN, 8th FA

Fort Wainwright

Fort Richardson

Guam

Anderson Air Force Base

Task Force Talon

Anderson Air Force Base

Hawaii

Joint Base Pearl

Harbor-Hickam

94th AAMDC

5th BCD

Schofield Barracks

25th Infantry DIVARTY

2nd BN, 11th FA

3rd BN, 7th FA

Schofield Barracks

Joint Base Pearl
Harbor-Hickam

Germany

Grafenwöhr

4th BN, 319th FA

Kaiserslautern

10th AAMDC

5th BN, 7th ADA

Ramstein Air Base

19th BCD

Vilseck

FA SQDRN, 2nd CAV

Ramstein Air Base

Grafenwöhr

Vilseck

Kaiserslautern

Japan

Kadena Air Base

1st BN, 1st ADA

Kyogamisaki

14th MDB

Okinawa

12th Marine Artillery Regiment

1st BN, 12th Marine Regiment

2nd BN, 12th Marine Regiment

3rd BN, 12th Marine Regiment

Shariki

10th MDB

Shariki

Kyogamisaki

Kadena Air Base

Okinawa

South Korea

Camp Casey

210th FA BDE

1st BN, 38th FA

6th BN, 37th FA

Osan Air Base

3rd BCD

35th ADA BDE

2nd BN, 1st ADA

6th BN, 52nd ADA

Camp Casey

Osan Air Base

Active U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps FA and U.S. Army ADA CONUS Units

Camp Lejeune, N.C.

10th Marine Artillery Regiment

1st BN, 10th Marine Regiment
2nd BN, 10th Marine Regiment
3rd BN, 10th Marine Regiment

Camp Pendleton, Calif.

11th Marine Artillery Regiment

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

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

1st BCD

Fort Benning, Ga.

1st BN, 10th FA

Fort Bliss, Texas

32nd AAMDC

11th ADA BDE

1st BN, 43rd ADA
2nd BN, 43rd ADA
3rd BN, 43rd ADA
5th BN, 52nd ADA

1st Armored DIVARTY

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

Fort Bragg, N.C.

18th FA BDE

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

82nd Infantry DIVARTY

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

108th ADA BDE

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

Fort Campbell, Ky.

101st Infantry DIVARTY

1st BN, 320th FA
2nd BN, 320th FA
3rd BN, 320th FA
2nd BN, 44th ADA

Fort Carson, Co.

4th Infantry DIVARTY

3rd BN, 29th FA
2nd BN, 12th FA
2nd BN, 77th FA

Fort Drum, N.Y.

10th Mountain DIVARTY

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

Fort Hood, Texas

1st Cavalry DIVARTY

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

69th ADA BDE

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

Fort Irwin, Calif.

1 BTRY (ADA), 1-11 ACR

Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

MCTP, 32nd AAMDC

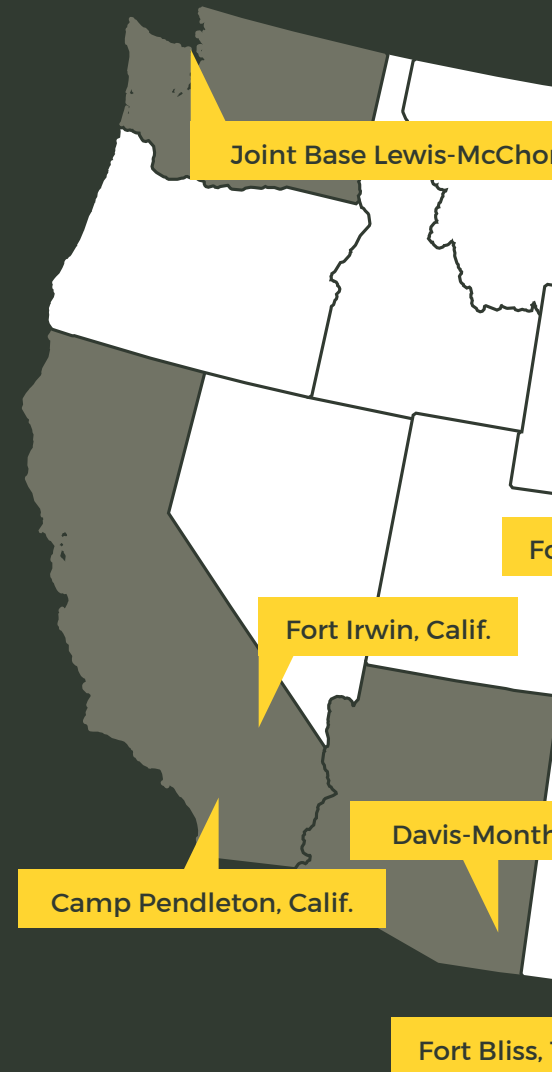
Fort Polk, La.

5th BN, 25th FA

Fort Riley, Kan.

1st Infantry DIVARTY

1st BN, 5th FA



1st BN, 7th FA

Fort Sill, Okla.

30th ADA BDE

2nd BN, 6th ADA
3rd BN, 6th ADA

31st ADA BDE

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

75th FA BDE

2nd BN, 18th FA



3rd BN, 13th FA
 100th BSB
434th FA BDE
 1st BN, 19th FA
 1st BN, 31st FA
 1st BN, 40th FA
 1st BN, 79th FA
428th FA BDE
 2nd BN, 2nd FA
 1st BN, 30th FA
 1st BN, 78th FA

Marine Artillery Detachment
Fort Stewart, Ga.
3rd Infantry DIVARTY
 1st BN, 41st FA
 1st BN, 76th FA
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.
2nd Infantry DIVARTY

2nd BN, 17th FA
 1st BN, 37th FA
17th FA Brigade
 5th BN, 3rd FA
 1st BN, 94th FA
 308th BSB
 5th BN, 5th ADA
Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.
 4th BCD

U.S. Army National Guard And U.S. Marine Forces Reserve Units

Alabama

1st BN, 117th FA

Alaska

49th Missile Defense BN

Arkansas

1st BN, 206th FA

142nd FA BDE

1st BN, 142nd FA

California

1st BN, 144th FA

1st BN, 143rd FA

1st BN, 14th Marine Regiment

5th BN, 14th Marine Regiment

Colorado

100th Missile Defense BDE

169th FA BDE

3rd BN, 157th FA

Georgia

1st BN, 118th FA

1st BN, 214th FA

Florida

164th ADA BDE

1st BN, 265th ADA

3rd BN, 265th ADA

2nd BN, 116th FA

3rd BN, 116th FA

Hawaii

1st BN, 487th FA

Idaho

1st BN, 148th FA

Illinois

2nd BN, 122nd FA

2nd BN, 123rd FA

Indiana

2nd BN, 150th FA

1st BN, 163rd FA

Iowa

1st BN, 194th FA

Kansas

130th FA BDE

1st BN, 161st FA

2nd BN, 130th FA

Kentucky

138th FA BDE

1st BN, 623rd FA

2nd BN, 138th FA

Louisiana

1st BN, 141st FA

Massachusetts

1st BN, 101st FA

Michigan

1st BN, 119th FA

1st BN, 182nd FA

Minnesota

1st BN, 125th FA

1st BN, 151st FA

Mississippi

1st BN, 204th ADA

2nd BN, 114th FA

Missouri

1st BN, 129th FA

New Hampshire

197th FA BDE

3rd BN, 197th FA

New Jersey

3rd BN, 112th FA

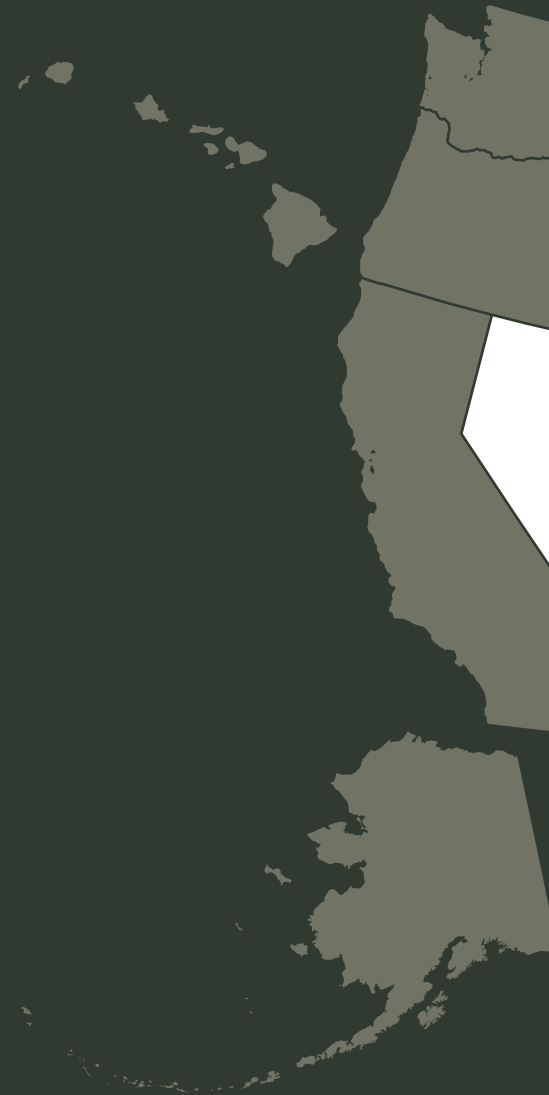
New York

1st BN, 258th FA

North Carolina

1st BN, 113th FA

5th BN, 113th FA



North Dakota

1st BN, 188th ADA

Ohio

174th AD BDE

1st BN, 174th ADA

2nd BN, 174th ADA

1st BN, 134th FA

Oklahoma

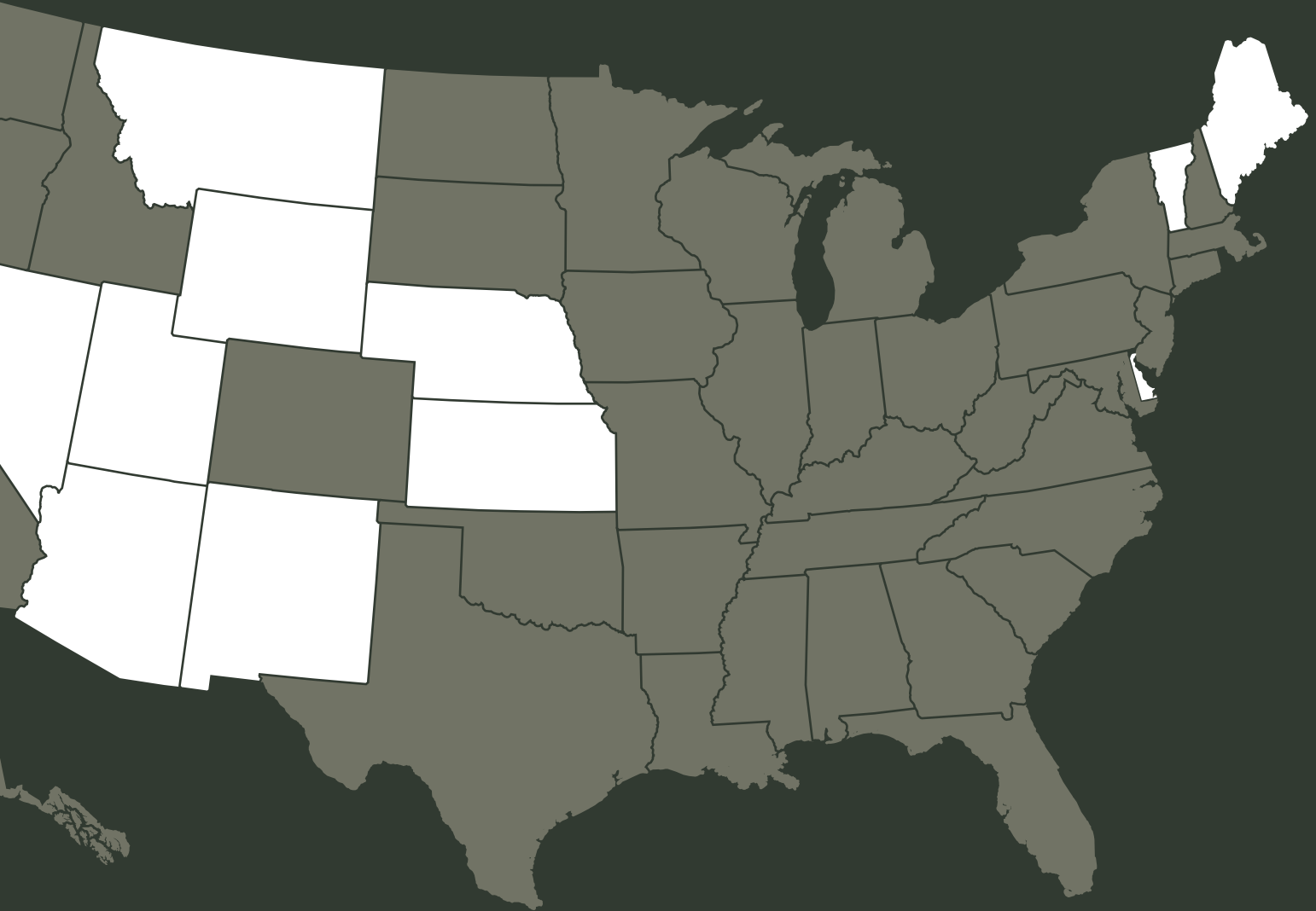
1st BN, 160th FA

45th FA BDE

1st BN, 158th FA

Oregon

2nd BN, 218th FA



Pennsylvania

1st BN, 107th FA
1st BN, 109th FA
3rd BN, 14th Marine Regiment

Rhode Island

1st BN, 103rd FA

South Carolina

263rd AAMDC
2nd BN, 263rd ADA
678th ADA BDE
1st BN, 178th FA

South Dakota

1st BN, 147th FA

Tennessee

1st BN, 181st FA
FA Squadron, 278th ACR

Texas

14th Marine Regiment
2nd BN, 14th Marine Regiment
1st BN, 133rd FA
3rd BN, 133rd FA

Utah

65th FA BDE
1st BN, 145th FA
2nd BN, 222nd FA

Virginia

1st BN, 111th FA

Washington

2nd BN, 146th FA

Washington, D.C.

NCR-IADS HQ

West Virginia

1st BN, 201st FA

Wisconsin

1st BN, 120th FA
1st BN, 121st FA

Wyoming

115th FA BDE
2nd BN, 300th FA



U.S. Army Active Duty Air Defense Artillery Units



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Ford explains the capabilities of the Air Defense Airspace Management/Brigade Aviation Element cell to brigade combat team commanders. (Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Miller/U.S. Army)

2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Ford

In April 2016, leaders from the Air Defense Artillery Commandant's office partnered with leaders from the Field Artillery Commandant's office to conduct the inaugural Fires Orientation Brigade Combat Team Pre-Command Course for 12 brigade combat team (BCT) commanders from both active duty and National Guard units from across the U.S. Army. Each of these BCT commanders traveled to Fort Sill, Okla., to receive a three-day orientation of how the fire support cell (FSC) fits into the BCT. Commanders left the course with not only an increased understanding of how an FSC works, but the potential value these cells can provide in synergizing efforts and preventing fratricide.

In response to the increased interest, Fires Center of Excellence leaders again conducted the course for 15 more BCT commanders in September. In both April and September, instructors from 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's Air Defense Airspace Management/Brigade Aviation Element (ADAM/BAE) Air-Ground Integration Course conducted a two-hour class overview of airspace management, which focused on where air-ground operations fit into the five functional cells of a BCT. Furthermore, the instructors provided a demonstration of the tactical data systems and robust automations capabilities organic to the BCT FSC.

The class painted a picture of the FSC as a single entity within the BCT. A properly trained and integrated FSC – consisting of an ADAM/BAE cell, a fire support element and an air liaison officer/tactical air control party – can prove lethal on the battlefield by facilitating integration of joint Fires, timely and accurate clearance of Fires and brigade-level airspace management. Taken together, the FSC is the BCT commander's action-arm for Fires to minimize fratricide, maximize combat power and effectively orchestrate unified land operations.

Air-ground operations require detailed planning of synchronized timelines, aviation task and purpose and airspace manage-

ment in order to be truly effective (FM 3-96, 2015). To that end, an integrated FSC that provides situational understanding and early warning, understands the operational environment and facilitates air-ground integration can enable BCT commanders to effectively employ their combined arms team to accomplish any mission. As Gen. George S. Patton stated, "To get harmony in the music, each instrument must support the others; to get harmony in battle, each weapon must support the others. Team play wins."

Chief Warrant Officer Two Stephen E. Ford currently serves as the 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, 30th Air Defense Artillery, Air Defense Airspace Management/Brigade Aviation Element Air-Ground Integration Course manager and instructor at the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Okla.

10th Missile Defense Battery, *Samurai Battery*

By 10th Missile Defense Battery

The 10th Missile Defense Battery is located at the Shariki Communications Site in Shariki, Japan, and falls under the operational control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The battery was established Sept. 26, 2006, as the first AN/TPY-2 Radar installation in Japan and became the first new military installation to open in Japan since the end of WWII.

The 10th MDB mission is to detect and track theater ballistic missiles and disseminate the missile defense data to joint and allied units. Data collected and shared provides early warning and detection of hostile missile launches as part of the United States Pacific Command missile early warning architecture and greatly enhances the defense of USPACOM assets and the continental United States.

On Oct. 17, the *Samurai Battery* celebrated its 10th Anniversary during a ceremony attended by Japanese dignitaries, international military leaders, warfighters and civilians. In the past year, the 10th MDB successfully transitioned from a detachment to a battery. This increase in Soldiers enables the battery to integrate Soldiers with the on-site contractors in operating the radar as the unit transitions to be more involved in the early warning mission. More Soldiers also increased the unit's physical footprint with the construction of new apartment buildings, as well as new facilities on the radar site and plans for the development of the "interim" site.

Soldiers conduct robust community relations operations in Shariki, Japan. In the past year, the battery has participated in over 50 local festivals and events to include parades in the local cities of Tsugaru and Goshogawara in which battery Soldiers pushed a 23-ton parade float through the city streets. The unit also hosts English classes for the local children, and welcomes numerous community, city and prefecture leaders to visit the radar site. The importance of the community relations program at Shariki Communications Site cannot be overstated, it is critical to maintaining strong and positive relationships with Japanese Self Defense Forces, the Government of Japan, local governments and local citizens.

As the Soldiers of the *Samurai Battery* continue to transition and grow as a battery, the focus remains on the strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense* as well as the local mission as ambassadors to the Japanese people.

Unit Facebook: www.facebook.com/10thMDBSharikiCommunicationsSite/



Sgt. Danton Calarman, a Patriot fire control enhanced operator and maintainer, along with Timothy Prout and Steven McPherson, members of the Raytheon Dismounted Patriot Information and Coordination Central (DPICC) Team, adjust data and voice communication on the digital man station for the DPICC during the initial testing phase. Soldiers from the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command conducted the first field test of the prototype Dismounted Patriot Information and Coordination Central in the European Combatant Command's area of responsibility. (Chief Warrant Officer 3 Catherine Hannah/U.S. Army)

10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

By 2nd Lt. Brandt A. Ange and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Kruthers

Soldiers from 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command conducted the first field test of the prototype Dismounted Patriot Information and Coordination Central (DPICC) Sept. 14-29 in Lest, Slovakia, during Tobruq Legacy 16.

The multinational air defense exercise took place in the European Combatant Command's area of responsibility and presented the perfect scenario to test out the DPICC. Raytheon specifically designed the capability to increase the number of flexible mission command options for the employment and training of U.S. Army Patriot Air and Missile Defense batteries.

The prototype is of particular interest to 10th AAMDC because of their unique mission set. As the only U.S. air defense unit in the European theater, 10th AAMDC is responsible for supporting over 50 allies and partners by maintaining a dynamic presence throughout Europe. The bulk of the work for executing these missions falls predominately on 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Fifth Battalion is currently the only Patriot battalion assigned to the United States European Combatant Command. This places an extreme amount of stress on the EUCOM Air and Missile Defense force to provide battalion-level and above mission command elements throughout the theater to accommodate the Time-Phased Force Deployment Data unit force flow because there is only one organic tactical Patriot mission command element currently in theater: 5-7th ADA's Integration and Coordination Central (ICC).

Like all other ICCs, 5-7th ADA's ICC is essential for integrating geographically dispersed Patriot fire units into the theater joint kill chain. Without proper integration through the ICC, Patriot fire units face complications with air space management, implementation of identification and engagement authorities, and positive weapons control, which elevates the risk to both the mission and forces. In

addition to the pivotal role the ICC plays in mission command, it is also heavily utilized in training and evaluations internal to a Patriot battalion. Since Patriot air and missile defense (AMD) operations are executed as a battalion, it follows that effective training and evaluations are conducted as a battalion. Without an ICC, Patriot fire units are left with very limited options for air battle management training and cannot conduct gunnery evaluations. In short, the various mission demands as well as required maintenance and training directly affects the availability of a battalion's single ICC, further adding to the stresses of conducting operations in the European theater while maintaining sufficient mission readiness.

The primary contribution the DPICC brings to the fight is the ability to effectively double a traditional Patriot battalion's mission command capabilities by functioning as an additional battalion ICC. This capability could instantly alleviate the stresses presented by having only one battalion ICC in the European theater, increasing flexibility in defense designs, freedom of movement, combat power, interoperability, and joint Fires. The DPICC enables flexible task organization, allowing for the split-deployment of 5-7th ADA to meet multiple mission requirements simultaneously. This split-deployment dramatically increases the planning possibilities for battalion operations. With the DPICC, joint AMD operations utilizing Patriot fire units can now either be conducted as a single operation over a large continuous battlefield, such as the entirety of Europe, or as geographically separated fire units executing the same or different operations. From a training and mission readiness perspective, the DPICC's ability to enable split-deployment would allow for forward deployment of multiple Patriot fire units to conduct operations while still allowing fire units in the rear to conduct training and evaluations. This would increase 5-7th ADA's mission readiness while maintaining and possibly enabling a decrease to the current operational tempo.

Prior to the introduction of the DPICC, the only way to conduct split-deployment operations was to deploy another battalion's ICC causing 10th AAMDC to incur a significant financial burden. Since 5-7th ADA is the only battalion in the European theater, this additional ICC would have to come from a Patriot battalion stationed in the continental United States, meaning that not only would a considerable cost be incurred deploying the second ICC to the European theater, but it could take up to two months to deliver this second ICC. Furthermore, at the conclusion of their mission, the second ICC would have to return to its originating unit and the European theater would once again have only one ICC. The incremental cost of purchasing a DPICC is just slightly more than deploying a second ICC from the United States, but instead of providing support to just one operation it would be able to support countless operations and training opportunities by remaining in theater indefinitely. As an additional benefit, the DPICC can be packaged and shipped in just one ISU-90 container allowing for a more rapid forward deployment. This increases not only the speed of assembly and interoperability, but also drastically decreases the potential down-time in the event the one ICC currently in theater becomes non-mission capable.

In addition to facilitating split-deployment, DPICC can also transmit netted training to geographically separated units over vast distances. This allows trainers to remain at their home station where they can craft the most up-to-date training scenarios for fire units that are forward deployed. Pushing relevant training directly to the frontlines helps Patriot fire units adapt to an ever-changing threat set. It is important to note that DPICC squarely aligns with

the Army's vision for the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS).

When asked her thoughts about DPICC and how it related to IBCS, Col. Janelle E. Eickhoff, 10th AAMDC commander, stated, "IBCS remains on track, but in the meantime, DPICC is a logical intermediate step in support of a fight tonight scenario."

The field test that occurred in conjunction with Tobruq Legacy 16 was coordinated between the Raytheon DPICC team, the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School and Soldiers from 10th AAMDC. The tests were designed with four specific objectives: to demonstrate the DPICC's ability to control fire units integrated into a multi-tactical data link network; to demonstrate the DPICC's live air trainer mode using a scenario generation group's created scenario; to demonstrate the DPICC's online-training mode using a scenario generation group's created scenario; and to collect user observations and recommendations in order to perform a Doctrine, Organization, Training, Material, Leadership and Education, Personnel, and Facilities assessment. Throughout the course of the testing, 5-7th ADA's ICC along with B Battery, 5-7th ADA were in Lest, Slovakia, conducting interoperability testing with 15 partner nations while the DPICC crews and ECS crews from A, C and D batteries were in Baumholder, Germany. The DPICC was successfully used to integrate the air picture from both the local fire units in Baumholder and the air picture from Slovakia via tactical data links, and share that common tactical picture to commanders in both locations. This meant the DPICC was able to control three fire units through an integrated multi-tactical data link network, thus satisfying the first objective.

In addition to sharing an air picture with each other, the Patriot fire units involved in testing the DPICC were also able to conduct air battle management utilizing both the live air trainer mode and the online-training mode, thereby satisfying both the second and third test objectives. This demonstrated the battalion's ability to support both a dynamic presence in the European theater while still conducting garrison training requirements. This capability, combined with the ability to communicate with 5-7th ADA's ICC in Slovakia, means that netted training was conducted over a geographical separation of over 1,000 kilometers, certifying the DPICC's ability to transmit training scenarios to forward deployed fire units.

"This capability creates significant flexibility for our unit and is an absolute combat multiplier. It [will enable] our unit to operate across geographically separated locations with no loss of air defense coverage," said Lt. Col. Douglas Lynch, 5-7th ADA battalion commander.

The testing of the DPICC to increase freedom of maneuver and alleviate mission command stresses, especially in the EUCOM area of responsibility, has left Soldiers of 10th AAMDC anxiously awaiting the fielding of the finalized product.

"The increased AMD interoperability and enhancement of joint kill chain execution within the EUCOM AOR that this equipment will bring is undeniable and will save lives." said Chief Warrant Officer 5 David V. Jones, 10th AAMDC Command chief warrant officer. "The DPICC is a real game changer and critically enables a 'fight tonight' solution set within EUCOM today."

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

By 32nd AAMDC

The 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, located at Fort Bliss, Texas, celebrated 50 years as an air defense headquarters

on May 11, 2016. The 32nd AAMDC, or *Blackjack Command*, is the sole active component air and missile defense (AMD) functional command in United States Army Forces Command and the global force provider of AMD capability. The 32nd AAMDC provides training readiness authority to four separate air defense artillery brigades comprising 77 percent of all active component air defense artillery. In 2016, 32nd AAMDC also assumed responsibility for all Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) new equipment training and unit mission rehearsal exercises.

Globally engaged and strategically responsive, the 32nd AAMDC maintains a continual forward presence in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR), while providing forces worldwide to deter aggression and promote stability. This year, the 32nd AAMDC successfully executed the forward-stationing of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) to Guam, while working to build two additional batteries, and balance THAAD support to operational requirements globally. The 32nd AAMDC also provided C-RAM protection to Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and maintained AMD protection of critical assets across the CENTCOM AOR. Placing high emphasis on mastering AMD core competencies, 32d AAMDC supported over 20 joint air and missile defense exercises to include Red Flag, Blue Flag and Key Resolve.

Over the past year, the command remained steadfast in all areas of readiness, executing command inspections and mission rehearsal exercises across four brigades and seven installations, and at the Soldier level, the focus on core skills and readiness culminated in

Soldiers from across the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command participated in the Blackjack Warrior Competitions, July 15, 2016, on Fort Bliss, Texas. (Sgt. Aura E. Conejos/32nd AAMDC PAO)





A Soldier, from the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, climbs a rope wall as part of the Blackjack Warrior Competitions, July 15, 2016, on Fort Bliss, Texas. (Sgt. Aura E. Conejos/32nd AAMDC PAO)

the July 2016 Blackjack Warrior Week Competition. In 2016, as the Army initiated transition toward “Objective-T,” the 32nd AAMDC shaped the way forward for all air defense artillery, helping to codify the standards by which units will assess their training readiness for years to come. Meanwhile, the 32nd AAMDC was at the forefront of the effort to modernize the ADA force, executing Patriot Recapitalization and operational testing for Patriot Configuration 3+, and implementing the fielding of the Missile Segment-Enhanced-capable Patriot M-903 Launcher. These and other modernization efforts will ensure the U.S. Army’s ADA forces are ready and responsive for 32nd AAMDC’s next 50 years. Swift and Sure!

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/32ndAAMDC/?fref=ts>

11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Imperial Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Warhawk By HHB, 11th ADA

The year 2016 started with a bang as the 11th Air Defense Artillery *Imperial Brigade Warhawks* prepared to celebrate the brigade’s 25th anniversary of its participation in Operation Desert Storm. With planning starting way in advance, Imperial Week took place Feb. 29 through March 4. The first event was the rededication of the 507th Maintenance Company memorial, located in the 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Regiment’s footprint. The rededication ceremony took place March 2. The guest speaker was retired Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, former Fort Bliss and 32nd Army and Air Missile Defense Command commander. The culminating events for the week were a golf tournament (open to the public), and a formal ball, which included a video presentation with a taped segment from former Vice-President Dick Chaney.

The brigade quickly transitioned to the upcoming change of command between Col. Alan A. Wiernicki and Col. Shana E. Peck, scheduled and executed on June 22. The event had all the pomp and circumstance of a normal brigade change of command, however, the event was special as Peck is the first women commanding officer for the *Imperial Brigade*. Peck’s former assignment was 32nd Army Air Missile Defense Command chief of staff and interim deputy commanding officer, and Wiernicki’s follow-on assignment is to be the



Col. Alan A. Wiernicki, commander, 11th ADA Brigade, retired Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, former Fort Bliss commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan A. Pinkney, command sergeant major, 11th ADA Brigade, stand behind a memorial dedicated to the Soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company after its unveiling March 2. On the backside of the memorial, not pictured, is an engraving of the 507th Maintenance Company’s guidon. (Staff Sgt. Candice Harrison, 11th ADA BDE PAO)

32nd Army Air Missile Defense Command deputy commanding officer.

Upon completion of the change of command, the brigade began to prepare its personnel to assume the global response force mission on behalf of Forces Command, concerning ballistic mission defense rounding out the year.

HHB Facebook url: <https://www.facebook.com/HHBFRG11ADA>

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

By 1-43rd ADA

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, *Cobra Strike*, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, participated in a casing of colors ceremony May 5 at the *Imperial Brigade Field*.

The ceremony consisted of the introduction, honors to the nation, the invocation, battalion lineage and honors, casing of the colors, remarks by Col. Alan A. Wiernicki, 11th ADA commander, and Lt. Col. Glenn A. Henke, *Cobra Strike Battalion* commander, the benediction, the Air Defense Artillery March, and closed with the Army Song.

The casing of colors ceremony is an Army tradition that most units do in preparation for movement. *Cobra Strike* is planning to deploy to the Middle East this summer.

Henke and Master Sgt. Raymond J. Belk, operations sergeant major, took the battalion colors and its streamers and cased them in



Soldiers of D Battery, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, return from a month-long rapid deployment exercise to South Korea. Lt. Col. Glenn A. Henke and Command Sgt. Maj. John Young, 1-43rd ADA commander and command sergeant major, shake hands and welcome the Soldiers back to Fort Bliss, Texas, at Biggs Army Air Field. (Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Roeder/1st BN, 43rd ADA)

preparation for deployment. The colors will remain cased until after the battalion returns from deployment.

"This ceremony is the dividing line between preparing for our wartime mission and actually executing it. From here forward, the threat is real, the Patriot missiles are live, and the stakes are unbelievably high. To the Soldiers of *Cobra Strike*, soon you will stand watch over U.S. forces and our partners, prepared to defeat enemy aggression at any moment," Henke said.

In the spring of 2016, D Battery, 1-43rd ADA was selected as part of the Global Response Force to deploy from Fort Bliss, Texas, to the Korean peninsula on a week's notice. First-43rd ADA conducted an emergency deployment readiness exercise, and deployed a Patriot minimum engagement package. The unit landed in Osan Air Base, South Korea, and was postured to conduct air defense operations within hours. This exercise validated the ability to move Patriot batteries throughout the world on minimal notice.

After arriving in Osan, D Battery, 1-43rd ADA was attached to 6th Battery, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, and spent over three weeks participating in a field training exercise, and peninsula-wide air and missile defense exercise. The United States and their counterparts, the Republic of Korea (ROK), boosted up assets in that area of operations.

"The ROK-U.S. alliance is mission-focused on the real threat from North Korea," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal, Eighth Army com-

manding general. "North Korea's continued development of ballistic missiles against the expressed will of the international community requires the alliance to maintain effective and ready ballistic missile defenses. Exercises like this ensure we are always ready to defend against an attack from North Korea. Continued close cooperation on ballistic missile defense reflects the combined commitment of this alliance to promoting peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region," Vandal said.

Upon conclusion of the exercise, D Battery, 1-43rd ADA redeployed to Fort Bliss and continued to prepare for their deployment to the Central Command Theater.

See us on Facebook at 1-43 ADA *Cobra Strike* Battalion: https://www.facebook.com/www.army.mil/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE

See us on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy-QRE9_bceG8FeyeDEjMrbg

2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery

By 2-43rd ADA

It has been a year of bustling activity and great achievement for the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Soldiers in 2-43rd ADA were able to participate in several events with international Patriot partners, including the Joint Dutch Patriot Live-Fire Exercise in July and the joint launcher training with the Japanese Air Self Defense Force in November. Members of the Supply Support Activity in E Company, 2-43rd ADA demonstrated their logis-



Lt. Col. Bruce Bredlow presents Maj. Erica Jackson with a Meritorious Service Medal. (Capt. Dennis Kim/U.S. Army)

tics expertise by receiving the coveted Forces Command Supply Excellence Award, and are now in the running for the Chief of Staff, Army, Supply Excellence Award. In addition to these special events and accomplishments, 2-43rd ADA also proved themselves in the everyday tasks of the air defense mission.

While undergoing the personnel changeover that is all-too-familiar in Patriot units upon redeployment, the battalion was able to rebuild and prove its air defense proficiency by certifying Table VIII, passing the Standardized Patriot Evaluation and Assessment of Readiness in September, and successfully conducting a culminating training exercise in October. In passing through all these training gates, 2-43rd ADA was the first battalion under 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command in over two years to assume their Contingency Expeditionary Force mission before the official start date of the mission. A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit (attached to 2-43rd ADA), has also maintained a high standard of excellence. For the last eight months, A-2nd ADA has been the U.S. Army's Global Response Force THAAD unit, prepared for a no-notice deployment anytime, anywhere. Second-43rd ADA has knocked out every assigned mission throughout the year, from the routine, e.g., manning the Fort Bliss Access Control Points, to the exciting, e.g., the Patriot Live Fire Exercise, and as 2016 comes to a close, they will continue their tradition of excellence and will be ready to hit the ground running for any and all future missions.

Facebook Pages: 2-43rd ADA Warriors: <https://www.facebook.com/2-43-ADA-141688294052/>

3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Legion

By 3-43rd ADA

In 2016, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery was Department of the Army selected to support air defense modernization over the next several years. The current modernization effort, upgrading to Post Deployment Build-8 (PDB-8), is the largest modernization effort in decades and will set conditions for the largest modernization in the air defense branch (Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense) in over 30 years.

Over the past eight months, the battalion fielded and operationally tested PDB-8 hardware and software while simultaneously testing the branch's most advanced radar system upgrades. These improved capabilities afford future air defense units to fire the newly developed Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missile.



Patriot missile launchers, from the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, stand ready during Operation Senora Derby at the Barry Goldwater Range Complex, Yuma, Ariz. (Courtesy photo)

To date, 3-43rd ADA is the only battalion to operationally fire an MSE missile off the new platform upgrades. In September and October, the entire battalion deployed to Barry Goldwater Range Complex, Yuma, Ariz., to support a joint exercise hosted by the Marine Corp Weapons Tactics Instruction. This exercise in Yuma allowed the battalion to implement and "field" test the newest equipment against live air-breathing threats. Over the course of the 32-day exercise, the battalion conducted hundreds of air battles and tested the reliability of the most advance Patriot weapon system capability. The exercise was the first of its kind where the most advanced Patriot weapons system "fought" against the Marines most capable third, fourth and fifth generation aircraft.

<https://www.facebook.com/OFFICAL343ADABN>

5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery,

Team Deuce

By 5-52nd ADA

In 2016, the *Team Deuce Battalion* focused on Global Response Force assumption and providing combat capability to combatant commanders in support of worldwide missile defense contingencies. In addition, the battalion continues to reinforce the Partner in Education program by affiliating with Baron and Northstar Elementary schools within the El Paso Independent School District with the focus on building and maintaining community relations.

In the fall of 2015, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, 11th ADA Brigade, safely redeployed from a contingency mission in support of NATO's Operation Active Fence; a ballistic missile defense mission intended to preserve, protect and enhance the capability of the Republic of Turkey in the defense of its general populace and territorial assets. The battalion's overall mission was to defend the



Soldiers assigned to 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, await the oncoming CH-47 Chinook helicopters that are assets of Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division. The helicopters transported the air defenders out to their M16 and M249 ranges at McGregor Range, N.M., May 25. (Spc. Christopher Crago/5-52nd ADA)

city of Gaziantep, a population center of 1.5 million people in order to deter Syrian aggression.

Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/TheOnlyTeam-Deuce/>

B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Spartans

By B-2nd ADA

B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), known as the *Spartans*, is currently deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, from Fort Bliss, Texas, for execution of their assigned mission. The battery is charged with a regional homeland defense mission to deter and neutralize various theater ballistic missile threats in order to protect critical United States Pacific Command assets on Guam. Over the past year, B-2nd ADA set conditions for the transition of the mission from a temporary deployment to a permanently stationed presence on Guam. The Spartan's relief in place included the training of their new permanently assigned battery counterparts and an equipment swap amidst one of the longest stretches of a heightened alert state the island has ever seen.

The Spartan's year on Guam started with the certification and validation of all crews during THAAD Gunnery Tables in December 2015. The *Spartans* received orders to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, to take over as the only forward deployed THAAD Battery in the world. Once at Andersen AFB, B-2nd ADA underwent a left-seat/right-seat ride with their sister battery, D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (THAAD). From there, the *Spartans* began improving their fortifications and infrastructure at Site Armadillo and continuously trained around the clock to meet their goal of the most proficient THAAD battery in the world. This included diligently maintaining their equipment, culminating in a typhoon readiness drill.

In late August, Capt. Jason Leung-Vanhassel relinquished command of B-2nd ADA to Capt. Cameron Smith. The change of command marked the beginning of the transition phase of the deployment to a permanently stationed battery on the island. This also marked the beginning of training new E Battery, 3rd ADA (THAAD) Soldiers for the mission to relieve the *Spartans* in the coming months. To do this, the *Spartans* trained to become masters of their weapon system. Leading up to the transition, B-2nd ADA conducted two external operational readiness exercises (ORE) and more than five internal ORE's to hone and validate their own skills and serve as trainers.

In addition to the strategic mission and internal goals, the *Spartans* maintained close ties to the people of Guam by way of multiple community service events aimed at supporting the local villages on Guam. The *Spartans* also took up a partnership with Benavente Middle School, volunteering hundreds of hours of service. Finally, signifying the bond and commitment to defend the government and people of Guam in the face of increasingly hostile threats from throughout the theater, the *Spartans* participated in the 72nd Guam Liberation Day Parade.

As they lean forward, the B-2nd ADA *Spartans* look to re-deploying to their native Texas. After an exhaustive posture that saw more time in an elevated alert state than any previous battery on the island, the *Spartans* will use the time to center themselves and once again assimilate into the 11th ADA Imperial Brigade, as well as the 3rd Battalion, 43rd ADA, Legion Battalion.

Unit Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/b2thaad/>

D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, Dragons

By D-2nd ADA

D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), also known as the *Dragons*, successfully conducted system integration and checkout operations on the THAAD configuration-2 equipment, and recently completed four weeks of gunnery and tactics training at McGregor Range, Fort Bliss, Texas. D-2nd ADA currently operates as the THAAD Global Response Force; ready to rapidly deploy and counter worldwide ballistic missile aggression. Recently, the *Dragons* conducted a breast cancer awareness

A Soldier from D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, provides an equipment brief to Lt. Col. Dan Swanson, commander of 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, and Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfredo Suarez during their situational training exercise. (Courtesy photo)



walk consisting of over 150 people to honor all those who fight for a cure, recognize the survivors and pay respect to those who succumbed to their battle. The *Dragons* raised \$500 and donated the money to the local El Paso Breast Cancer Society.

Facebook name: D-2 ADA THAAD Dragons @D2THAAD

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Ready and Vigilant*

By 31st ADA

The 31st Air Defense Artillery had a momentous 2016. The brigade headquarters started the year deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) overseeing multiple battalions in providing air and missile defense of critical assets in the region. In addition to daily operations providing mission command and sustainment support for units dispersed across multiple nations, the brigade also led Air and Missile Defense Exercise 16-02, an extensive joint/combined exercise spanning five Persian Gulf nations and involving air and missile defense elements from the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Following relief in place and transfer of authority operations with Fort Hood's 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, the *Ready and Vigilant Brigade* headquarters returned home to Fort Sill, Okla. The return to Fort Sill meant a change in leadership, with the departure of Col. Kevin Ciocca in August and the departure of Command Sgt. Maj. Chad McNeish in October after successful tenures with the brigade. The new command team, Col. Janice Chen and Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Jacobitz, inherited a seasoned team equal to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

In August, the brigade headquarters was decisively engaged in conducting its inaugural iteration of the Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) mission rehearsal exercise (MRE) in its new additional mission as U.S. Army C-RAM Certification Authority. The brigade had the distinct privilege of conducting this MRE with its own 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. This MRE prepared and certified the battalion for deployment in support of two different operations in the CENTCOM AOR. The brigade also began extensive coordination with JBLM and Fort Sill agencies in preparation for 5-5th ADA's re-stationing to Fort Sill following its redeployment.

The brigade headquarters also supported its two Patriot battalions in their respective missions. Upon redeployment of the

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, conduct an inventory of items. (Courtesy photo)



4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery from the CENTCOM AOR in July, the headquarters resumed resourcing in support of the battalion's reset mission and provided training and logistical support to the rear detachment of 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, the Patriot battery on prepare to deploy mission and the redeployment of the battalion from the CENTCOM AOR. These redeployments and 5-5th ADA's move in 2017 will result in the entire 31st ADA Brigade footprint converging on one installation for the first time in over a decade, albeit briefly until the next brigade and Patriot battalion deployment.

As the mission of formally certifying all units deploying on C-RAM missions fell to 31st ADA, the brigade, with assistance from elements of 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and the Ohio Army National Guard, certified B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., in November. This battery is slated to deploy for a C-RAM mission in support of additional CENTCOM requirements.

From daily operations and combatant commander priorities to defend from theater ballistic missiles and indirect fire in the Persian Gulf, to preparing and certifying Soldiers from across the Fires community, to conducting indirect fire missions, to supporting the Soldiers and families of the Fires Center of Excellence, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade excelled in all it was assigned to do in 2016. The brigade embraces the upcoming challenges that await in 2017.

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

By 3-2nd ADA

In December 2016, Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Lethal Strike*, redeployed to Fort Sill, Okla., following a year-long deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. The *Lethal Strike Battalion* provided air and missile defense (AMD) coverage of combatant commander critical assets across two geographically disparate locations in the Central Command area of responsibility, while simultaneously maintaining the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command Patriot prepare to deploy order (PTDO) battery mission at Fort Sill, Okla. The battalion's missions required the unit to man, train and certify three additional battalion fire direction elements, demonstrating the versatility and flexibility of the battalion's junior leaders, who had to accomplished duties normally assigned to more senior officers and noncommissioned officers.

The battalion achieved great success for the duration of the deployment, significantly increasing its air and missile defense ex-

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, man an observation post. (Courtesy photo)



A Patriot launcher from the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, stands ready. (Courtesy photo)

pertise while prosecuting the defense of its assigned assets. It also conducted in-theater certification of its PTDO battery, validating the unit's ability to rapidly deploy and certify to conduct an AMD mission in CENTCOM. Over 115 of the battalion's Soldiers reenlisted during the deployment, collectively earning over \$480,000 in tax-free bonuses. The unit participated in 12 joint and combined air defense exercises, graduated 23 Soldiers from the Basic Leaders Course, managed an installation dining facility, and executed a short-notice Patriot Remote Launcher operation providing AMD coverage for a host-nation critical asset. Additionally, the unit advanced strategic host nation Theater Security Cooperation with the local air defense commands of both nations within the battalion's operating areas. The *Lethal Strike Battalion* reinvigorated the Patriot Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement with one host nation Patriot unit, saving both battalions over 1,600 total hours of non-mission capable time while also increasing partner capability.

The Soldiers and families of the *Lethal Strike Battalion* are excited about the unit's return home to Fort Sill just prior to the holidays as many of the Soldiers deployed prior to the 2015 holiday season. The unit will conduct reintegration and post-deployment block leave through January, 2017, but will quickly re-enter the Prepare Module of the Sustainable Readiness Model in preparation for its next deployment in fiscal year 2018.

4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *I Strike!*

By 4-3rd ADA

Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, the *I Strike! Battalion*, conducted multiple joint operations while simultaneously defending vital U.S. and host nation interests in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) in support of Operation Spartan Shield from July of 2015 until August 2016. While deployed forward, 4-3rd ADA set benchmarks with the highest operational readiness rate ever recorded in the sector. Within the battalion morale and training standards were high; C Battery, 4-3rd ADA, was the only Patriot Battery with four fully certified tactical crews across the entire CENTCOM AOR.

While deployed, the *I Strike! Battalion* placed significant focus on developing its host nation partnerships. Their cross training efforts culminated with Iron Falcon 16-01, which was a combined event during which the battalion S-3 team educated and trained four highly-skilled Kuwaiti Air Defense Soldiers in Patriot Defense Design. The firing batteries engaged routinely with their Kuwaiti counterparts, engaging in hands-on training, warfighting theory and mutual cultural understanding. Off duty, 4-3rd ADA and its Kuwaiti sister battalion improved cross-cultural ties over informal soccer matches.

The *I Strike! Battalion* conducted multiple joint air defense exercises while deployed. These exercises gave operators valuable training experience in progressing through realistic, increasingly difficult operational tempos which forced everyone in the battalion, from the battalion commander to the newest private, to adapt to rapidly changing and uncertain battlespace. All of the tactical elements of the battalion routinely underwent the scrutiny of the battalion standardization team, which evaluated all of the battalion's



warfighting operations and capabilities. The evaluation process was the crucible for all tactical crews and the yardstick against which they were measured across the theater.

The Soldiers of A Battery, 4-3rd ADA, executed a tactical road march and emplaced at an austere location culminating extensive planning, training, preparation and host nation coordination. Additionally, one of the battery's reload crews executed a doctrinally perfect Guided Missile Transporter reload of a Patriot launching station, for an American Forces Network Europe film crew while wearing M40 protective masks. Meanwhile, D Battery, 4-3rd ADA, conducted joint operations with a United States Marine Corps Spe-



cial Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force and its MV-22 Osprey aircraft.

E Battery, 4-3rd ADA provided another year of maintenance excellence in the desert. Immediately upon arrival into theater, the company prepared the battalion's tactical vehicles for operations after over a month moving via sealift. The company then went headlong into providing maintenance, vehicle recovery and logistical support around the clock in support of the battalion's mission in the AOR. Despite the demands of its support mission, E Company dedicated time and resources each week to training and qualifying its gun truck crews.

Since returning from its yearlong deployment, the Soldiers of the *I Strike! Battalion* have assumed the role of Incident Response Force at Fort Sill, Okla. The battalion's Patriot equipment continues to undergo reset at Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD) current with receive software and hardware updates. Select battalion maintainers and leaders traveled to LEAD to witness and experience first-hand the higher level of deep maintenance and depot operations. In conjunction with the visit to Letterkenny, the battalion leadership executed a staff ride at Gettysburg National Military Park. The *I Strike! Battalion* looks forward to 2017 and its upcoming training and missions.

5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, Dragonslayers

By 5-5th ADA

The *Dragonslayers* of 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, had an extremely busy and successful year in 2016. B Battery and part of the battalion staff began the year deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility on an unscheduled mission in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The forward element established Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) operations across operating bases in Iraq. Simultaneously, the rest of the battalion began planning for its next deployment just nine months later. In addition, the battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery planned, trained for and executed its first convoy live-fire exercise.

Following relief in place and transfer of authority operations with the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 120 *Dragonslayers* returned home to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Upon completion of recovery, reintegration and block leave, the battalion began training for its next deployment. The battalion reorganized itself to meet personnel shortages across the formation, and cross-trained Soldiers from different military occupational specialties to meet mission requirements. Concurrently, A, B and C batteries conducted change of command inventories and other preparations and to change commanders and first sergeants, adding a new dimension of task load to battery field exercises, staff exercises and a battalion-wide gunnery certification in June.

In July, the battalion conducted block leave prior to its next intense training period. Key leaders conducted a pre-deployment site survey for its upcoming C-RAM mission. Almost immediately upon return, the battalion traveled to Fort Sill, Okla., to undergo its pre-deployment mission readiness exercise (MRE). At conclusion of the MRE, the battalion was certified for deployment. Once the battalion returned to JBLM, the Soldiers conducted a change of responsibility, bidding farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Jacobitz and welcoming the incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Hall, Jr.

Prior to its deployment in October, the battalion executed numerous events to prepare its Soldiers and families. The battalion conducted range density, hosted a deployment fair and town hall meeting, held three family organizational days and conducted a casing ceremony. The battalion ensured family readiness group leaders were involved in these events due to the crucial role that family and friends support structures play in the battalion's success during its high operational tempo.

The battalion rear detachment officially activated in August and remains focused on the battalion's relocation to Fort Sill, Okla. The rear detachment continues coordination with 17th Field Artillery Brigade and 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade in preparation for equipment and personnel moves to Fort Sill in 2017. The detachment is responsible for supporting the deployment with equipment



Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, perform maintenance checks on a Land-based Phalanx Weapons System during the battalion's pre-deployment mission readiness exercise at Fort Sill, Okla., in August 2016. (Staff Sgt. Mark Kauffman/U.S. Army)

and personnel movements into theater while handling daily garrison operations. It consolidates non-deployed personnel of HHB, A, B and C batteries, and D Company continues its maintenance mission. Together, this team has executed Trunk or Treat and Thanksgiving potluck keeping open lines of communication with families during the holiday season.

During 2016, 5-5th ADA accomplished amazing feats in training, deployments and relocation preparations. Achievements in the face of challenges have built unity among the formation and lasting memories that invokes unit pride. There is still more to be done in 2017, and the Soldiers and families of the *Dragonslayer Battalion* eagerly await the coming challenges and opportunities.

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Team of Winners!*

By 69th ADA

The 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade truly exemplified what it means to be part of the *Team of Winners* with one battalion deployed at all times, one preparing for deployment and another returning. The brigade deployed mid-May to assume control of the Patriot Defense units within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The brigade was responsible for three battalions across five different countries and only one unit was organic to the brigade. Over the course of the year, the brigade has conducted split operations between USCENTCOM and Fort Hood, Texas.

While deployed to USCENTCOM, the brigade participated in Joint Air Defense Exercise 16-02, Air and Missile Defense Exercise (AMDEX) 17-1, Lightning Shield and multiple ballistic missile system defense exercises. The AMDEX in particular tested the brigade's ability to intercept tactical ballistic missiles, logistical channels and reporting procedures. The brigade executed the Top Notch Brigade Best Warrior Competition with unit participation from four countries in the theater. In the *Team of Winners* practice makes perfect and over the span of six months, a total of 85 no-notice evaluations were conducted at the battalion level to validate crew proficiency. The evaluation is comprised mainly of two parts, the ability of the battalion to assume a higher alert state and its ability to conduct air battle management in which crews are assessed on their ability to manage airspace, identify tracks, coordinate Fires and defend assigned assets.

A period of high operational tempo and great transition, the past year offered the *Strike First Battalion* a challenging new mission and excellent training opportunities to enhance unit readiness. *Strike First* Soldiers are proud of all they accomplished, continuing to honor their motto by marching "Through Adversity" while standing ready to engage and destroy enemy air and missile threats to assigned assets. They epitomize a cohesive team of winners who overcome any challenge through proven pride in the organization, hustle in accomplishing their mission, and an ardent desire to win on today's battlefield.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/69ADABDE/>

4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery,

Renegades

By 4-5th ADA

The *Renegade Battalion*, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, focused primarily on building combat power for deployment readiness. Throughout the second and third quarter of fiscal year 16, the battalion conducted extensive training in preparation for their Global Response Force assumption during the fourth quarter. They excelled during at the Standardized Patriot Evaluation and Assessment Reporting exercise in June. In July, the battalion activated E Battery, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment; the first of two Terminal High Altitude Area Defense weapon systems at Fort Hood, Texas. The battalion also sent two minimum engagement packages and a command and control element to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., to participate in the joint integrated aerial and air defense exercise with the U.S. Air Force and international partners in August. The battalion is currently focused on collective mission readiness tasks and theater-specific training in preparation for its upcoming deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility.

4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery,

Renegades

By Capt. Tyler White

Sixty-four Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Renegades*, participated in a coalition training exercise Feb. 19 – March 5 on Fort Bliss, Texas.

The training validated interoperability of multiple air defense weapons systems and a complex communication network.

For many Soldiers of the *Renegade Battalion*, which is assigned to 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade based out of Fort Hood, Texas, this was refresher training for their skill set as they had redeployed from Kuwait last summer.

However, for most service members, including 1st Lt. Nicholas Pine, Battery C, 4-5th ADA, tactical control officer, this was their first time working directly with international forces.

Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, pose for a photograph with their Israeli coalition partners at the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command Simulations Center, March 4 on Fort Bliss, Texas. The Soldiers, assigned to 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, participated in a coalition training exercise Feb. 19– March 5. (Courtesy photo)



“This was a unique training opportunity where we were able to observe and work with allied military officers, discussing best practices, tactics and leadership,” he said of the joint training that took place with Israeli forces. “This was my first time to work with an allied nation, testing both of our technical expertise and problem-solving skills to accomplish our joint mission.”

The training exercise was instrumental in providing real-time air defense tactics feedback for a forward combined joint task force.

The international exercise tested the engagement deconfliction between a variety of weapons systems and multiple units across two continents.

Sgt. Grant Ozanich, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4-5th ADA, battle noncommissioned officer, compared his training experiences in his previous units.

“I have participated in many exercises with my previous units in Japan, Kuwait and [at Fort Hood], but this was the first time I had trained directly with military forces from another nation,” he explained. “It was interesting to see how they track, communicate and relay data versus our practices.”

The exercise proved to be a positive cultural experience for the *Renegade* Soldiers while also strengthening and building the bond between allied nations.

The 4-5th ADA Battalion’s Facebook page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/45ADA/>

1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Strike First!

By 1-44th ADA

The year 2016 was a landmark year for the 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. *Strike First* Soldiers relentlessly pursued excellence while executing complicated and simultaneous lines of effort in preparation for deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Over the course of the year, 100 percent of the battery and battalion command team leadership changed. What’s more, half that leadership turnover came while the battalion was deployed and working to successfully incorporate the imperatives of the Sustainable Readiness Model into its non-stop, 24-hour mission.

Starting in January the battalion proved their mettle by aggressively attacking Air Defense Gunnery Table VIII certifications in preparation for their upcoming Mission Rehearsal Exercise. Simultaneously, the *Strike First Battalion* underwent the conversion to the Global Combat Support System–Army which combined several legacy reporting and tracking systems into a single web-based interface. The conversion to the new system complicated property book transactions during the unit’s deployment, but close coordination between commanders, logisticians and maintainers as they learned to navigate its common interface resulted in a successful transition.

In March 2016, the *Strike First Battalion* validated its combat readiness by executing their Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Fort Hood, Texas. The exercise, which emphasized realistic CENTCOM conditions, included a 70 km tactical convoy replicating the requirements of the battalion’s wartime mission. Undeterred by torrential rains and the worst that Mother Nature could throw at it, the battalion met its certification goals by the end of the exercise. Adding to the high operational tempo (OPTEMPO) preparations, the battalion staff had the opportunity to enhance and refine reporting procedures as well as fortified relationships with the brigade staff as *Strike First* personnel supported the 69th Brigade Mission Rehearsal Exercise.



Soldiers with B Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, perform their pre-combat checks and inspections before performing their crew drills at night. (Courtesy photo)

Deploying in July 2016, the *Strike First Battalion* deterred the enemy and vigilantly defended USCENTCOM assets. In addition to crews' daily manning requirements, *Strike First* Soldiers spent time training with host nation partners to enhance Patriot system proficiency, tactical skills, techniques and procedures. The fire direction center planned and led the execution of a series of Iron Falcon defense design workshops, preparing the battalion's partners for attendance at an international Patriot Top Gun course while simultaneously increasing the experience of *Strike First* tactical control officers. At the same time, the battalion participated in three theater-level exercises including JADEx 16-02, AMDEX 17-1, and Lightning Shield, challenging operation plan assumptions and exercising the joint kill chain in a joint and combined environment.

During the deployment, 1-44th ADA took advantage of every chance to sustain core competencies in accordance with the requirements of the Sustainable Readiness Model. For example, conducting a mobility exercise (MOBEX) to rehearse wartime contingency operations, *Strike First* leaders carefully synchronized resources and developed nested, multi-echelon training objectives to ensure the event also served as a deliberate sustainment training opportunity geared towards its upcoming in-theater Air Defense Gunnery Table VIII certification. Lessons learned during the MOBEX, along with further on-site gunnery training efforts, helped to refine the unit's deployed training sustainment strategy.

In addition to tactical training, the battalion conducted a brigade-wide competition and hosted a variety of distinguished visitors from across the globe.

Strike First Soldiers planned and executed the Top Notch Brigade Best Warrior Competition for air defenders coming from four countries in the theater. Testing all facets of Soldier skill with events including an obstacle course, situational training exercise lanes, a ruck march and a written essay. The event culminated with a Soldier board paneled by command sergeants major from across the theater.

Likewise, a variety of visitors kept the battalion busy. B Battery hosted a contingent of Turkish officers from a combined joint task force to build rapport and mutual respect between our organizations. Not to be outdone, C Battery hosted Gen. Joseph Votel, CENTCOM commander, while Headquarters and A batteries conducted a Field-Grade Leader Professional Development event on the topic of air and missile defense for 73 U.S. Army Central senior officers and noncommissioned officers, to include the U.S. Army Central Command deputy commanding general for operations.

A period of high OPTEMPO and great transition, the past year offered the *Strike First Battalion* a challenging new mission and excellent training opportunities to enhance unit readiness. *Strike First* Soldiers are proud of all they accomplished, continuing to honor their motto by marching "Through adversity" while standing ready to engage and destroy enemy air and missile threats to assigned assets. They epitomize a cohesive team of winners who overcome any challenge through proven pride in the organization, hustle in accomplishing their mission and an ardent desire to win on today's battlefield.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/1.44.AMD/?fref=ts>

1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery,

Aim High

By 1-62nd ADA

Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery, *Aim High Battalion*, experienced significant success between 2015 and 2016. In September 2015, the battalion stepped off for a nine-month mission to the Central Command area of responsibility for Operation Enduring Freedom, supporting operations at three installations between Bahrain and Qatar. During the course of the deployment, the *Aim High Battalion* provided air and missile defense for numerous designated assets while continually training and certifying on air defense tactical skills while maintaining an operational readiness rate in excess of 95 percent. Sister units and installation leadership repeatedly commended the *Aim High Battalion* for cross-service support, continual site improvement, and tactical competence that raised the standards for operations abroad.

Over the course of the deployment, the *Aim High Battalion* saw 179 promotions and 85 reenlistments. Soldiers completed 675 combined college credit hours, finished seven degrees, volunteered 3,363 hours of service and delivered 24 new Basic Leader Course graduates.

Though deployed, the *Aim High Battalion* never stopped striving for excellence, successfully completing 103 operational readiness exercises as well as 34 transition-to-war exercises. Outside of training, the *Aim High Battalion* focused on leaving a downrange legacy through continual site improvements. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery Soldiers repaired bunkers, emplaced solar shades, and refined the site layouts to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Fire units replaced T-walls, enhanced security measures, upgraded wireless network capabilities, turned in excess to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, and policed sites to create a new standard of military bearing and professional appearance in the area of operations. In all, Soldiers contributed 123 tactical site improvements valued at \$37,494,000.

<https://www.facebook.com/1-62-Air-Defense-Artillery-Battalion-213807008630040/>

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Headhunters*

By HHB, 108th ADA

Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Headhunters*, redeployed two battalions this year, as well as deploying one battalion in November. This was done while preparing the headquarters to deploy as the Top Notch brigade in support of U.S. Army Forces, Central Command operations in Southwest Asia.

The primary focus of the battery has been certifying and preparing for the upcoming deployment in 2017 while continuing garrison operations and managing subordinate units within the brigade.

The battery has also been assigned to the Global Response Force as a combat support element since April.

1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, *Panthers*

By 1-7th ADA

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, *Panthers*, began the year redeploying to Fort Bragg, N.C., after spending 12 months in Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, where they were responsible for providing ballistic support in defense of critical U.S. assets.

After a brief respite, the *Panthers* returned to duty, exchanging their M901 Patriot Advanced Capability-2 Launchers for the new M903 MSE Launchers as part of the reset process. They also participated in the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command's Standardized Patriot Evaluation and Assessment Reporting Exercise, designed to test air defenders skills in real-world scenarios.

The battalion is currently focused training with a "back to basics" mentality as well as completing Table VIII certifications in preparation for their assignment to the Contingency Expeditionary Force where they will serve as a deterrent and defensive force for the United States' interests throughout the world.

2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery

By 2-44th ADA

From Feb. 15 to Nov. 15, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve with a mission to provide indirect-fire protection capabilities (IFPC) against enemy indirect fire. The deployment was the first time in history that a U.S. Army Air Defense battalion oversaw and executed Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) operations in two simultaneous theaters conducting combat operations. The battalion deployed a total of 118 Soldiers to support the mission in Afghanistan and 172 Soldiers to support the mission in Iraq, providing IFPC for U.S. forces, coalition partners and civilian support personnel from enemy indirect fire (IDF) targeting.

The battalion's mission while executing C-RAM operations was to deploy to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and conduct sense, warn and intercept operations to interdict enemy indirect fire in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve under the direct command of United States Forces-Afghanistan and the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command- Operation Inherent Resolve.

The battalion operated at seven geographically separated locations in both theaters, providing sense and warn capability at each and intercept capability at three. Additionally, the battalion was re-

Capt. David Park of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44 Air Defense Artillery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, greets members of the National Dusters, Quads, and Searchlight Association (NDQSA) during their visit to Fort Campbell, Ky., as a part of their 34th annual reunion June 2, 2016. The NDQSA spent time in the 2-44th ADA motor pool where they were given static display briefs on the Land Based Phalanx Weapons System, Avenger Weapons System and the Sentinel Radar. (1st Lt. Kilian Wald of HHB/2-44th ADA)



sponsible for monitoring the IDF activity via sense and warn sites at seven additional locations in Afghanistan and five locations in Iraq.

Headquarters Battery executed split-based operations as they deployed command and control elements to both combat theaters, providing all logistical and operational support to units conducting C-RAM operations in a rapidly evolving and ever-changing combat environment. The Iraq staff was directly responsible for planning, establishing conditions and deploying one new C-RAM battery with intercept capability to a location in Northern Iraq with a mission to deploy within a 14-day window and establish operations at a remote firebase. The rapid planning and coordination executed by the staff resulted in the unit successfully deploying to the remote site and achieving fully mission capable (FMC) status 26 hours after arrival on site, an unprecedented achievement for C-RAM units.

The Afghanistan staff diligently established command and support relationships with multiple higher headquarters and synchronized all operational efforts with the Bagram Security Zone force protection battalion and the United States Air Force's 455th Air Expeditionary Wing to ensure all C-RAM Fires and operations were de-conflicted with air and ground operations. Additionally, they established a relationship with the Bagram garrison command and multiple agencies and organizations in order to construct a robust closed network that allowed units to pass digital information and target acquisition data from various sensors located throughout the installation to mission command centers and Land Based Phalanx Weapons Systems (LPWS). The systems developed by the battalion's Afghanistan staff set conditions for operations and sustainment of the IFPC operations for the foreseeable future.

Soldiers in A Battery deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and provided C-RAM with intercept capabilities at two locations in order to protect almost 3,000 U.S. military members, coalition partners and deployed civilian support personnel. A Battery operated and maintained multiple LPWS and Sentinel Radar systems at Al Asad and Al Taqaddum Airbases. The battery integrated itself with U.S. Marine Corps Task Forces at both locations and provided battle-space owners with subject matter expertise on C-RAM operations and requirements. Split across the two operational locations near major conflict centers in the fight against the Islamic State, the vigilance and attention to detail of the A Battery Soldiers ensured that personnel located at those locations could live and work under the protection of kinetic counter-IDF capabilities. Over the course of its deployment, A Battery was responsible for the successful identification and engagement of four 122 mm rockets targeting the bases and the warning of 24 IDF attacks against Al Taqadum Airbase and seven attacks against Al Asad Airbase.

C Battery deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and provided C-RAM with intercept capability at a Kara Soar Fire-base in Northern Iraq. C Battery deployed under contingency circumstances after rapidly converting from an Avenger Battery to a C-RAM Battery. The battery deployed and achieved full operational capability in theater less than three weeks from deployment to emplacement. The deployment and installation of IFPC capability at this location was an undertaking which had never been attempted in C-RAM's distinguished history. In all previous C-RAM operations, the LPWS systems were flown directly into locations and emplaced on site. The small firebase had no such airstrip in order to land and download the system. As a result, C Battery was responsible for moving these systems via ground convoy over 70 kilometers of local city streets and highways. This type of movement had never been attempted and never so close to the forward line of troops. C Bat-

tery Soldiers executed the mission flawlessly and successfully deployed the systems to the most austere and remote location in the program's history in a record time of 26 hours from arrival on site to FMC status. With the overwhelming success of Iraqi Security Forces in the Northern Iraq, C Battery was ordered to once again conduct a march order and emplacement of the intercept capability. The Soldiers emplaced its intercept capability at the newly secured Qayyarah West Airbase, on the west side of the Tigris River. The location is a strategically critical base of operations for both U.S. Forces, its coalition partners and Iraqi Security Force in its push to secure the city of Mosul and defeat Da'esh in Iraq. After emplacement, the battery conducted multiple warn events and successfully engaged two 122 mm rockets protecting over 700 personnel from the threat of enemy indirect fire.

B Battery deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and provided C-RAM with intercept capability at Bagram Airfield, sense and warn capability at Camp Dahlke, and Sentinel Radar support on Forward Operating Base Fenty. The battery distinguished itself by providing full spectrum counter indirect fire operations to Combined Joint Task Force-10 (10th Mountain Infantry Division) and Combined Joint Task Force-1 (1st Cavalry Division). During its time in theater, the battery greatly improved the defensive capabilities on Bagram by prioritizing critical assets emplacing C-RAM software enhancing intercept capability, as well as continually making significant defensive improvements to the LPWS. In an ever-evolving environment, B Battery successfully upgraded every IDF and airspace sensor and intercept capability across the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan without any loss of capability. The systems integrator along with the Sentinel Radar operators successfully coordinated and deployed upgraded four Sentinel Radars while maintaining air situational awareness to help de-conflict airspace on Bagram and Fenty. B Battery Soldiers were also the first IFPC Soldiers to be trained and certified by field service representatives on the daily, weekly and monthly preventative maintenance checks and services of the LPWS. The battery's dedication to the mission and relentless pursuit of excellence has allowed them to successfully protect over 13,000 coalition forces from over 21 indirect direct fire attacks on Bagram, maintained an air picture for airspace clearance for the Combat Aviation Brigade at Fenty, and has provided early warning against 21 IDF attacks to over 600 coalition forces on Camp Dahlke.

The battalion's complex, dynamic and historic mission will not soon be forgotten by Strike Fear Soldiers nor the thousands of personnel they protected. The battalion is now safely at home back at Fort Campbell, Ky., and preparing to send its Soldiers home on block leave for some very well-deserved time with family and friends.

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Sea Dragons

By 94th AAMDC

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) headquarters is located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. The 94th AAMDC, known as the *Sea Dragons*, is one of several theater-enabling commands within the Pacific Rim. The 94th AAMDC's mission is to provide joint and combined theater air and missile defense in order to meet operations plan requirements and support the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific area of responsibility (AOR). The 94th AAMDC commander serves as the deputy area air defense commander (DAADC), the senior air defense



Brig. Gen. Sean A. Gainey, commander of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, speaks with a Soldier from 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, 94th AAMDC, on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 16, 2016. Gainey was there to observe Patriot Battery Certification training. (Cpl. Jessica Collins/III Marine Expeditionary Force Combat Camera)

commander (SADC), and the theater Army air and missile defense coordinator (TAAMDC) for joint and combined operations.

As the DAADC, the 94th AAMDC commanding general is the primary advisor for the Pacific Air Force (PACAF) and the 7th Air Force in support of the Area Air Defense Plan and facilitates coordination, communication and operations with all integrated air missile and defense (IAMD) forces within the Pacific Region. In his role as the SADC, he provides mission command to all forward deployed Army air and missile defense forces and supports the United States Army Pacific commander by providing IAMD oversight. When acting as the TAAMDC, the 94th AAMDC commander coordinates AAMD in support of the USARPAC commander and the land component.

The 94th AAMDC supports the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific Theater by sustaining traditional alliances, including the five U.S. treaty allies in the Pacific, and developing new partnerships through IAMD-focused discussions and cooperation. These efforts are nested with and coordinated through United States Pacific Command, USARPAC, PACAF, country teams and the U.S. Department of State.

Since relocating the headquarters to the PACAF Headquarters Building on Hickam Air Force Base in January of 2015, the command has continued to increase its coordination and integration with both the 613th Air Operations Center and PACAF staff, as well as its ability to advise the area air defense commander.

Over the past year, the 94th AAMDC has been highly productive, as the Soldiers have improved integrated air and missile de-

fense during an increasing operations tempo across all mission areas to include: real-world operations, theater security cooperation operations, AN/TPY-2 radar and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) permanent stationing, and exercise planning and execution. The *Sea Dragon Team* codified a comprehensive strategy in the newly developed 94th AAMDC Campaign Plan, which serves as a road map on our way ahead for IAMD in the Pacific. The *Sea Dragons* maintained their mission readiness by participating in multiple joint, combined, and trilateral exercises such as Balikatan, Keen Edge, Keen Sword, Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Pacific Sentry with other branches of the U.S. armed forces as well as with allied and partner countries. Sea Dragon Soldiers participated in Balikatan for the first time where they taught the fundamental of air defense to the Philippine army. The 94th AAMDC also hosted the 2016 Worldwide AAMDC Intelligence Symposium, which brought all the intelligence agencies together that work within the air defense community. Additionally, the 94th Command continued to strengthen partnership activities with both established and emerging IAMD partners through theater security cooperation and planning seminars, subject matter expert exchanges and multilateral tabletop exercises. The 94th AAMDC was also able to standardize the joint theater air and missile defense planning and approval processes, which gained more time for our air defenders on the ground. Focusing on the USARPAC goals associated with the rebalance in the Pacific, the 94th AAMDC coordinated the deployment

of four Patriot minimum engagement packages to critical locations throughout the PACOM AOR.

Soldiers from the 94th AAMDC are forward deployed throughout the Pacific Theater. First Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, stands ready to neutralize aerial threats and conduct air and missile defense of critical assets on Okinawa. The Soldiers of 1-1st ADA joined 94th AAMDC Nov. 30, 2006, after relocating from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. Other key assets to the mission of the 94th AAMDC are the AN/TPY-2 radar sites also stationed in Japan. The 10th Missile Defense Battery, located in Shariki, Japan was established on Sept. 26, 2006. The 14th Missile Defense Battery was activated Oct. 22, 2014, at Kyogamisaki, Japan. A contingent of military personnel and civilian contractors currently operate both radar sites, providing early warning and detection of potential missile launches by adversarial nations as part of the USPACOM missile early warning architecture. With the addition of new Soldiers to the unit, the 10th MDB has completed the process of transitioning the Shariki Communications Site from a contractor-run construct to an Army-run radar operations construct. The continued efforts by the 94th AAMDC Headquarters to fully operationalize 14th MDB at the Kyogamisaki Communications Site in such a condensed timeline has been recognized by senior Army and civilian leadership as being extraordinary. Task Force Talon continues to conduct command and control of the forward deployed THAAD unit at Andersen Air Base, Guam. The 94th AAMDC remains on schedule to transition Task Force Talon from a temporary change of station duty assignment to a permanent change of station duty assignment.

The 94th AAMDC also maintains multiple mission command elements at Osan Air Base, Korea; at Yokota Air Base, Japan; and at Kadena Air Base, Japan. These small elements facilitate planning and execution of joint and combined AMD operations with the 7th

Air Force, Eighth Army, United States Forces Korea/Combined Forces Command, and the Republic of Korea AMD forces; United States Forces Japan and Japanese Air Defense Security Forces (JASDF) Air Defense Command; and 18th Air Wing, JASDF 5th Air Defense Missile Group and the Naha Direction Center; respectively.

Today, forward-stationed missile defense units in the Pacific theater participate in regional and theater-level exercises and build partnership capacity with allies and partners in order to remain the first line of defense against an ever-increasing ballistic missile threat. The *Sea Dragons* are proud to be part of the premier Army Air and Missile Defense Command capable of quickly transitioning to war while remaining focused forward to execute the combat mission at any time.

Unit Webpage: www.army.mil/94thAAMDC

Unit Facebook: www.facebook.com/94thaamdc

Unit Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/94thaamdc/

Unit YouTube: www.youtube.com/94thAAMDC

Unit issue: www.issuu.com/pacificdefender

1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Snake Eyes

By 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery

The 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, also known as the *Snake Eyes Battalion*, is located at Kadena Air Force Base on the island of Okinawa, Japan. In 2016, 1-1st ADA exercised its expeditionary capability supporting the U.S. Pacific Command's theater-wide requirements for air and missile defense while maintaining the battalion's air defense commitments in Okinawa. On two separate occasions, the battalion mobilized and deployed a Patriot battery to the Korean theater of operation. The dedicated Soldiers of A Battery and B Battery proved the battalion could suc-

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, execute a Patriot Battery Certification Exercise at Building 110 landing zone on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan, Aug. 17, 2016. (Lance Cpl. Makenzie Fallon/III Marine Expeditionary Force Combat Camera)



cessfully conduct an emergency deployment and serve as a PACOM flexible deterrent option. In addition to exercising force projection capabilities, the battalion's alert batteries, C and D batteries, maintained an increased state of alert for several months due to an increase of North Korean provocations and multiple missile launches. The *Snake Eyes Battalion* continues to maintain Patriot batteries tactically emplaced and ready to protect defended assets in Okinawa, while proving its ability to extend influence elsewhere in Japan and throughout the Pacific.

The Soldiers of 1-1st ADA continue to strengthen combined and joint military relationships in Japan. The battalion maintains bilateral partnerships with the Japan Air Self Defense Force's 5th Air Defense Missile Group and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment. Routine training is conducted to enhance air defense interoperability with the 5th ADMG's Patriot fire units and improve integration with the 15th AAR's short range Type 81 Surface-to-Air Missile or Tan-SAM and Type 03 Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile or Chu-SAM weapons systems. Simultaneously, joint partnerships continue to build with the 18th Wing at Kadena Airbase in Okinawa, Japan. With the help of 94th AAMDC's forward liaison element and air defense artillery fire control officers, the *Snake Eyes Battalion* is able to conduct monthly joint defensive counter air training with the 18th Wing's F-15 Fighter Squadrons, E-3 Sentry aircraft in the Airborne Air Control Squadron, controllers in 623rd Air Control Squadron and the U.S. Marine Corps' Air Control Squadron. Additional partnerships have been established with rotational U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalions to enhance protection and site improvements for 1-1st ADA's Patriot batteries.

The *Snake Eyes Battalion* also supported the combined and joint team in Okinawa by participating in several training exercises to demonstrate strength in the Pacific theater. Soldiers from 1-1st ADA participated in the Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint Exercise, an event

structured around the defense of mainland Japan and Okinawa. The battalion also participated in the air defense exercise supporting Ulchi Freedom Guardian, while simultaneously supporting Pacific Sentry with exercise controllers; and they participated in Keen Sword, which involved deploying a minimum engagement package to Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni.

Snake Eyes Soldiers also received recognition for their hard work and dedication to mission accomplishment. Spc. Zuleima Garcia was recognized as the 94th AAMDC Soldier of the Year, Staff Sgt. Aaron Smith was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, and the battalion's best engagement control station, launcher and battery command post crews were recognized at the Fourth Annual Missile Defender of the Year Banquet hosted by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance.

As the *Snake Eyes Battalion* looks forward to 2017, the Soldiers remain focused on the strategic mission as the First Line of Defense as well as their local mission as ambassadors to their Japanese counterparts.

Unit Webpage: www.usarj.army.mil/1-1ada/

Unit Facebook: www.facebook.com/1.1AirDefenseArtillery

14th Missile Defense Battery, Hayabusa Battery

By 14th Missile Defense Battery

The 14th Missile Defense Battery is located at the Kyogamisaki Communications Site in Kyogamisaki, Japan, and falls under the operational control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The Army activated the unit on Oct. 22, 2014, making it the Army's newest AN/TPY-2 battery.

The 14th MDB mission is to detect and track theater ballistic missiles (TBMs) and disseminate the missile defense data to joint and allied units. Data collected and shared provides early warning and detection of hostile missile launches as part of the United States Pacific Command missile early warning architecture and greatly enhances the defense of USPACOM assets and the continental United

Maj. Sara Cardenas, 14th Missile Defense Battery commander, gives a site introduction briefing to local residents during the 14th MDB's Open Base Event at Kyogamasaki Communications Site, Kyogamasaki, Japan. (Photo by Junichi Okada)



States. As the second AN/TPY-2 radar in Japan, the KCS radar provides enhanced discrimination of TBMs and decoys from regional ballistic missile threats.

The 14th MDB is in a unique situation as it is one of the first U.S. military units stationed in Japan's Kyoto Prefecture since WWII. Additionally, the nearest U.S. military installation is over 500 kilometers away. These two factors mean that improving and maintaining community relations are extremely important as the local Japanese military and civilians provide the immediate support needed to conduct the battery's mission. The 14th MDB maintains these strong community relations by forming relationships with leaders in the community, participating in local events and hosting American cultural events. All these activities are conducted to increase the understanding between the Americans working on KCS and the local Japanese people as well as demonstrating to the Japanese people that our presence here is beneficial to them.

In June, 14th MDB conducted its first internal force protection exercise to increase the site's security. This exercise allowed 14th MDB to identify internal improvements to existing standard operating procedures and plan a future internal force protection exercise to evaluate how well the improvements worked. These exercises will incorporate local emergency response teams and, further down the road, the local Japan Air Self Defense Force and Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces.

The 14th MDB Soldiers will continue to serve as America's ambassadors to Japan by strengthening relationships with the community and improving KCS. The Soldiers of 14th MDB stand ready to serve as the first line of defense for Japan, the Pacific theater and the U.S. homeland.

Unit Facebook: www.facebook.com/14MDB

Task Force Talon, Musudan Manglers

By Task Force Talon

Task Force Talon is located in the United States Territory of Guam at Anderson Air Force Base. Task Force Talon has been defending the island from ballistic missile attack since 2013 with the U.S. Army's first forward deployed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery. The task force is composed of Soldiers from

Soldiers from Task Force Talon, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, work with Airmen to conduct medical evacuation training with an MH-60 Seahawk during the Jungle Training Operations Course June 15, 2016, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. (Tech. Sgt. Richard Ebensberger/ U.S. Air Force)



air defense, signal and infantry units, which, as a team execute the strategic Defense of Guam (DoG) mission.

On Feb. 5, 2016, TF Talon conducted a transfer of authority (TOA) between THAAD batteries at its forward deployed location on AAFB, Guam. The incoming unit, B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery (THAAD), assumed responsibility for the DoG mission from D Battery, 2nd, (THAAD) during the TOA ceremony on AAFB. Both units are deployed to Guam from Fort Bliss, Texas. The task force also welcomed Soldiers for the signal detachment, as well as, Soldiers for the security force. Personnel for the detachment and the security forces are deployed from units across the Pacific to provide communications support for Task Force Talon and secure Site Armadillo.

Though Site Armadillo is a remote and austere location, it has not stopped TF Talon from being host to a large number of distinguished visitors. Notable visitors included the United States Army Pacific commander; Gen. Robert Brown, United States Forces Korea; United Nations Command and Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command commander, Gen. Vincent Brooks; various other flag officers, the House Armed Services Committee, congressional staff delegations, various senior Department of Defense leaders, and several foreign dignitaries. These visits allow the task force to highlight the strategic importance of Guam, provide lessons learned for future THAAD deployments, and show senior leaders that Task Force Talon Soldiers are trained and ready for the defense of Guam mission.

In late August, Capt. Jason Leung-Vanhassel relinquished command of B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery (THAAD) to Capt. Cameron Smith. The change of command marked the beginning of the transition phase of the deployment to a permanently stationed battery, E Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery (THAAD), on the island. This also marked the beginning of training new E Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Soldiers for the DoG mission. Leading up to the transition, B-2nd ADA conducted two external operational readiness exercises (ORE) and more than five internal OREs to hone and validate their own skills and serve as trainers.

Besides executing the defense of Guam mission, TF Talon has also built partnerships with the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy, the US Marine Corps and the Guam National Guard. Task Force Talon participated in U.S. Air Force operational readiness exercises with AAFB's 36th Wing and the security forces conducted training events with the 36th Security Forces Squadron, the Contingency Response Group and the Guam National Guard. Besides building rapport with the joint team on Guam, Task Force Talon has also built partnerships with the local community. Task Force Talon has supported events with various schools, junior ROTC programs, the Guam Special Olympics; beach clean-ups with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and, once again, marched in the annual Guam Liberation Day Parade.

Over the next year, TF Talon will continue to build partnerships with the joint and local communities as it completes its move to permanency on Guam. The task force will likewise continue to execute its real-world defense of Guam mission as the First Line of Defense against ballistic missile attack for the 94th AAMDC in the Pacific region.

Unit Facebook: www.facebook.com/TaskForceTalon94thAAMDC/



The 2016 Korean Peninsula Missile Defenders of the Year pose for a picture with Riki Ellsion, chairman and founder of the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, and distinguished guests at the 2016 Missile Defender of the Year banquet sponsored by the MDAA, and hosted by 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade in Seoul, Republic of Korea Nov. 18. (Courtesy photo)

35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Dragons*

By 35th ADA BDE

The 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is the Army's only forward stationed ADA brigade with headquarters at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. The brigade is comprised of two battalions, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, which are garrisoned across five geographically dispersed locations throughout Korea. The brigade is subordinate to Eighth Army, and under the tactical control of Seventh Air Force.

The brigade's mission is to conduct joint and combined air and missile defense operations to protect assigned critical assets from surveillance, aerial attack and missile attack in order to deter and defend against North Korean aggression, and enable United States Forces Korea combat power generation for Combined Forces Command decisive operations in the Korean theater of operation (KTO).

Over the past year, *Dragon* Soldiers participated in multiple joint and combined theater training exercises to maintain wartime readiness. Key Resolve (KR) in March and Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) in August simulate warlike conditions, providing a 24/7 environment for the brigade to execute mission command tasks for contingency operations in support of USFK and CFC. During UFG, the brigade integrated the Brigade Operation Center with Republic of Korea – Air Force (ROK-AF) elements for the first time. The initiative resulted in enhanced interoperability and communication by improving the common operating picture between each component.

The brigade also participated in two Air Force-centric training exercises, Max Thunder and Vigilant Ace. In contrast to KR and UFG, these exercises integrated line units by requiring the batteries to conduct march order and emplacement into wartime locations. Once in place, network operators quickly built the data link architecture to integrate 35th ADA into the joint kill chain, an integral

step in synchronizing communication, preserving interceptors and protecting combat power generating platforms.

Building on last year's success, a Patriot Global Response Force deployed to the KTO in February to support the brigade's air defense command post exercise. Upon arrival, the minimum engagement package assigned to D Battery, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery out of Fort Bliss, Texas, executed reception, staging, onward movement, and integration, and joined the brigade's intensive three-week field training exercise.

In a first for 35th ADA, the brigade's operations section and standardization office coordinated with the Fires Center of Excellence to host the Patriot Master Gunner Course at Osan Air Base. Determined to grow and develop technical and tactical experts internally, a mobile training team from Fort Sill, Okla., taught the rigorous course in April. The 12 Master Gunner graduates will contribute to building combat power and maintaining Fight Tonight readiness.

Throughout the year, 35th ADA hosted numerous distinguished visitors to the Republic of Korea to showcase U.S. Army air and missile defense equipment and inform stakeholders on the strategic mission in the Korean theater of operation (KTO). Many of these critical meetings were between the command team and top ROK-AF counterparts to discuss capabilities and enhance interoperability through shared understanding.

In July, the brigade welcomed Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning to Osan Air Base, to dialogue about the importance of ballistic missile defense on the Korean Peninsula. Fanning participated in a reload drill, observed an air mission battle and received a brief on the capabilities of the different types of interceptors in the brigade's inventory.

In October, 35th ADA executed Courageous Channel, a Peninsula-wide training exercise designed to familiarize family members and Department of Defense civilians of Noncombatant Evacuation Operations. The exercise provided military planners at all levels

the opportunity to validate and refine operational plans to increase mission readiness in the event of a crisis or natural disaster.

The *Dragon Brigade* excelled in a variety of sports and competitions, highlighted by the Eighth Army Combatives Tournament in June. Soldiers from each unit participated to help bring the trophy

to 35th ADA for the first time in its four-year history. The brigade followed the first place finish by winning the Osan Commander's Cup in September, beating out a field of more than 20 different Air Force units stationed at Osan Air Base.

Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, observes range density training at Rodriguez Range, about 16 miles south of the demilitarized zone in the Republic of Korea, Oct. 21. Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, spent the day qualifying on individual and crew served weapons in order to maintain individual and "Fight Tonight" readiness. (Sgt. Miguel Olmos/35th ADA Brigade)



As the brigade looks forward, 2017 is projected to be full of firsts and improvements, with none bigger than the arrival of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery. The addition of THAAD will complement an already robust iron-clad defense consisting of short range air defense and multiple variations of Patriot interceptors. Furthermore, the brigade is scheduled to undergo the largest Patriot modernization project ever conducted in the field while simultaneously maintaining Fight Tonight readiness. The



combination of the two projects will place the brigade as one of the most lethal ADA brigades in the U.S. Army.

The Korean Peninsula remains volatile and complex due to North Korea's advancing capabilities and frequency of missile launches. However, the *Dragon Brigade* remains determined and committed to enhancing the alliance through joint-training and the development of future leaders. Whether *Dragon Soldiers* are competing in the Missile Defender of the Year competition, the battalions are executing Table VIII gunnery, or the brigade is participating in a Peninsula-wide exercise, 35th ADA is postured to deter, defend and defeat any threat to the Armistice or the Republic of Korea. Ready in Defense... Always!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/35thAirDefenseArtillery/>

Website: <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil/35ada/>

2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, *Guardians*

The *Guardian Battalion* Headquarters is garrisoned at Camp Carroll, and can quickly occupy additional wartime locations upon notification to deploy. The battalion maintains a high operational tempo due to a robust training schedule with a Fight Tonight mission.

Three times throughout the year, 2-1st ADA partnered with 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and ADA units out of Okinawa, Japan, and Fort Bliss, Texas, to validate the mission essential task of building combat power in the KTO. This training exercise was accomplished by successfully completing an emergency deployment readiness exercise of a minimum engagement package, and conducting reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSO&I) of those batteries into their wartime location.

In June, *Guardian Soldiers* strengthened the U.S.-ROK alliance by participating in a combined interoperability exercise at the Republic of Korea – Air Force (ROK-AF) Air Defense School in Daegu. The *Guardian Battalion* partnered with their ROK-AF sister unit and executed reload drills while the Engagement Control Station crew conducted air battle management training. Maintenance warrant officers from each organization also refined their proficiency as they practiced troubleshooting procedures on a radar set.

The Soldiers of 2-1st ADA continue to place a premium on developing Soldiers through individual and crew readiness. In October, the *Guardians* traveled to Warrior Base to refine their marksmanship skills during range density week. The unit medics also got involved as they traversed a challenging obstacle course in preparation for an upcoming Expert Field Medical Badge test.

Despite the fast pace of operational requirements, building the alliance through partner-enhancing events continues to remain a point of emphasis for the *Guardian Battalion*. During off-time, Soldiers visited orphanages, elementary schools and retirement homes, demonstrating the *Guardian* commitment to volunteer work within their local community.

The next year presents a host of opportunities for the *Guardian Battalion*, with none bigger than conducting the RSO&I of the incoming THAAD Battery. With the Patriot modernization plan in place, 2-1st ADA will operate with the most advanced ballistic missile defense weaponry in the Army's inventory. There is no question the *Guardian Battalion* remains poised and positioned to provide an iron clad defense on the Korean Peninsula. Stand or Die!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/2-1-ADA-Air-Defense-Artillery/128172744296>

6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, *Ironhorse*

The *Ironhorse Battalion*, headquartered at Suwon Air Base, Korea conducts split-based operations at three different U.S. and Republic of Korea installations. In addition to employing four Patriot batteries, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery is charged with leading the only Avenger and Sentinel battery in the Korean theater of operations.

Throughout 2016, the Soldiers of 6-52nd ADA conducted slingload training, combined mass casualty drills, aerial medical evacuation exercises and live-fire exercises to ensure the Soldiers of *Ironhorse Battalion* preserve their high level of readiness. The battalion also executed multiple field training exercises and Table VIII certifications to ensure crew readiness is maintained on the Patriot system utilizing every variation of Patriot interceptor.

D Battery, 6-52nd ADA led the brigade's efforts in hosting several distinguished visitors to their site to include Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning, Deputy Commanding General of Combined Forces Command Gen. Kim Hyun-Jip, and several members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees. These visits provided key leaders with a strong understanding of Patriot operations on the peninsula, while demonstrating the professionalism and competencies of the *Ironhorse Soldier*.

Building partnership capacity remains a cornerstone of the *Ironhorse Battalion*. Throughout the spring, *Ironhorse* conducted successful integration and maintenance exercises with the Republic of Korea Air Force 177th Air Defense Artillery Battalion. These efforts culminated during Vigilant Ace where A Battery, 6-52nd ADA integrated several Patriot launchers from 177th ROK ADA into their defensive footprint. Additionally, A/6-52nd ADA and B Battery, 6-52nd ADA continued to build partnership capacity with both 10th

and 20th Republic of Korea – Air Force Fighter Wings respectively, by developing and exercising combined ground defense plans during Ulchi-Freedom Guardian 16.

Throughout 2016, *Ironhorse* demonstrated its readiness to Fight Tonight. In September, *Ironhorse* demonstrated their ability to execute their wartime plan when C Battery, 6-52nd ADA deployed to Camp Humphreys on a “no notice” recall. The battery expertly executed march order and emplacement and proved their ability to provide ballistic missile defense to key defended assets in support of the CFC commander's priorities. In November, E Battery, 6-52nd ADA successfully executed a Stinger live fire and integrated their Sentinel radars into the joint data link architecture, further demonstrating the battalion's ability to detect and destroy air-breathing threats.

The Soldiers of 6-52nd ADA continue to demonstrate their commitment to the local community on a daily basis. Over the past year, *Ironhorse* volunteered over 1,000 hours to serve those in nursing homes, orphanages, local schools and youth programs. With every event, the alliance and combined community grows stronger because of the selfless services of *Ironhorse Soldiers*.

In the upcoming year, 6-52nd ADA continues to train alongside their Republic of Korea – Air Force partners at Suwon Air Base and upgrade current Patriot systems to combat growing adversary threats. *Ironhorse* continues to sharpen their technical and tactical proficiency through planned field training exercises and scheduled gunnery qualification tables. Day or night, 6-52nd ADA is a team of disciplined and well-trained Soldiers who are ready to Fight Tonight in the defense of any air or missile threat posed by the North Korean regime to the interests of the Alliance. *Ironhorse!*

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/6-52-Air-Defense-Artillery/19777663682066>

Eighth Army Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal and leaders from 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, walk the grounds after D Battery, 6-52nd ADA, executed march order and emplacement at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, Sept. 3. (Courtesy photo)





U.S. Army Active Duty Field Artillery Units



Marines in 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, fire an M31 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System rocket from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a live-fire shoot at Oro Grande Range Complex, N.M., They executed via high frequency communications with the 1st Armored Division Artillery over a distance of 1300 km. (Photo courtesy of 24th Press Camp, Fort Bliss, Texas)

1st Armored Division Artillery, Iron Steel

By 1st AD DIVARTY

Redlegs from the 1st Armored Division Artillery, *Iron Steel*, remained steadfast in providing accurate and responsive Fires to the 1st Armored Division. In June, the *Defenders* of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to provide Fires in support of the *Bulldog Brigade*. Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, completed the Advanced Warfighting Assessment and returned to U.S. Army Forces Command to prepare for future deployments. Soldiers in 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, completed two combat training center rotations and prepared for their CENTCOM deployment. Also this year, the DIVARTY firmly established the division artillery readiness test (DART) as the capstone training event. All FA batteries in 2-3rd FA, 4-1st FA, and 4-27th FA participated in the DARTs and excelled in the execution of core field artillery gunnery standards.

In June, the DIVARTY executed two joint live-fire exercises, *Iron Rage* and *Hustler Trough*, with 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment and the 66th Fighter Weapons Squadron. Redlegs from 1st Armored Division and 14th Marines used high frequency communication systems and the High Mobility Rocket Systems to engage numerous targets with devastating Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System rocket Fires. The success of these joint operations strengthened the professional relationship between the Army and USMC Redlegs and reinforced Fort Bliss, Texas, as the live-fire installation of choice to train on everything from pistol to missile.

<https://www.facebook.com/HHB-1st-Armored-Division-Artillery-115681798519876/>

2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, Gunners

By 2-3rd FAR

The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, *Gunners*, began the 2016 fiscal year in the field, training for their rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center. After completing certifications at



Soldiers in B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery fire a high explosive projectile as part of the 1st Armored Division Artillery battalion artillery readiness test (BART) in September. The BART evaluates an FA battalion's ability to exercise Mission Command and provide responsive massed Fires. (Photo courtesy of 2-3rd FA)

all levels, 2-3rd FA also trained with their direct support unit, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, to integrate into maneuver and Fires training. In January they completed JRTC Rotation 16-03 with the *Ready First Brigade*.

After returning from Fort Polk, La., the *Gunners* assumed responsibility for a multitude of tasks. *Bulldog Battery* served as opposing forces at National Training Center for Rotation 16-05 in April, supporting other units in their training. *Conqueror Battery* conducted Hustler Trough in May, working with Air Force assets to train on integration of joint Fires. *Assassin Battery* assumed gate guard duty and served as salute battery for the first half of the year. In July and August, the batteries conducted section and platoon certifications and qualified with the Precision Guidance Kit for 155 mm howitzers.

Soon after, 2-3rd FA began its train-up for NTC in November. Continuing certifications in July, the battalion participated in Ready Focus with 1st Battalion, 1st Armored Division Artillery in August 2016, and completed the division artillery readiness test and battery certifications. The following month, the *Gunner Battalion* certified during the battalion artillery readiness test with DIVARTY, and trained for decisive action with the *Ready First Combat Team* during Iron Focus. After completing this train up, the *Gunners* attended the National Training Center Rotation 17-02 with 1-1st AD in November, where they distinguished themselves providing effective and responsive Fires in support of the brigade. Second-3rd FA will continue to support *Ready First* and the *Iron Steel DIVARTY* for their missions in the coming year.

<https://www.facebook.com/field.gunners>

4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, *Defenders*

By Capt. David Cline, 1st Lt. Steven West and 1st Lt. Steven Wade

The 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) in June 2016. The *Defender's* mission required



Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, fire a Paladin weapon system. (Courtesy photo)

a direct support field artillery battalion that was ready to suppress, neutralize and destroy the enemy in decisive land actions, while concurrently operating independent platoons to assist joint and multinational partners in various operations throughout the region. As a battalion, the *Defenders* simultaneously completed a plethora of training while deployed that aligned directly with 3rd ABCT's four lines of effort: fight tonight, readiness, partnership and sustainment.

The *Defender Battalion's* support of both OSS and OIR embodied the *Bulldog Brigade's* fight tonight line of effort. The battalion provided combat power to the U.S. Army Central Command commander. The *Defenders* accomplished this with the Mobile Reaction Force – Heavy Firing battery in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The battalion trained through an emergency deployment readiness exercise to uphold the unit's ability to successfully execute this assigned task. The *Defenders* applied the lessons learned as they conducted a rotation of all three firing batteries to the multiple outstations in the OIR area of operation. The *Defender Battalion* was not only able to successfully support OIR, but also able to conduct three Table VI events, an armor battalion Mortar Army Training and Evaluation Program and a combined live-fire exercise with maneuver forces from the brigade and the Kuwaiti Land Forces. All of this while expertly maintaining a 90 percent operational readiness rating during the deployment.

While concurrently sustaining operations in support of the OSS and OIR mission, the *Defender Battalion* was able to maintain a high level of readiness and foster an environment for an increase in regional stability through partnership events and multiple training exercises. The training included the whole brigade and spanned the months of July and December. Training covered various topics ranging from counter-improvised explosive device and military operations on urbanized terrain training, to larger scale exercises. In September, the *Defenders* supported the brigade by providing two simulated batteries, three battalion fire support elements and a battalion tactical operation center during the command post exercise. This was a multifaceted training exercise, with the intent to chal-

lenge each battalion through simulations using the decisive action brigade level system.

This proved to be a very valuable exercise for the *Defenders*, as they were faced with a new direct support (DS) concept in which one of their batteries was put in DS of 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment throughout the entire battle simulation. This new concept differed from previous exercises and pushed the entire battalion to test their standard operating procedures and react to new circumstances they may not have previously encountered. Their training culminated with a brigade (-) combined arms live-fire exercise where the *Defenders* partnered with the Kuwaiti Land Forces to combine efforts and share tactical experiences while executing Fires in December.

Maintaining a strong presence split between Iraq and Kuwait was no easy task. However the *Defender Battalion* showed the Army and its allies just how well they can execute logistical tasks in order to sustain their mission. Maintenance assets accomplished major repair jobs on the firing lines quickly and efficiently even with a significant degradation of available mechanics. With two different mission sets, not only were the Paladins spread across the OSS and OIR area of operation but so were the maintainers. Those maintainers who stayed at Camp Buehring focused on the transportation of key assets such as Paladin engines and Forward Repair Systems to Iraq from Kuwait with minimal delays. Other logistical emphasis was the management of Class V such as thousands of rounds of ammunition, shells and fuses were key in providing realistic training. The *Defender Battalion's* cooks provided hot meals to keep Soldiers fed and morale of Soldiers high in field environments. When out of the field, the cooks took charge of the dining facility that provided meals to all that stay in Camp Buehring. The *Defender Battalion's* emphasis on logistics was a key part to our success.

In conclusion, the *Defender Battalion* was able to accomplish a variety of training while also supporting different mission sets as the battalion fell under Operation Spartan Shield and Operations Inherent Resolve. The battalion was able to come away from the time in Kuwait with refined standard operating procedures and a better understanding of partnering with host nation forces to accomplish a common goal. This was not an easy task, and the *Defenders'* definitely learned valuable lessons during the deployment. Currently, the battalion is in a transition phase as they prepare to return home to Ft. Bliss, Texas, to reset and begin the journey onto the next phase as part of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/4-1-Field-Artillery-First-or-Not-at-All-108995072845/>

4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment,

Iron Thunder

By 4-27th FAR

Throughout 2016, the *Iron Thunder Battalion* remained vigilant in maintaining its proficiency in both its assigned mission and its mission essential task list (METL) mission. In March, B Battery transitioned from the M777 A2 platform to the M109 A6 platform, transforming the battalion to a pure M109 A6 platform for the first time in four years. Following the transition, the battalion provided direct support Fires to 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team during Network Integration Evaluation 16.2 in May as a Paladin pure firing unit; all 18 howitzer sections and fire direction centers qualified, and B Battery, 4-27th FAR qualified all sections on the Paladin platform after a five-month training plan.

In July, 4-27th FA executed a Table XII qualification. During this time, B Battery prepared to serve as opposing forces support to the National Training Center for Rotation 16-09; followed by C Battery for Rotation 17-01. While at the NTC, both batteries trained on METL tasks, focused on platoon collective training and deployment operations and took advantage of the NTC environment to enhance their artillery proficiencies. At Fort Bliss, Texas, in September, A Battery participated in a combined arms live fire exercise (CALFEX) with Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, firing over 200 rounds in support of the CAB's training. The CALFEX reinforced the training objectives of combined arms maneuver and integrating multiple assets to support commanders in a decisive action environment.

The *Iron Thunder Battalion* executed Army Warfighting Assessment (AWA) 17.1 in October, utilizing the last iteration to train on both its assigned mission and its METL tasks. Following AWA 17.1, 4-27th FA executed a Table VI qualification, where all 18 M109 A6 sections successfully qualified. Table VI was a shaping operation to prepare the battalion for Precision Guidance Kit operations network in January 2017. In preparation to resume its U.S. Army Forces Command mission on Dec. 1, 2016, the battalion conducted FORSCOM divestiture; a process including turn-ins, redistributing, and reducing excess equipment on hand improving readiness across the 4-27th FA *Iron Thunder* formation.

<https://www.facebook.com/Iron-Thunder-4-27-FA-169476853095761/>

1st Cavalry Division Artillery, Red Team

By 1st CAV DIVARTY

The *Red Team* began 2016 participating in a 1st Cavalry Division Artillery staff exercise serving as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters, in preparation for upcoming training. In March, the division and DIVARTY staff traveled to Fort Leavenworth, Kans., to receive Mission Command Training. The DIVARTY spent a week conducting military decision-making processes, and refining battle drills and the DIVARTY tactical standard operating procedures.

In April, DIVARTY hosted a field artillery branch visit at Fort Hood, Texas, in order to brief and educate officers, warrant officers and noncommissioned officers on future options and movements for career progression. April was also the beginning of a three-month field exercise. DIVARTY stood up its tactical operation center (TOC) alongside the 1st CAV Division TOC, serving at the Force Field Artillery Headquarters. The DIVARTY conducted Command Post Exercise 1 (CPX) in April, and CPX 2 in May; both having a constructive simulation-supported focus on all aspects of TOC operations with full Mission Command Information Systems integration. These training exercises allowed the DIVARTY staff to conduct and exercise all of the seven mission-essential tasks.

In July, the *Red Team* resourced and conducted an external evaluation for 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Tables XV – XVIII in order to certify and qualify the battalion in key collective tasks and assess battalion staff processes prior to their National Training Center rotation in September. A sensor to shooter exercise followed in September, where the DIVARTY fire control and counterfire cells were allowed to exercise their technical capabilities in order to provide accurate and timely Fires in the direct support of division field artillery assets. DIVARTY concluded 2016 providing oversight and observer coach support of 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery as they conducted Paladin Integrated Management of the new Paladin M109A7.



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, conduct ammunition load out at Camp Hovey, South Korea. (2LT Gabriel Jenko/U.S. Army)

1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Dragons*

By 1-82nd FAR

In the winter of 2016, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Dragons*, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division First Team, deployed to the Republic of Korea (ROK) with the *Ironhorse* Brigade and joined the 210th Fires Brigade as part of the Counter Fire Task Force in order to support the Armistice and deter North Korean aggression. The Soldiers of 1-82nd FA also conducted artillery skills proficiency testing and howitzer Tables I-VI to remain certified while deployed. The battalion conducted small arms ranges, warrior tasks and battle drills, and command post exercises driven by Eighth Army and 2nd Infantry Division (Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian). After setting a solid base at the individual level the battalion began to train collectively at sections and teams.

Throughout spring the *Dragons* conducted a field artillery Table XII and built relationships with ROK counterparts including three partner shoots with the 26th MECH Division Artillery and ROKA 5th Corps. The battalion also participated in Warrior Friendship Week which included soccer, Korean wrestling, basketball, relay races and an overview of the Republic of Korea's culture. First-82nd FA concluded spring with brigade alerts and load-out exercises to include C Battery receiving their full combat load. This ended with the battalion deploying to battle positions, validating that 1-82nd FA was ready to fight tonight!

The *Dragons* started summer strong with a spur ride incorporating warrior tasks and a rigorous 32-mile ruck march. The battalion continued with cultural awareness by conducting a staff ride to the site of the Battle of Chipyong-ni. Retired Col. Lee; a member of the *Dragons* during the battle and throughout the Korean War served as the tour guide. The battalion concluded the summer with a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear rodeo including operational decontamination and mission oriented protective posture gear exchange to prepare the battalion for chemical attacks.

The *Dragons* began fall with another Eighth Army command post exercise (CPX) testing the defense of Republic of Korea. Following the successful CPX, the battalion completed a full load-out exercise concluding with the battery at battle positions. With completion of the load-ex the battalion then conducted a relief in place with 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas. Upon redeployment, the *Dragons* received a new battalion footprint and conducted reverse Soldier Readiness Processing. The battalion is currently preparing for well-deserved leave and initiation of the road to National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., upon return. *Can and will!*

Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/141045735@N06/albums>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/182FA/>



An M109A6 from 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, conducts a live-fire exercise during a rotation to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. (Courtesy photo)

2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Steel Dragons*

By 2-82nd FA

Second Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery *Steel Dragons*; 3rd Brigade Combat Team, *Greywolf*; 1st Cavalry Division First Team; completed 2016 by providing support to three National Training Center rotations at Fort Irwin, Calif. A Battery, *Rock*, and B Battery, *Bulls*, provided opposing force while C Battery, *Centurion*, augmented 3rd Cavalry Regiment. The battalion concluded the fiscal year with their own brigade at NTC Rotation 17-01.

In the spring, 2-82nd FA focused on individual Soldier skills, artillery proficiency, and Howitzer Tables in preparation for NTC and Operation Spartan Shield (OSS). The battalion conducted small arms ranges, warrior tasks and battle drills, as well as a Paladin and Fire Direction Center University Academy to re-red the team following a support cycle. After setting a solid base at the individual level the battalion began collective training at the section and team levels. Soldiers in 2-82nd FA certified and qualified howitzer sections, fire support teams and fire direction centers through FA Table VI then pushed each platoon and battery through FA Tables XII and XV.

Throughout the summer, the *Steel Dragons* conducted additional battery evaluations, and an FA Table XVIII integrated with the brigade's exercise evaluation as a final exercise prior to NTC. Over the nine-day exercise, *Steel Dragons* completed a rigorous 96-hour scenario that tested their ability to mass Fires, react to multiple forms of contact and conduct out-of-sector, emergency and de-

graded missions. The *Steel Dragons* then showed tremendous versatility integrating with maneuver assets, receiving a various array of firing missions in support of the *Greywolf Brigade's* exercise evaluation live-fire exercise. The battalion fired multiple standard and non-standard missions allowing the *Steel Dragons* to reinforce core competencies while simultaneously exposing the brigade's leaders and Soldiers to the full capabilities of indirect Fires.

Following successful completion of the train-up, the battalion deployed with the brigade to NTC. Upon redeployment from NTC, the *Steel Dragons* received and conducted new equipment testing on updated Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, Lightweight Forward Entry Device, *Centaur* automated firing systems and the Precision Guided Kit. The battalion is currently preparing for their upcoming deployment to Kuwait in support of OSS. *Can and will!*

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/2nd82fa>

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

By 2nd Lt. Mark Lattanzi

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, *Rolling Thunder*, redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas, following a rotation to Korea with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, where they supported multinational operations and training. Key successful training included 400 on-target rounds during Table XII in support of D



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, conduct a fielding and live-fire exercise with their M109A7 Paladins. (Courtesy photo)

Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and Table XV with Republic of Korea Army K55A1 self-propelled howitzers. Additionally, the battalion seamlessly integrated Korean Augmentation to the United States Army Soldiers into howitzer sections which led to section certification and multiple live fire missions.

In May of 2015, the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment colors were cased as the unit was reflagged as the 3-16th FAR under the command of Lt. Col. Terry Clark. The unit is currently engaged in field testing the M109 A7 self-propelled howitzer and M992 A3 tracked ammunition carrier, the successors to the M109 A6 self-propelled howitzer and M992 A2 Field Artillery Ammunition Support Vehicle, from August to November 2016. This tasking is a significant opportunity for the battalion to influence the future of the field artillery and the systems it utilizes. Concurrently, the 3-16th FA is preparing for a rotation to the National Training Center in February 2017.

In addition to their mission, the unit actively participates in the Fort Hood Adopt-a-School program supporting Southwest Elementary and Lake Belton Middle School to build a positive relationship with the local community. The 3-16th FA continues to train for fu-

ture operations in order to support the mission of the field artillery. The unit is currently under the command of Lt. Col. Joey Errington and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Balis.

Unit Facebook URL: <https://www.facebook.com/316FieldArtilleryRegiment>

Field Artillery Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Steel

By FAS, 3rd CR

Field Artillery Squadron, *Steel*, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, conducted a rigorous train-up in fiscal year 2016 prior to deploying two batteries in support of Operation Resolute Support. *Steel Squadron* executed a 1st Cavalry Division Artillery evaluated Table XVIII and fire coordination exercise in conjunction with the regiment's pre-National Training Center field training exercise in December 2015.

To be prepared for the widest possible range of missions in support of Operation Resolute Support, including distributed operations across multiple firing points, *Steel Squadron* executed NTC 16-04, a decisive action rotation that included wide area security providing fire support for maneuver units securing populated areas.

This concept ensured batteries, howitzer sections and fire direction centers (FDCs) were able to provide the regiment with the flexibility to select the appropriate weapon system and capability to employ regardless of the mission. The squadron also facilitated Precision Guidance Kit new equipment training and Precision Guided Munitions refresher training while simultaneously preparing for Guardian Angel support to advisor teams. Prior to deployment, the squadron conducted training with special weapons and tactics teams from Austin, Cedar Park and Georgetown Texas.

The only artillery unit in support of Train, Advise, and Assist Command – East, A Battery fired more than 500 rounds in support of three (3) maneuver forces on three (3) operating bases—more than any artillery battery in Afghanistan. A Battery also enabled the Task Force STEEL PAT to conduct over 50 key leader engagements by providing Guardian Angel support ensuring safety of advisors from insider attacks. In addition, A Battery ensured force protection on Operating Base Fenty, assuming the tower guard mission on the southern perimeter of the operating base.

Lion and Regulator batteries at Fort Hood fired over 1,300 rounds in support of two adjacent brigades' combined arms live-fire exercises, supported installation Red Cycle operations, trained and activated in support of the Crisis Reaction Battalion for all of Fort Hood and maintained qualified howitzer sections and platoon FDCs to support the regiment's forward mission as well as home station maneuver training.

1st Infantry Division Artillery, *Drumfire*

By 1st ID DIVARTY

Warfighter 16-04 in April was a good problem to have for the 1st Infantry Division Artillery. The exercise forced the newly activated Drumfire team to build and validate systems and reach a level of readiness that would achieve the division commander's guidance of fighting with Fires forward. The DIVARTY out-shot a world-class opposing force, proved its value as a Force Field Artillery Headquarters, showcased itself as an effective agency for counterfire operations, and displayed its agility as an alternate mission command node for the division.

At the conclusion of Warfighter 16-04, the DIVARTY sent an expeditionary training team to Kuwait. Deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery executed its Artillery Table XII, exercising systems to combine all supporting elements of Fires to deliver timely and accurate fire support to the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. The DIVARTY training team assisted 1-7th FA's radar, meteorological, fire direction center, forward observer and howitzer sections to operate proficiently as platoon-size organizations. The event showcased that the DIVARTY not only can perform its function as a Force Field Artillery Headquarters, but it can also build capacity to help train the division's artillerymen.

The DIVARTY's support to 1-7th FA in Kuwait served as an excellent precursor to help prepare 1st ABCT, 1st ID for their upcoming deployment to the Republic of Korea (ROK). The *Drumfire* team turned its focus to 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery. In May batteries from Hamilton's Own participated in the division artillery readiness tests and Artillery Table XVIII. The DIVARTY staff designed and implemented a training event to further develop field artillery core competencies across a spectrum of tasks. Training mentors from the DIVARTY guided and evaluated firing batteries in the exercise of mission command, movement and occupation procedures, delivery of Fires, sustainment operations and how to best protect assets.

In addition to preparing 1-5th FA for the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., and ROK operations, the DIVARTY wanted to standardize the Fires certification to ensure field artillery capabilities are aligned across the division. The events with 1-5th FA in late spring 2016 did that, and set the DIVARTY on a glide path to provide responsive, accurate and agile fire support for the *Big Red One*.

The summer was devoted to preparing a portion of the DIVARTY to deploy in support of Operation Inherit Resolve (OIR). The *Drumfire*'s precision Fires team executed multiple collateral damage estimate, target mensuration only and joint Fires observer courses to prepare for the upcoming mission set of defeating Islamic State Militants in Iraq. The division Fires cell participated in numerous academic and formal leader development programs, two division-level staff exercises, and closed with a rigorous strike cell validation to ensure proper target engagement criteria are met in a deliberate and dynamic environment. The team performed admirably and the 1st ID commander was comfortable with the DIVARTY's ability to engage and prosecute targets effectively.

The DIVARTY celebrated its 90th birthday and one-year reactivation Oct. 14. The event encompassed a tough fitness competition where teams went head-to-head through challenging exercises and obstacles, a unit run with cannons arrayed along the route to rumble Custer Hill, a formal cake-cutting to recognize deserving *Drumfire* Soldiers and veterans and a retreat ceremony to induct the DIVARTY's first honorary colonel, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Dodson and honorary sergeant major, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Eutimo Echevarria. The celebration also gave the DIVARTY pause to reflect on its guiding principles; that the DIVARTY creates wins for the *Big Red One*, it exists to create an unfair advantage to make our enemies quit, it has the unique talent to consistently destroy the enemy with massed Fires, and the DIVARTY is an organization of professional teammates who build capacity every day and are ready for any mission.

As the 1st ID DIVARTY enters 2017, the aforementioned principles will be strained and rigorously tested, but will stand true. A portion of the team just recently deployed in support of OIR. As a Force Field Artillery Headquarters, the DIVARTY will be chartered to synchronize fire support as the Iraqi Security Forces eradicate Islamic State militants in the city of Mosul. The remainder of the unit, Fire Base Riley, will prepare 1-7th FA for its upcoming mission to Europe. Regardless the mission, time and again as displayed over its last 90 years, the 1st Infantry Division Artillery will continue to achieve victory through Fires!

10th Mountain Division

2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, *Allons*

By Maj. Derek Reeves and Capt. Aaron Duckery

In 2016, Soldiers in 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery completed a nine month deployment to Afghanistan, supported Cadet Summer Training at the United States Military Academy, fielded M119 A3 howitzers, certified the battalion through Table XVIII and prepared for a decisive action training environment (DATE) Joint Readiness Training Center rotation.

In January, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, A Battery and B Battery redeployed from a nine month deployment, of providing Advisor Force Protection and Quick Reaction Force for coalition forces in Kabul, Afghanistan. In March, C Battery redeployed from providing indirect Fires in support of operations in Southern Afghanistan.





Soldiers from Task Force Allons, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, set up a perimeter in response to a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device during a deployment to Afghanistan. (Courtesy photo)

Upon redeployment of 2nd Brigade Combat Team maneuver battalions, the *Allons* brought back the detached fire supporters into the battalion to improve quality of training and leader development of our fire supporters. B Battery, a platoon from A Battery, and a platoon of fire supporters provided support to Cadet Summer Training at the United States Military Academy. This support included firing over 7,000, 105 mm rounds and training over 1,400 cadets on basic fire support and fire direction.

In August, C Battery conducted Tables I through XII. In September, *Allons Battalion* conducted the fielding of 12 M119 A3 howitzers. In October, *Allons Battalion* conducted a 25-day exercise conducting a fire support coordination exercise in support of 11 maneuver companies, conducted a combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX) in support of three maneuver battalions, including firing a battalion time on target during CALFEX, and trained and certified all batteries and the battalion on Tables I through XVIII.

In November, the *Allons Battalion* staff conducted Leaders Training Program at Fort Polk, La., to prepare for an upcoming JRTC rotation. In December, the *Allons Battalion* conducted a staff training exercise and preparations for DATE rotation.

The battalion will conduct a JRTC rotation and will execute live Fires and support a DATE rotation in January. The *Allons Battalion* remains ready to answer our nations call. *Let's go!*

3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, Centaurs

By 3-6th FA

The Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, *Centaurs*, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, just completed a month-long training event to prepare for Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 17-04. During this event, the battalion skillfully navigated a series of tables culminating with a Table XVIII certified battalion. As the Soldiers executed table certification, they were tasked with balancing the support of 1st Brigade's combined arms live fire which validated companies to attend JRTC Rotation 17-04. The battalion fired over 1,000 rounds of 105 mm and 155 mm while

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, participate in a live-fire exercise. (Courtesy photo)





U.S. Army Soldiers from 2nd Infantry Division Artillery conduct sling load operations on Gray Army Airfield at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., Sept. 16, 2016. (U.S. Army Photo by CPT John Sa)

being evaluated on battery defensive operations. In the following weeks they will take part in the brigade validating event known as Mountain Peak. The *Centaurs* will provide Fires to four maneuver battalions in support of brigade operations.

2nd Infantry Division Artillery, Warrior Strike

By Capt. John Sa

Soldiers of 2nd Infantry Division Artillery sustained their resolute focus on providing a certified Force Field Artillery Headquarters to the 2nd Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division while training and certifying four lethal field artillery battalions in support of worldwide contingency operations. The 2nd Infantry Division Artillery continues to pursue excellence through the artillerization of sustained readiness and integration of fire support to allow maneuver brigades to win in a decisive action environment, while sustaining readiness of Soldiers and families.

June marked the first change of command for 2nd ID DIVARTY at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., where Col. Philip Raymond relinquished command to Col. David Pierce. Pierce and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Ferguson redoubled 2nd ID DIVARTY's commitment to providing lethal fire support and ready artillery battalions to the JBLM and U.S. Army Alaska brigade combat team commanders.

The DIVARTY continues to expand on opportunities to train, resource and certify the attached 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery and

2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment while providing training readiness authority oversight and certifications to the USARAK battalions 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment and 2-377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment. Execution of externally evaluated Artillery Tables XV and XVIII are again routine and allow the DIVARTY commander to teach, mentor, and certify the next generation of artillery leaders.

Over the course of the last year, the DIVARTY facilitated the training readiness across the force by sending two Artillery Table XVIII certified field artillery battalions to the National Training Center. Soldiers of 2-17th FA (2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, NTC Rotation 16-03) and 1-37th FA (1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, NTC Rotation 16-06) both experienced immense success in destroying Donovanian high-value targets by integrating and massing cannon, rocket and other fire support assets at the decisive point to achieve the Stryker Brigade commander's end state. These two battalions entered their National Training Center rotation highly trained and both battalions exited as part of a certified brigade combat team ready to deploy in support of worldwide contingency operations.

Soldiers in 2nd Infantry Division Artillery deployed the FFAHQ to the Republic of Korea twice in support of Key Resolve 2016 and Operation Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2016 fulfilling the DIVARTY's wartime mission on the Korean Peninsula. The DIVARTY successfully integrated into the RUCD providing division fire support coordinator, joint targeting expertise, and integration of all fire support



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment conduct direct fire operations on the M777A2 at the Orchard Training Center, Idaho, in support of Operation Raptor Fury Oct. 10, 2016. (Capt. Brian Harris/U.S. Army)

assets. The 2nd Infantry Division FFAHQ remains trained and ready to deploy when called upon.

The DIVARTY continues to enforce certification standards across the formation with the DIVARTY commander certifying 12 artillery batteries across 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, 2-17th FA, 1-37th FA, and 2-377th PFA on Artillery Table XV. The DIVARTY continues to advance the Artillery Table XVIII external evaluation (EXEVA) concept modifying the April execution of 1-37th FA EXEVAL that was externally driven by the DIVARTY staff to the current construct integrating the Artillery Table XVIII with the maneuver brigade command post exercise. The November 2017 Artillery Table XVIII EXEVAL of 2-17th FA at the Yakima Training Center was a proof of concept for future JBLM Artillery Table XVIII exercises combining live and virtual training by linking 2-2nd SBCT's command post exercise at JBLM in real-time with live artillery fire at YTC more than 150 miles away. This first of its kind exercise was designed to allow the 7th Infantry Division commanding general to certify the field artillery battalion by integrating external evaluators from the 7th ID and 2nd ID DIVARTY staffs. The evaluation highlighted the battalion's ability to integrate both live and virtual artillery Fires in support of maneuver fight while certifying the battalion for worldwide contingency operations. Warrior Strike!

Visit 2nd ID DIVARTY online at www.facebook.com/2d-Infantry-Division-Artillery-915004705185488/?ref=hl

1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Lions

By Capt. Eric Johnson

Over the past year, the *Red Lion Battalion* fired over 3,000 rounds during joint and combined training exercises, and demonstrations.

First Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment began the year by qualifying a platoon from C Battery through Table XII for deployment to Pacific Pathways 16-01. Soldiers in C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment's fire support team successfully executed three collective live-fire training exercises with international partners in Thailand, Korea and Philippines.

In February, the *Red Lion Battalion* conducted the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery's first Artillery Table XVIII external evaluation to test the battalion's technical and tactical artillery proficiency. This exercise provided the opportunity to rehearse battalion-level operations and planning in preparation for the National Training Center Rotation 16-06.

In March, the battalion sent B Battery to the Yakima Training Center, Wash., in order to support 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division's company combined arms live-fire lanes with timely and accurate Fires. Additionally, B Battery and the battalion fire direction center executed a joint air attack team planned by the brigade Fires cell which integrated Navy electronic warfare aircraft, Air Force close air support, Army close combat attack, as well as High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and cannon artillery.

In May, the *Red Lions* deployed to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., where they integrated all fire support assets and delivered Fires in support of 1-2nd SBCT. After redeployment to Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., the *Red Lions* re-certified individuals and sections, while solidifying NTC lessons learned through the execution of a base piece exercise in August at JBLM.

In October, A Battery deployed to Orchard Training Center, Idaho, to certify through Artillery Table XII, allowing the platoon the freedom to deliver Fires in support of 16th Combat Aviation Brigade's Operation Raptor Fury. During this operation, the *Red Lions*

utilized CS-14 equipment to originate a digital fire mission with observers from 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment fire support team, processed the mission at the battalion fire direction center in JBLM and then sent the mission to the firing battery at OCTC to culminate a digital fire mission transmission over a distance of greater than 800 miles.

During the end of October and through early November, B and C batteries qualified all platoons through Table XII, enabling the *Red Lions* to deliver Fires for future combined arms training events. Additionally, the battalion conducted dry and live iterations of air assault raids in partnership with CH-47's from the Washington Army National Guard.

Finally, during the month of December, the battalion fielded new versions of the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System and Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder systems, as well as upgrades to the M777 A2, increasing the battalion's capability to rapidly, accurately and effectively deliver Fires on the minute, without delay.

Visit 1-37th FA online at www.facebook.com/137FieldArtilleryRegiment

2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment,

Steel

By Capt. Justin Butt

Over the last year, *Steel* Soldiers were responsible for providing target acquisition and lethal Fires in support of 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team operations. In total, the battalion supported two National Training Center rotations, executed two battalion Table XVIII's at Yakima Training Center, Wash., deployed in support of Pacific Pathways Partnered Forces Training, supported numerous

combined arms live-fire exercises, and safely and accurately fired 8,531 155 mm artillery rounds in fiscal year 2016.

During the *Steel Battalion's* NTC Rotation 16-03 in January, the unit continued to achieve levels of proficiency and technical competence rarely seen at the NTC. The battalion massed two or more batteries 210 times during the rotation destroying 47 x enemy cannon systems, 4 x enemy rocket systems, 3 x enemy air defense artillery systems, and numerous enemy combat vehicles. The battalion also executed a brigade joint air attack team during its NTC live-fire event, synchronizing 155 mm Fires, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, electronic warfare, cyber offensive and defensive teams, signal and intelligence collections assets, rotary wing helicopters and Air Force A-10's.

During the spring of 2016, the battalion supported its global partner forces in the Pacific. Forward observers deployed with maneuver units and conducted joint, multi-national training events. One highlight during the deployment was the digital sustainment training conducted between the battalion fire direction center, located at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., and those observers forward deployed across the Pacific. The team successfully processed trans-Pacific digital calls-for-fire, working through organic digital systems from the sensor to the shooter, demonstrating the full range of new communication systems capabilities. The battalion also fired in support of Rising Thunder 2016 while partnered with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces for a month at the Yakima Training Center.

Wrapping up the year, *Steel* executed Artillery Table XVIII external evaluation linked into a brigade command post exercise using live and virtual components. The battalion processed fire missions from forward deployed areas, while the brigade exercised mission

Soldiers in B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, fire white phosphorus rounds in support of Operation Bayonet Thrust at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. (Capt. Brian Harris/U.S. Army)



command from JBLM. During the month-long training event, the battalion exercised a deployment readiness exercise, built combat power in a tactical assembly area, conducted a battalion family readiness group steering meeting via visual telecommunications from YTC to JBLM, was evaluated by the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery and 7th Infantry Division commanders, and fired over 800 rounds during a live fire, all nested into 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division's command post exercise. It was a highly successful year building proficiency throughout the formation on artillery mission essential tasks. The Soldiers of 2-17th FA are prepared to deploy to war today and win! *Steel!*

Visit 2-17 FA online at www.facebook.com/2-17-Field-Artillery-Steel-143297922379956/

3rd Infantry Division Artillery, Marne Thunder

By 3rd ID DIVARTY

Over the past year, the *Marne Thunder* team honed its combat skills and capabilities as the division's Force Field Artillery Headquarters and executed training readiness oversight of the division's field artillery battalions. 3rd ID DIVARTY demonstrated their ability to synchronize all elements of the Fires warfighting function in support of the 3rd ID commanding general's vision – intelligence drives Fires, and Fires drives maneuver – through multiple command post exercises that culminated during War Fighter 17-01.

Under the leadership of Col. Todd Wasmund and Command Sgt. Maj. John Johnson, the *Marne Thunder* team postured the DIVARTY to support the 3rd Infantry Division as the Army's premier force for decisive action. Warfighter Exercise 17-01 served as an opportunity to stress the unit's abilities while displaying the awesome capabilities of the Fires warfighting function in a near-peer, decisive action environment. The CG's intent for Fires enabled the DIVARTY to synchronize Fires across the division.

After the DIVARTY's certification through the warfighter exercise, the unit's focus shifted to maintaining a sustained readiness status in support of the 3rd Infantry Division and worldwide contingency operations. The DIVARTY Headquarters continues to execute training readiness authority over the FA units supporting 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment and 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, enabling field artillery training while providing oversight to the 3rd Infantry Division Fire Support community to ensure the success of the Fires Warfighting Function. DIVARTY recently published a comprehensive new Red Book reestablishing standards of training and operations for 3rd ID and units training at Fort Stewart, Ga.

The *Marne Thunder* team also took great pride in improving garrison teamwork and procedures by providing administrative support for tenant units throughout Fort Stewart. DIVARTY Soldiers participated in numerous community outreach events to include the re-

Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, sling load their M119A3 as part of two-gun air assault training in preparation for their joint exercise with 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. (Courtesy photo)



cent Marne Week, celebrating competition, esprit de corps and unit pride across the division.

Additionally Wasmund and Johnson emphasized a leadership development program focused on personal character, tactical knowledge, and individual skills for junior leaders throughout the 3rd ID fire support community. DIVARTY leadership development sessions are preparing the next generation of field artillery leaders to take the reins and carry on the great *Marne Thunder* traditions throughout the Army by teaching young leaders how to take care of their equipment, their units, their Soldiers and each other.

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

By 1-41st FA

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery *Glory's Guns*, redeployed to Fort Stewart, Ga., following their third deployment to Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. While forward deployed, *Glory's Guns* conducted a series of rigorous multinational training exercises across the U.S. Army Europe area of responsibility. The exercises were designed to build the readiness of U.S., allied and partnered nations while deterring Russian aggression. The multinational training exercises included Operation Anakonda in Poland, Operation Flaming Thunder in Lithuania, and Combined Resolve VII at the Joint-Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. *Glory's Guns* fired over 4,000 rounds in support of combined-arms training exercises during the deployment.

While forward deployed, the battalion also completed collective qualification through Artillery Table XII. After completing reintegration in November, *Glory's Guns* continued its training progression towards its April, 2017, National Training Center rotation. The training progression includes Artillery Table XV, a brigade command post exercise and 15 company combined-arms live fire exercises. The progression will culminate with Artillery Table XVIII.

Soldiers in C Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, stage an M109A6 Paladin for their mission in Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland, during Exercise Anakonda '16. The exercise took place during 1-41st FA's regionally aligned forces rotation in Europe. (Courtesy photo)

1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, *Battlekings*

By 1-9th FA

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, *Battlekings*, supported the Regional Alignment of Forces (RAF) mission in 2016. Primarily supporting the African Accord Series RAF missions *Battlekings* deployed to Chad, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Senegal and Tanzania. Senior leaders and staff partnered with African military forces to build relationships and share best training practices throughout multiple exercises. In addition to the African Accords the *Battlekings* supported Operation Atlantic Resolve in Germany and the Joint Multinational Training Group in the Ukraine. While forward deployed, the *Battlekings* conducted a series of rigorous multinational training exercises across the U.S. Army Africa and U.S. Army Europe areas of responsibility. Following their return from the African Accords the *Battlekings* completed collective qualification through Artillery Table XII at Fort Stewart, Ga., and continue to prepare for Artillery Table XV, XVIII, and a rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center in June of 2017.

4th Infantry Division Artillery

By Capt. Kristopher Watson

The 4th Infantry Division Artillery concluded the first year of its reactivation in 2016. This was a very eventful year for the *Iron Gunners*, with a robust set of training exercises and operations that took the unit across the globe.

Continuing to grow from its initial fill of personnel and equipment received in 2015, the DIVARTY began to execute its unique missions and functions. As the 4th ID prepared to execute Warfighter Exercise (WFX) 16-03, so too did the 4th ID DIVARTY prepare to conduct its first major exercise as a new unit. The WFX stressed the DIVARTY's ability to conduct mission command of ground surveillance radar battalions, execute the military decision-making



process (MDMP), and function as a force field artillery headquarters (FFAHQ).

Concurrently, it began to exercise its training and 13-series personnel oversight over the three 4th ID Field Artillery battalions: 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery *Vikings*; 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery *Steel*; and 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery *Pacesetters*.

After the conclusion of the WFX, DIVARTY conducted a series of command post exercises (CPX) and training events designed to improve their ability to deploy and operate as a FFAHQ. Additionally, the DIVARTY continued to support the training of the three FA battalions, specifically in their conduct of their Artillery Gunnery Tables XV and XVIII.

The next major event for the DIVARTY was Anakonda 16, a multinational event hosted by the Polish Armed Forces. In preparation, the DIVARTY conducted MDMP, tactical operations center equipment readiness exercises, and a complex CPX designed to simulate the conditions and events of the operation. The DIVARTY deployed the majority of its assigned personnel to Poland for the exercise, successfully demonstrating its ability to deploy and redeploy to an austere environment in support of unified land operations.

Other major events for 2016 included the *Iron Gunner's* first Saint Barbara's Day Ball, with participation from all three field artillery battalions and 4th Infantry Division. It also published the 4th Infantry Division Artillery Redbook, providing guidance and standards for artillery operations within 4th ID. Lastly, the DIVARTY supported the 4th ID mission command element (MCE) in Germany by providing personnel to serve six month tours with the divisions forward deployed MCE.

2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, Steel!

By Capt. Samuel Mock

The *Steel Battalion* deployed to Afghanistan in early 2016 after completing a rigorous decisive-action rotation at National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., in November 2015. During the rotation, the unit fired over 3,000 rounds of 105/155 mm munitions. Immediately upon arrival to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the battalion formed a combined task force of over 1,300 members responsible for force protection of Kandahar Airfield, including fire support, lethal targeting, dismounted and mounted patrols, air assault operations, route clearance, entry control point security, perimeter security, internal security and contingency operations.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, send a round downrange from their M777. (Courtesy photo)



Soldiers used M777s to provide a 24 hour "hot gun" capability, as well as support for expeditionary advisory packages and Guardian Angel support to Security Force Assistance Advisory Teams throughout the region. The Soldiers regularly partnered and conducted joint operations with Afghan counterparts. Soldiers in 2nd Platoon, A Battery, 2nd Battalion 77th Field Artillery provided the only indirect fire support in Kandahar Province to members of Kandahar Air Force (KAF) and Special Operations Forces operating in Kandahar Province. Over the course of the deployment, the M777 platoon conducted over 250 illumination missions, 150 high-explosive missions and one Excaliber M982 mission in support of KAF defensive plans and maneuver forces in Kandahar Province.

Throughout the year, the battalion managed a diverse mission set. The sun never truly set on the *Steel Battalion*, with elements distributed to 11 sites, in four countries, on three continents, with major hubs in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Kosovo. *Team Steel*, the unit rear detachment, was equally productive with support to the NTC (Opposing Forces 16-02), live fire joint air attack team training with 10th Special Forces Group, and ready force training at Fort Carson, Colo. Despite the diverse mission set, Soldiers remained a cohesive force supporting 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, *Warhorse Brigade*. In the fall of 2016, the unit redeployed back to Fort Carson, Colo. *Steel!*

3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment

By 3-29th FAR

The 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, *Pacesetters*, are wrapping up an eventful year of training aimed at preparing for the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division's upcoming deployment to European Command.

After returning from supporting Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve, the *Pacesetter Battalion* immediately began training to ensure it maintained a high level of readiness in order to support any future mission. Soldiers from the *Pacesetter Battalion* executed small arms and crew served weapons ranges, maintenance operations and eventually began Gunnery Tables 6-12.

The *Pacesetter's* again returned to the training areas of Fort Carson, Colo. in July for the *Iron Brigade's* capstone training event in preparation for its rotation at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Ca., Iron Strike 16 gave the *Pacesetter Battalion* a chance to hone its skills in a direct action in environment, while conducting a Table 15 and 18 battalion qualification. Soldiers and staff were able to execute their mission essential tasks, and develop standard operation procedures to set conditions for battalion-wide success at NTC.

The *Pacesetters* returned from the field and exercised their deployment readiness skills, as the *Iron Brigade* conducted maintenance and rail load operations in order to move the brigade to Fort Irwin. The *Pacesetter* Soldiers arrived at NTC and immediately began to flex their power, bringing all vehicles up to a fully mission-capable status, conducting tactical operations center and sustainment operations, and calibrating all weapons systems in preparation for live-fire training.

NTC Rotation 16-09 allowed to *Pacesetter Battalion* to demonstrate their ability to project combat power across the battlefield in support of maneuver forces. The battalion was able to shoot in excess of 1,000 live rounds in support of 3rd Armored Brigade, including precision guidance kit fuses and rocket assisted projectiles. The *Pacesetter Battalion* came away from their rotation ready to accomplish any mission assigned.



A reduced range practice rocket launched from a 17th Field Artillery Brigade High Mobility Artillery Rocket System passes overhead during a noise test on Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., Sept. 29th, 2016. (Sgt. Jorge Higuera/17th FAB)

17th Field Artillery Brigade, *Thunderbolt!*

By 17th FAB Public Affairs

In January 2016, the *Thunderbolt Brigade* made the final preparations to deploy one of its High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) batteries in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Over the course of the year, the unit would conduct nearly 700 strikes in support of the fight against Daesh, providing valuable fire-support capabilities to the combined joint task force commander and inflicting devastating losses on the enemy.

During training exercises Operation Jade Helm and Red Flag-Alaska in May and June at the Yakima Training Center, Wash., elements of the 17th Field Artillery Brigade trained to integrate the fire-support capabilities of the HIMARS with the Air Force and U.S. Special Operations Command in a multi-domain environment.

These training opportunities would prepare the brigade for upcoming joint and multi-national exercises in support of U.S. Army Pacific and I Corps.

In August, the brigade would serve as I Corps' Force Field Artillery Headquarters during Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, a large-scale command post exercise led by U.S. Pacific Command. In addition to a large brigade element that would participate remotely from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., a contingent of *Thunderbolt* Soldiers traveled to South Korea and worked directly with brigade partners in the South Korean Military to enhance multi-domain capabilities and improve mission command systems.

The *Thunderbolt Brigade* fired the HIMARS on JBLM for the first time in September as part of a noise test to assess the environmental impacts of firing the rocket system on the installation on a regular basis. The ability to live-fire the HIMARS on JBLM would reduce the number of times the unit would travel to the Yakima Training Center to fire, saving the Army a substantial amount of resources



and would give the Soldiers back a significant amount of time with their families.

In November, 17th FAB, in conjunction with the 7th Infantry Division, certified 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment in preparation for another deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and U.S. Army Central. This effort would involve the entire brigade as 5-3rd FA faced a free-thinking opposing force in a dynamic and complex multi-domain environment.

The brigade closed the year supporting Yama Sakura 71, a U.S. Army Pacific joint, bilateral command-post exercise with our partners in the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force. The brigade supported the exercise from both Japan and the U.S. while operating again as the I Corps Force Field Artillery Headquarters.

Over the course of 2016, the *Thunderbolt Brigade* honed its leaders and Soldiers into an agile and adaptive force capable of offering a dynamic range of multi-domain capabilities in the Pacific and across the world.

Thunderbolt!

Visit 17th FAB online at www.facebook.com/17thFieldArtillery-Brigade



5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, First Round

By 5-3rd FAR

The *First Round Battalion* spent much of 2016 training for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and U.S. Army Central. This effort would include a series of challenging training exercises that would build readiness across the battalion and lead to the unit's deployment certification.

In March, the battalion traveled to the Yakima Training Center, Wash., to conduct a battery-level external evaluation and command post exercise that would challenge the unit to provide accurate and lethal fire support in a dynamic environment.

Operation Jade Helm in May and a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System rapid infiltration exercise in June increased the *First Round Battalion's* ability to integrate into a joint multi-domain fight, something that would prove invaluable during exercises later in the year.

The *First Round Warrior Academy*, held in September, was a week-long training event for the battalion's junior leaders where they lead their squads through a series of stations, testing Soldier resiliency and building agile and adaptive junior leaders.

The culminating event of 2016 was the battalion's deployment certification exercise in November. While at the Yakima Training Center, the Soldiers and leaders of the *First Round* team were tested on every aspect of the unit's mission as they took on a free-thinking opposing force and conducted a large-scale live-fire exercise.

The *First Round Battalion* stands ready for its deployment and is more than prepared to deliver accurate and deadly fire support in an ever-changing operating environment.

First Round!

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

1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, Flexible

By 1-94th FAR

The *Flexible Battalion* started off 2016 with the deployment of one of its batteries in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and U.S. Army Central.

B Battery became a deadly addition to Combined Joint Task Force and would deal considerable losses to the enemy as it provided fire support for the Iraqi Security Forces throughout the year. They would support the fight against the Islamic State from Iraq, Turkey



Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, launch a rocket from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., as part of a reduced range practice rocket noise test Sept. 29, 2016. (Sgt. Jorge Higuera/17th FAB)

and Kuwait with missions that ranged from building partner capacity to deadly rocket strikes against the Daesh militants.

While a significant portion of the battalion was deployed, the elements remaining on Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., continued to train and provided valuable support to the *Thunderbolt Brigade's* efforts throughout the year.

In April, the elements of the *Flexible Battalion* on JBLM traveled to the Yakima Training Center for a live-fire exercise that trained and certified new High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) crews and focused on individual and crew readiness.

These *Flexible* crews were selected to be the first to fire the HIMARS on JBLM during the Reduced Range Practice Rocket Noise Test in September. This important effort could pave the way for substantial cost-savings for the Army by reducing travel and logistics costs incurred while traveling to the Yakima Training Center.

The battalion welcomed the Soldiers of B Battery home in October after nine months of combat operations in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

Soldiers and leaders of the *Flexible Battalion*, including the veterans of the recent deployment, went through a rigorous observer/controller training program before offering vital support during the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment deployment certification exercise.

After an incredible year, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment remains a professional and *Flexible* team that is ready to meet the challenges of the multi-domain fight.

Professional, ready and flexible!

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

308th Brigade Support Battalion, Red Lions

By 308th BSB

The 308th Brigade Support Battalion began the year with the Red Lion Operator Challenge, a new take on routine drivers training. It incorporated a more dynamic set of training variables once the Soldiers passed the basic certification course.

Leader development and resiliency remained a major focus for the battalion throughout the year with the implementation of leader professional development that incorporated general leadership philosophies and specific logistics-related topics. In February, the



battalion began a partnership with several regional Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs that provided the cadets an opportunity to interact with and learn from Red Lion junior officers.

During a Gunga Din in May and a Mungadai in July, *Red Lion* leaders and Soldiers internalized the warrior ethos during a series of difficult challenges that tested the limits of their mental and physical endurance. These warrior-focused training events taught lessons in perseverance and self-discovery while hammering home the meaning of "I will never quit."

A tactical combat casualty care training exercise in August saw the battalion using advanced simulation facilities at Joint Base Lew-



First Sgt. Brian Reeder of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 308th Brigade Support Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Brigade jumps into American Lake from a CH-47 Chinook during a helocast July 22, 2016. The helocast was one of 17 events Reeder and his team faced during an 11-hour Mungadai that took them across Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. (Sgt. Jorge Higuera/17th FAB)

is McChord's Madigan Army Medical Center to train and evaluate combat life-saving techniques across the Red Lion formation.

While supporting the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment deployment certification exercise, the *Red Lion Battalion* provided vital logistics support in the form of sustainment operations and support to the exercise's White Cell.

The 308th Brigade Support Battalion continues to rank as one of the top-performing logistics and sustainment units in the Army.

The *Red Lions* are competing at the Department of the Army level for the Army's Award for Maintenance Excellence and are a highly prepared team of logisticians capable of completing sustainment operations in any environment.

Pride in Performance!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/308th-Brigade-Support-Battalion/237811382926527>



A Soldier from the 188th Brigade Support Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, downloads High Mobility Rocket Artillery System training-amunition pods during a field training exercise, Operation Steel Arakh, Oct. 28, 2016, at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Courtesy photo)

18th Field Artillery Brigade, Steel Brigade

By 18th FAB

The 18th Field Artillery Brigade started and finished 2016 making significant contributions to Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve from forward deployed locations, all the while remaining at a high state of deployment readiness for contingency missions as part of the Global Response Force. Additionally, the 18th Airborne Corps fire support cell is deployed with the corps headquarters as the Combined Joint Task Force-OIR deputy chief of plans.

The brigade headquarters and target acquisition platoon started 2016 spread across the Central Command area of responsibility serving as the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Force Field Artillery Headquarters for general support High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Fires in support of the CJTF, conducting theater security cooperation activities with nine countries, and executed contingency plan readiness to deter potential adversaries. As Joint Fires Cell-Syria, the brigade targeting and intelligence team conducted deliberate target development and intelligence fusion, leading to numerous strikes against enemy forces in the Eastern Syria Support Zone. The target acquisition platoon manned Q53 systems in two locations in Iraq, providing targeting information for effective counterfire against enemy indirect fire systems. While deployed, the 18th FA Brigade assumed mission command of HIMARS battalions from the Michigan National Guard (1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment), the New Hampshire National Guard (5th Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment) as well as active duty batteries from the 75th Field Artillery Brigade and 17th Field Artillery Brigade. Effective active component and reserve component integration is a tribute to the Army concept of total force today. In fact, the 18th FA Brigade was relieved by the 197th Field Artillery Brigade (New Hampshire National Guard), displaying another example of active/Reserve component cooperation.

While deployed, the forward headquarters maintained mission command of the HIMARS battalions and the 188th Brigade Support Battalion back at Fort Bragg, N.C., who maintained Global Response Force and prepare to deploy order contingency missions while exe-

cuting a variety of off post training events at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; Joint Readiness Training Center, La.; Yuma, Ariz., and also Fort Story, Va., for sea deployment and joint-logistics-over-the-shore exercises. In April, the entire brigade pulled together to plan, execute and evaluate a pre-deployment home-station mission rehearsal exercise for 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment.

After returning, the brigade headquarters helped push 3-321st FAR out the door in August for deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, all while conducting training events designed to refine 18th FA competencies, and resume a ready posture as the FFA HQ for the XVIII Airborne Corps. A training path consisting of a staff exercise, tactical operation center exercise, command post exercise and brigade field training exercise were complimented by similar exercises at the battalion, battery and company level, which set conditions for company and battery live fire exercises and external evaluations during the brigade field training exercise.

Building on lessons learned from our mission as the CFLCC FFA HQ for U.S. Army Central Command, the brigade headquarters is currently working with another Army service component command, U.S. Army Europe. After recent crisis action planning, we will return to Germany in February to serve as the FFA HQ for the JFLCC in support of a major readiness exercise, Austere Challenge 2017.

As the year draws to a close, the 18th FA headquarters provided over the shoulder mentorship to the 169th Field Artillery Brigade as they prepare for deployment in 2017 while the brigade tactical command posts, 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery and 188th BSB conduct HIMARS over the shore raids and tactical logistics as part of Operation Neptune Fury at Fort Story, Va., Soldiers 3-321st FAR continues to provide long-range precision Fires in support of US-ARCENT and CJTF-OIR.

All the Way! Tough-Proud-Disciplined!

<https://www.facebook.com/18thfires>

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/18FB>

3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Steel Rain

By 3-27th FAR

The 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System), the Steel Rain Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, continued to provide lethal Fires capability to the XVIII Airborne Corps and the Global Response Force mission.

The *Steel Rain Battalion* participated in numerous joint and special operations live fire events that included multilateral exercises with the 724th Special Tactics Group, 7th Transportation Brigade, two joint forcible entry vulnerability (JFE VUL) exercises with the Air Force Weapons School, one Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 16-11, and multiple battalion and brigade level field training exercises (FTX).

In March, the battalion participated in the brigade FTX that resulted in refined battery defenses and fire mission tactics and techniques as they continue to provide long-range precision fire support to the XVIII Airborne Corps.

In June, A Battery deployed to JFE VUL 16A, proving themselves ready to assume the brigade Global Response Force mission. JFE VUL is a large-scale air mobility exercise designed to expose students of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School to a wide range of scenarios they might encounter while operating their aircraft in a contested battlespace. During the exercise, participants act as a global response force to plan and execute an intricate airdrop operation in a simulated enemy environment in which sophisticated integrated air

defense systems are employed. A Battery provided surface-to-surface fires in support of suppression of enemy air defense (SEAD) and close air support (CAS) missions. B Battery later supported this same training exercise, now called the Weapons School Integration, in December.

In August, B Battery participated in Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 16-11 in a general support role to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division as they conducted their culminating training event prior to assuming the Global Response Force mission in November of 2016.

Beginning in July and lasting through October, the battalion conducted a progression of Battery Table XII live fire qualifications, a battalion FTX, and culminated with a brigade FTX in order to meet Objective -T training readiness requirements.

In November, A Battery participated in Strike 2.0 at the Nevada Test and Training Range, Nev., The joint terminal attack controller-oriented exercise integrated a Battery Light High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) package with Airmen from the 724th Special Tactics Group. HIMARS crews provided surface-to-surface fires in support of SEAD and CAS missions.

In December, A Battery participated in Operation Neptune Fury, a joint logistics over the shore training exercise to demonstrate 7th Transportation Brigade ship to shore capabilities with our HIMARS. The capabilities demonstration validated the interoperability of 7th TRANS to deliver mission ready launchers from ship to shore and back.

Steel Rain!

<https://www.facebook.com/3rd-Battalion-27th-Field-Artillery-Regiment-HIMARS-324284834905/>

3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment,

Thunderbolts

By 3-321st FAR

This was a year of intense training and preparation for the *Thunderbolt Battalion*, culminating with a deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR). The battalion was notified to deploy in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), while maintaining a high readi-

Lt. Col. John Herrman, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, addresses the battalion and attending guests during the Battalion Colors Casing Ceremony at the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Noncommissioned Officer Academy Parade Field on Aug. 1. (Sgt. Benjamin Parsons/18th FAB)



ness posture during Global Response Force (GRF) mission requirements. Although the operational tempo for the battalion was high, 3-321st FAR started the year off in true artillery fashion with a St. Barbara's Day All Ranks Ball.

The month of January featured battery-level field training exercises (FTXs) and battalion tactical operations center exercises (TOCEXs) in an effort to refine unit tactics, techniques and procedures. Additionally, HIMARS platoons conducted collective training within a distributed mission command framework in order to replicate conditions during deployment. Several Soldiers who won the Battalion Best of the Best Competition were further rewarded by being selected to conduct an Army Tactical Missile System live fire exercise at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

During the month of February, the battalion focused on leader development and continued collective and individual training for the pre-deployment culminating training exercise. Training included TOCEXs and a brigade digital Fires FTX, which featured the successful processing of fire missions originating from the 3rd Infantry Division. Finally, key leaders from the battalion deployed forward to conduct the pre-deployment site survey in order to confirm the battalion training and equipment deployment plans.

In March, the battalion relinquished its GRF responsibilities to its sister HIMARS battalion, 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment. *Thunderbolt* Soldiers competed in the 18th Field Artillery Brigade's Best of the Best Competition, winning the competition for best ammunition section and platoon operations center in the brigade. The battalion also conducted regionally aligned forces training with the 3rd Battalion, 353rd Regiment Security Force Assistance at Fort Polk, La. Forty-eight noncommissioned officers and officers conducted cultural training and practiced key leader engagements for security cooperation missions.

The battalion conducted the culminating training exercise for the first three weeks of April to validate unit readiness for OSS and OIR mission execution. During the exercise, batteries prepared and executed situational training exercise lanes and the Table XV live fire while the battalion staff conducted military decision making process for the mission rehearsal exercise. Batteries operated autonomously across a dispersed battlefield, conducting live fire missions, and survivability moves, while stressing sustainment and mission command functions. The firing batteries and 583rd Forward Support Company synchronized security by incorporating 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment into all operations.

Between May and July, the battalion continued with pre-deployment training. Families observed the *Thunderbolt Battalion* Table XV qualification at Sicily Drop Zone in June. The battalion also conducted a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) defense training week to ensure all personnel are trained to react to a CBRN threat. In late July, the battalion advanced echelon deployed forward and began activities to set the conditions for the arrival of the main body.

Aug. 1, the battalion conducted a casing ceremony as the unit prepared to deploy forward to the Middle East in support of OSS and OIR. Soldiers in 3-321st FAR spent the remainder of 2016 supporting OSS and OIR while maintaining distributed mission command across the CENTCOM AOR. Firing platoons, task-organized into light HIMARS packages, executed strike Fires in support of Special Operations Joint Task Force-OIR and Combined Joint Task Force-OIR. Both firing batteries supported bi-lateral security cooperation exercises furthering U.S. relations with host nation counterparts. Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery and 583rd Forward Sup-

port Company synchronized base operations at Camp Redleg, United Arab Emirates, providing vital life support for distributed firing batteries.

The training in 2016 validated 3-321st FAR's mission readiness in support of decisive action and honed the *Thunderbolt Battalion's* ability to conduct distributed operations across the CENTCOM AOR.

Thunderbolts!

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

188th Brigade Support Battalion, *Steel Eagle*

By 188th BSB

The *Steel Eagle Battalion* continued to support and provide logistics for the brigade while training logisticians in a multitude of varying skills and capabilities to efficiently sustain High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) units in expeditionary environments in 2016.

The 188th Brigade Support Battalion conducted a battalion field training exercise (FTX) in February on Fort Bragg, N.C. The FTX was a week-long exercise that trained the Soldiers in the functions and capabilities required of a support battalion in an expeditionary setting. Soldiers trained in medical evacuation drills, conducted sling load operations, coordinated air-ground support, and carried out convoy live Fires to ready logistics Soldiers for combat scenarios.

In April, the battalion supported the 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment culminating training exercise. It was a week-long exercise that tested 3-321st FAR's firing capabilities and 583rd Forward Support Company's sustainment systems. The emphasis on this exercise was to validate these units prior to their deployment and determine any deficiencies. The battalion provided oversight, coaching, and training for 583rd FSC during this exercise.

In June, the 188th BSB relinquished training readiness authority of 583rd FSC to 3-321st FAR in preparation for deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The 583rd FSC deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield and continues to provide logistical support to HIMARS assets in the area of operations.

The 206th Signal Company was assigned to the battalion in August and continues to provide the brigade headquarters the ability to conduct mission command through secure command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. The 206th Signal Company installs, operates, maintains, and defends the brigade's communication network.

In October, the battalion participated in the brigade field training exercise. There, the battalion conducted sling load operations, a defensive live fire operations, air medical evacuation training in addition to providing sustainment operations for the brigade. The battalion maintained a defensive posture throughout the exercise reinforcing Soldiers warrior tasks and drills.

In December, the battalion participated in Operation Neptune Fury, a joint logistics over shore operations in concert with the 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) at the Port of Moorehead City and Fort Story Va. This operation was another great training event that allowed the *Steel Eagles* to enhance their proficiency in both tactical sustainment operations and expeditionary deployment operations.

The battalion looks forward to aggressively training Soldiers to deploy, fight, and win in all environments while ensuring the brigade is sustained to the utmost!

Steel Eagles!

<https://www.facebook.com/188thBSB>



Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division Artillery pose for a unit photo. (1st Lt James Dyer/25th ID DIVARTY)

25th Infantry Division Artillery, *Tropic Thunder*

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Webb and Maj. F.B. Giles

The 25th Division Artillery continues to establish division-wide standardization through common certification programs that ensure the artillerymen of the 25th DIVARTY are proficient in the core artillery skills, the five requirements for accurate fire and the ability to execute operations as the 25th Infantry Division's Force Field Artillery Headquarters with the execution of 11 command post exercises. The 25th DIVARTY conducted numerous joint and multinational training exercises in the Pacific region supporting exercises with partner nations and improving operational readiness and contingency deployments. Both 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment participated in battalion- and brigade-level field training exercises on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii. Twenty-fifth DIVARTY will continue to progress beyond the five requirements of accurate fire and exploit its unique position in the Pacific to integrate and synchronize Fires at all possible echelons with all available assets.

2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, *On Time*

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Webb and Maj. F.B. Giles

The 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, *On Time Battalion*, executed a comprehensive training plan while 2nd Battalion,

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, fire a M777A2 at Pohukuloa Training Area, Hawaii, during their Table XVIII exercise. (1st Lt. James Dyer/25th ID DIVARTY)



ion, 25th Brigade Combat Team transitioned from a Stryker brigade combat team to a light brigade combat team. Their efforts included re-introducing the capability to fire high angle artillery using 105 mm howitzer projectiles on Oahu, executed the first battalion mass live fire (Table XVIII) in 20 years at the Pohakoloa Training Area on the big island of Hawaii, which culminated in a combined arms live-fire exercise with 2nd Brigade Combat Team on Oahu.

3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, Never Broken

By Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Webb and Maj. F.B. Giles

The 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, the *Never Broken Battalion*, executed multiple regional engagements with increased operational capabilities with multinational partners established throughout the Pacific area of operations. The battalion maintained a lethal Contingency Response Force capability for the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and provided fire support training to 3rd BCT throughout fiscal year 2016 ensuring that collective live-fire proficiency was maintained.

Unit webpage: https://www.25idl.army.mil/UNIT_DIVARTY/index.html

Unit Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/25thDIVARTY/>

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, along with New Zealand army soldiers, load a M119A3 into a CH-47 Chinook during Operation Lightning Kiwi on the North Island of New Zealand. (1st Lt. James Dyer/25th ID DIVARTY)

2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, Spartan Steel

By 1st Lt. Aaron Cappelli

This year began with preparation for Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 16-04, wherein 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment validated a single-battery Airborne Task Force concept by participating in a validating Joint Forcible Entry Operation. The battalion leveraged all of its capabilities in support of 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division operations through counter fire acquisitions, fire support and combined arms live-fire exercises throughout the direct action scenario.

Over the summer, the battalion worked alongside Air Force partners at 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron to conduct close air support exercises and joint Fires observer re-certifications during Operations Red Flag and Distant Frontier at the Donnelly Training Area. The battalion returned to Donnelly in September to complete live-fire qualifications, which required it to deploy to a staging base 300 miles north and simultaneously deploy A Battery via strategic airlift to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to support 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment during day and night live-fire exercises. The battalion sustained its paratroopers over 2,000 miles and in two



time zones; while deployed, PFAR conducted howitzer direct fire missions, observed rocket-assisted projectile rounds with the Q-36 Radar, and validated the tactical standard operating procedures for the Army's only arctic airborne artillery battalion.

The battalion returned to Donnelly for a third time in October, supporting two brigade-level airfield seizures with a battery during each iteration. Fire supporters remained for platoon live Fires, which tested the combined arms team's ability to thrive in subzero arctic conditions.

With arctic conditions setting in at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, in November and December, the battalion conducted Table XII and Table XV at home station, the latter with external evaluation by 2nd Division Artillery. This included the battalion's first drop zone live-fire missions in nearly 18 months, illustrating the *Spartan Steel* paratroopers' ability to thrive in the demanding arctic environment while meeting all time and accuracy standards.

<https://www.facebook.com/2-377-PFAR-Ft-Richardson-AK-185547044804140/>

75th Field Artillery Brigade, Tough as Diamonds!

By 75th FAB

The 75th Field Artillery Brigade executed a record-breaking year with elements supporting seven National Training Center rotations, three warfighter exercises and two rotations to the Republic of Korea. With the welcoming of 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, as the sixth battalion, 75th FAB solidified itself as the largest Multiple Launch Rocket System brigade in the Army.

As III Corps' artillery brigade, 75th FAB spent the year growing habitual aligned relationships within III Corps' maneuver divisions. These relationships, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery with 4th Infantry Division; 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery with 1st Armored Division; 2-20th FA with 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery with 1st ID enabled 75th elements the opportunity to provide general support reinforcing Fires to division and brigade command post exercises, fire coordination exercises and National Training Center rotations.

The brigade capitalized on the year by participating in War Fighter Exercise 17-01 as the 3rd Infantry Division counter fire headquarters at Fort Stewart, Ga. The brigade is currently preparing to expand on lessons learned in preparation to serve as the III Corps Force Field Artillery Headquarters in support of War Fighter Exercises 17-03 and 17-04.

Unit website: http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/index.htm

Unit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/75FABrigade/>

2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, Deep Attack

By 2-4th FA

The 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, Deep Attack established a vision, over the last year that included four tenants: professionalism, leader development, seeking improvement, and sustaining the Red Leg. Everything that 2-4th FA accomplished during the past year revolved around these four lines of effort.

In early 2016, the *Deep Attack Battalion* showcased its professionalism by supporting two division level warfighter exercises and excelling at their missions. Soldiers in 2-4th FA provided two launcher sections from A Battery to White Sands Missile Range, N.M. to test the Improved Armored Cab variant of the M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) launcher, as well as the combat

effectiveness of the Guided MLRS Alternate Warhead. Deep Attack also supported multiple collaborative training exercises. B Battery deployed to Fort Carson, Colo. to support 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in executing a fire control exercise, then moved directly to supporting National Training Center Rotation 16-09. Soldiers in A Battery also conducted a fire control exercise with 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas, then supported Army Tactical Missile System testing at White Sands Missile Range before culminating with execution of NTC 17-02.

The Soldiers established and executed a comprehensive Leader Development Program which focused on leaders of character. The battalion established a series of leader professional development events that included a military decision making process university and junior leader engagements at universities. The battalion also conducted a staff ride to Pea Ridge Military Park to understand and apply lessons learned from the Civil War.

The *Deep Attack Battalion* sustained the Red Leg through team building and community engagement. Team building included several holiday focused events that brought families together. Following B Battery's three-month training deployment, they went white water rafting under the Warrior Adventure Quest Program to sustain the resilience of the unit. The battalion also took advantage of numerous community engagement opportunities by volunteering at Trinity Christian Academy, Whittier Elementary School, the Military Order of the Purple Heart Association, and the Lawton Veterans Center.

Unit website: http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/units/2-4.html

Unit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/2ndBN4th-FADeepAttack/?fref=ts>

3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, Red Dragons

By 3-13th FA

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, *Red Dragons*, spent nine months over the past year, deployed to the Republic of Korea (ROK) in support of 210th Field Artillery Brigade and 2nd Infantry Division. After replacing 2-20th FA in January, the *Red Dragons* assumed their mission by supporting 210th FA with Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) in defense of the Korean Peninsula and to deter aggression against the South Koreans.

In March and August, 3-13th FA participated in Exercise Key Resolve and Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian. During the U.S.-ROK command post exercises, the battalion utilized mission command systems to prove its readiness and ability to execute simulated war-time operations.

In May, 3-13th FA conducted its Table XII live-fire exercise at Rocket Valley, near Pocheon, South Korea. A Battery and B Battery successfully fired 40 rockets, validating their crew's proficiency to conduct artillery operations in the Korean Peninsula. Later that month, 3-13th FA scored a top-notch performance during the *Thunder Brigade's* Best-By-Test, with MLRS and ammunition crews winning three of four events.

After celebrating their relief in place/transfer of authority in a ceremony on Oct. 27, the *Red Dragons* completed their mission and were replaced by 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery. The battalion redeployed to Fort Sill, Okla., Oct. 28, where they were welcomed by friends and families in a ceremony at Rinehart Fitness Center. Following their post deployment block leave, the unit returned to work to begin training and preparing for future operations.

Unit website: http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/units/3_13th.html

Unit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/313FAR/>

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

By 1-14th FA

Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, *Steel Warriors*, redeployed from Kuwait and Iraq to Fort Sill, Okla., in February following their mission in support of operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. They were given follow-on missions in Iraq supporting Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, delivering precision guided munitions against a variety of enemy forces.

Also in February, Headquarters Battery sent a liaison officer cell to support the 3rd Cavalry Regiment's National Training Center Rotation and A Battery conducted a Table XII live-fire exercise for certification and qualification. In April, the *Steel Warriors* welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Larson to the unit as he assumed responsibility of the battalion from Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Fisk. In June, the battalion had the opportunity to celebrate their centennial with members of the Regimental Association, accompanied by a week of competitions and events.

In October, the battalion conducted a joint training exercise with the Singaporean Army, Exercise Daring Warrior 2016. Over 300 Singaporean soldiers and airmen trained alongside the *Steel Warrior* Soldiers on equipment ranging from AH-64 Apache Helicopters, unmanned aircraft systems and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems.

The battalion continues to prepare for expeditionary employment and to deploy to any area of operation ready to provide accurate, timely and decisive rocket and missile Fires in support of Unified Land Operations.

Unit website: http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/units/1_14th.html

Unit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/114steelwarriors/?fref=ts>

2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment, *Mission Ready*

By 2-18th FAR

In October, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, *Mission Ready*, deployed to Camp Casey, South Korea, in support of the Korea Rotational Force mission, as part of the 2nd Infantry Division Counter Fire Task Force in Camp Casey, South Korea.

From January to April, the *Mission Ready* battalion trained extensively during two off-post field training exercises and combined arms live fires at Ft. Bliss, Texas, followed by a rotation to the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif. In May, the battalion narrowed its operational focus toward deployment to South Korea. From May to early August, the battalion steadily increased the complexity of training from the individual Soldier skills to collective tasks at the battery and battalion level. During this time the battalion qualified all ammunition, fire direction centers and launcher crews under the applicable qualification standards of Table VI during a battalion field training exercise (FTX).

In August, the battalion executed its pre-deployment external evaluation (EXEVAL) with observers and a dedicated opposing force, at Fort Sill, Okla., immediately following the FTX. The arduous EXEVAL closely replicated the unit's upcoming mission in South Korea to include multiple emergency deployment readiness exercises, es-

tablishment of a ready battery as a flexible deterrent option against North Korean aggression, a 100 percent load-out of the unit's full basic load, precision Fires to support the suppression of enemy air defense, and counter-fire missions. The EXEVAL culminated in all platoons being Table XII certified and validated the months of teamwork and training the *Mission Ready* battalion put into individual and collective tasks before the deployment.

The main body of the battalion arrived in Korea ready to fight tonight as a member of the 210th Field Artillery Brigade Counter Fire Task Force on Oct. 12. Immediately after the transfer of authority with their sister battalion, 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery *Red Dragons*, the Soldiers of *Mission Ready* assumed the Ready Battery mission on the peninsula. The battalion looks forward to the challenges and opportunities in South Korea as part of the Combined Infantry Division of the 2nd Infantry Division. The battalion is working hard to build relationships with Republic of Korea partners and the local community.

Unit website: http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/units/2_18th.html

Unit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/2nd-Battalion-18th-Field-Artillery-Regiment-298659583495387/?fref=ts>

2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, *Deep Strike*

By 2-20th FA

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, *Deep Strike*, redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas, in February, following their mission in the Republic of Korea, where they were responsible for Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) missions in support of the 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

As the first unit to conduct an MLRS battalion rotation training unit deployment to the Republic of Korea, 2-20th FA took great strides to ensure that upon their handover with 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, there were continuity books, and Go-to-War Battle Books. These actions ensured a smooth hand over and set up the 75th Field Artillery Brigade for success as future battalions prepare for their rotations to the Republic of Korea.

Following their block leave after the deployment, 2-20th FA immediately began their unit relocation to Fort Sill, Okla. The unit prepared vehicles for movement and finalized the packing of the battalion's equipment into containers. Lt. Col. Damon Wells took command of the *Deep Attack Battalion* from Lt. Col. Jonathan Velishka. On July 15, 2-20th FA obtained final operating capability at Fort Sill.

Unit website: http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/units/2_20th.html

Unit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/2-20-Field-Artillery-Battalion-360629588200>

100th Brigade Support Battalion, *Diamond Support*

By 100th BSB

Headquarters Support Company, Highlanders, provided a wide array of personnel and equipment across the brigade in support of various missions over 2016, to include platoon-level convoys in February, convoy live Fires in June, personnel and equipment in support of a war fighter exercise in September as well as vehicles, maintenance and recovery support to the Singapore Army for Operation Daring Warrior in October. Most recently the Allied Trades section conducted recovery training to the Fort Sill Ordnance Training Detachment with the detachment cadre, to include battle dam-

age assessment and repair, self-recovery, M984 overview and -10 winch operations, recovery safety and mire pit exercise.

The 15th Transportation Company, *Road Warriors*, conducted a truck rodeo in February; 12 truck crews completed various tables, testing their basic operator skills and abilities as motor transport operators. Soldiers in 15th TC and leaders competed in the battalion's Best Squad Competition, taking two of the top three spots, placing first and third out of seven teams. The company also provided support for the brigade command post exercise in August. The company had the opportunity to provide support for Operation Daring Warrior in October. The Soldiers in 15th TC provided logistical support to move over eight short tons of ammunition for various weapon systems, up to and including Apaches. In November, 15th TC conducted a 250- and 500-mile long-haul operation. The 250-mile operation was on-installation and the 500-mile long-haul training operation was from Fort Sill, Okla., to McAlester, Okla. The long-haul represents our capability to conduct logistics package operations over an extended area.

The 258th Network Support Company, *Superior Voices*, upgraded their signal equipment to "Increment 1C" in January, 2016. The *Superior Voices* supplied personnel and equipment for various training events throughout the 75th Field Artillery Brigade to include, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery's external evaluation, brigade headquarters command post exercise in lieu of their deployment to Fort Stewart, Ga., for Warfighter 17-01. Soldiers with 258th NSC continue to support 75th FAB and the subordinate battalions along with utilizing Objective-T to train, execute and evaluate their culminating training events.

Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Allen, 3rd Battalion, 314th Field Artillery, observer, coach and trainer and Capt. Brent Hill, 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery discuss reconnaissance, selection and occupation of position while waiting for guns to be air assaulted into position (Command Sgt Maj. Mark Brinton/U.S. Army)

Unit website: http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/units/100th.html

Unit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/100th-BSB-125854177476895/?fref=ts>

78th Training Division

3rd Battalion, 314th Field Artillery,

Patriot Thunder

By Maj. George Hernandez and Capt. James Morrison

Third Battalion, 314th Field Artillery, *Patriot Thunder* is based out of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The battalion advises, assists and trains National Guard field artillery units in the northeastern region of the United States. Serving as observer, coach and trainers (OC/Ts), the battalion supports nine National Guard field artillery battalions, one High Mobility Artillery Rocket System battalion, and one field artillery brigade by providing support to the units' collective training as well as sustained partnership in order to enhance unit readiness.

This year, the battalion traveled extensively in support of those units. From February through April, the battalion supported the 197th Field Artillery Brigade as they prepared to mobilize in support of overseas operations. From May 10-19, 2016, the battalion supported 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, during their brigade warfighter exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Following that, from May 27 to June 18 the battalion traveled to Fort Riley, Kan., to support 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Brigade



Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard, in their collective training exercise, completion of Table VII-XII and the execution of an air movement of their howitzers. Next, members of the battalion traveled to Fort Polk, La., from July 6 through Aug. 4 to provide OC/T coverage to 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New York Army National Guard, as they completed their Joint Readiness Training Center rotation. On top of the above exercises, the battalion provided OC/Ts to multiple annual training events throughout the northeast.

The focus for the remainder of 2016 and 2017 is providing support to 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard and 1-108th FA, 56th SBCT, as they prepare to execute their eXportable Combat Training Center rotations this summer at Fort Pickett, Va. The battalion will continue to train and support the National Guard field artillery battalions for live-fire exercises and training management to meet Objective T standards.

Additionally, the battalion is hosting the first Northeast Region Field Artillery Symposium (NERFAS) in April of 2017 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The NERFAS will be two days of group classes, discussions and breakout sessions with the goal being to exercise the Total Army Force policy and provide a venue where all the field artillery units in the northeast can have a forum to share lessons learned, tactics, techniques and procedures, and build camaraderie amongst Redlegs.

<https://www.facebook.com/thunder.battalion/?fref=ts>

101st Division Artillery, Guns of Glory

By 101st DIVARTY

In February 2016, elements of 101st Division Artillery staff and C Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve Combined Joint Force Land Component Command and 2nd Brigade Combat Team. DIVARTY leaders, noncommissioned officers, and Soldiers provided the nucleus for lethal Fires in both the Baghdad and Erbil Strike Cells, established the deliberate targeting process in the J34 and J2T, and managed all aspects of surface-to-surface fires (M777, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, M109 A6). During the nine-month deployment, lethal Fires hit over 500 deliberate strikes, delivered over 6,000 155 mm munitions, 800 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System rockets, and synchronized/coordinated the employment of thousands of varied close air support munitions that achieved decisive effects on ISIL, defeating the enemy in the close fight and shaping the Iraqi Security Force's (ISF) future fight. The actions of 101st DIVARTY not only achieved decisive security in the Euphrates River Valley (Ramadi, Fallujah, Hit and Haditha), but also shaped and enabled the ISF to achieve their initial foothold in Mosul prior to the 101st Division's transfer of authority to 1st Infantry Division.

Despite several senior leaders being deployed, the DIVARTY headquarters at Fort Campbell, Ky., continued to increase artillery and readiness proficiency through intense training events. The DIVARTY implemented a gated section-level training strategy, culminating in the Best-By-Test Artillery Skills Competition. In addition, the DIVARTY conducted monthly emergency deployment readiness exercises, exercising a battery alerted (no notice), equipment and personnel marshalling and deployment to execute varied tasks such as mission essential task list focused events: chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear chamber, small arms ranges and battery air assault live-fire raids.

In December, the DIVARTY finished 2016 with a bang by conducting the first mass live-fire exercise in over 10 years at Fort Campbell, shooting multiple missions; continuing to excel as the Army's only air assault division DIVARTY.

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

By 2-32nd FAR

This proved a challenging and momentous year for the *Proud American Battalion*. Throughout the last year, the battalion excelled in every mission while maintaining the ability and flexibility to support the 101st Division and 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT), through a diverse mission set. After conducting Artillery Tables VI through XV and supporting maneuver live Fires, the *Proud American Battalion* took part in three different Joint Readiness Training Center rotations from January through April. A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery deployed to JRTC as an opposing force battery in January to replicate enemy Fires during JRTC rotation in January. B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery deployed to JRTC as part of 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment in February. They quickly integrated with the battalion and provided needed Fires throughout the rotation. The *Proud American Battalion* deployed to JRTC in April as part of 1st Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) Division (AASLT), decisive action training environment rotation.

In September, *Proud Americans* deployed 10 fire supporters with C Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry to Djibouti, to Africa in support of the East Africa Response Force. In October, *Proud Americans* conducted Table XV and XVIII qualifications while providing support to 1st BCT's live-fire exercise and joint forcible entry. Each battery conducted multiple platoon and battery air assaults throughout each exercise. *Proud Americans* also conducted several rocket assisted projectile shoots to demonstrate proficiency at extended range Fires.

The *Proud American Battalion* proved itself as a capable and versatile battalion, prepared to conduct any mission. With a focus on leader development and unit readiness, the *Proud Americans* consistently demonstrated they operate at a high level as a field artillery battalion. The *Proud Americans* are prepared for any contingency and look forward to their next rendezvous with destiny.

1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Top Guns

By 1-320th FAR

In early 2016, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, *Top Guns Battalion*, deployed to northern Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) as a direct support Fires battalion task force. As the only surface-to-surface cannon artillery unit supporting the Combined Joint Force Land Component Command-OIR northern Iraq mission, the battalion engaged ISIL forces by providing close supporting fires in support of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) maneuver commanders. Fire support teams served in security force advise and assist teams for multiple echelons, from the ministerial level down to brigade-sized ISF elements, while attached to the maneuver battalions of Task Force Strike, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT). The battalion's target acquisition platoon provided CJFLCC and the ISF with situational understanding of enemy indirect fire capabilities and provided accurate, targetable data to allow Task Force Top Guns and coalition forces to neutralize and destroy the enemy's systems.

C Battery, the sole firing battery on the deployment, provided Fires from an austere firebase under constrained resources, with the added challenge of controlling their organic M777A2s as well as two attached M109A6s provided by Combined Joint Task Force – OIR. Throughout the deployment, the battalion conducted fire base operations, multiple air assaults and ground artillery raids, firing over 5,000 conventional, near precision and precision rounds in support of several major offensives and numerous named operations. The unit's lethal, obscuration and illumination Fires provided critical effects that assisted ISF and Ministry of Peshmerga Forces to make advances against the forces of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. The combined efforts of the firing battery and fire support teams enabled the ISF to seize more than 60 ISIL controlled villages, the major cities of Qayarra and Sharqat, and the Qayarra Airfield. Additionally, the Fires provided by Task Force Top Guns facilitated ISF emplacement of a bridge over the Tigris River– the only opposed river crossing executed by the Iraqi Army in its history– as well as the isolation and seizure of Mosul. Over the course of the past year, the *Top Guns Ready Force* continued to build on *Top Guns'* successes at Fort Campbell, Ky. The unit executed artillery and fire support certifications, over 30 air assault operations and multiple artillery live-fire exercises to ensure the continued mobility, lethality and operational capability of the team that stayed at home station. Even with the high training operational tempo, the *Top Guns Ready Force* continued the unit's strong partnership with the local community around Fort Campbell. Whether deployed or at home station in Fort Campbell, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment excelled and proved that the unit was and is prepared for their next rendezvous with destiny.

3rd Battalion 320th Field Artillery Regiment, *Red Knights*

By 3–320th FAR

In 2016, the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, *Red Knights*, conducted a rapid and intensive training progression conducting all tables of artillery, two combat training center rotations and a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Between January and April, *Red Knights* planned and executed two consolidated fire support certifications, brigade combat team consolidated mortar certification, Precision Guidance Kit fielding and live fire, Artillery Tables VI–XII, platoon and company live-fire exercises, and battalion fire control exercises integrating maneuver, artillery, mortar, engineers and both fixed and rotary wing fire support. In May, the battalion conducted a sea emergency deployment readiness exercises into the Joint Readiness Training Center, whereby the battalion's equipment transported by ship to Fort Polk, La., to support an aggressive decisive action training rotation.

Throughout the summer months, the battalion reset and received orders to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel requiring a second JRTC rotation to validate the battalion's diverse mission sets. The battalion converted into a task force consisting of two maneuver batteries, and one indirect Fires battery. In support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Task Force Red Knight deployed to Helmand Province, joining Task Force Forge, enabling the 215th Afghan National Army to reinforce the Helmand Line.



173rd Airborne Brigade 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *King of the Herd*

By 4–319th AFAR

Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *King of the Herd*, the premier forward-deployed U.S. airborne field artillery battalion conducted operations, exercises and training events across Europe in support of the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Airborne Sky Soldiers, U.S. Army Europe and NATO allies.



Lt. Col. David Pasquale and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Edwards, commander and command sergeant major of the 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, award French paratroopers of the 35th Régiment d'Artillerie Parachutiste the U.S. Parachutist Badge as a part of a foreign wing exchange during Operation Colibri 16, France. (Courtesy photo)

Throughout the year the battalion ceaselessly trained to increase personnel and equipment readiness, build a cohesive and confident team capable of thriving in complex security environments, strengthen the alliance among U.S. allies and continue to develop expert leaders to fully employ all capabilities and synchronize Fires.

Paratroopers of the *King of the Herd* kicked off the new year by participating in Allied Spirit IV (ASIV), a Joint Multinational Readiness

Center decisive action training exercise (DATE) rotation at the Hohenfels Training Area (HTA), Germany. The exercise constituted the first time a U.S. field artillery battalion trained in direct support of an ally, the Italian Garibaldi Brigade, executing counterfire missions received from the Italian Artillery Hunting Radar as the organic brigade field artillery battalion and was also the first time a U.S. field artillery battalion commander acted as the fire sup-

port coordinator for an allied commander of a combined multinational brigade. During ASIV, 4-319th AFAR provided direct support Fires to the Garibaldi Brigade, comprised of maneuver units from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Scots (U.K.), and the 8th Bersaglieri Regiment (ITA). The battalion was able to develop, implement and validate its tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) to counter the TTPs of Russian and Ukrainian Separatist forces.

In April, *King of the Herd* paratroopers, along with the rest of the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (A), participated in Saber Junction 16, another JMRC DATE rotation in HTA. During the exercise, the battalion deployed itself to two intermediate staging bases located in Aviano Airbase, Italy, and HTA in Germany to join the rest of the 173rd IBCT (A). Following an initial joint forced entry into Hohenfels, the brigade was able to effectively build combat power through air-land operations on the short takeoff and landing strip in the HTA.

The battalion further refined the TTPs employed during ASIV by improving its cover and concealment techniques. The battalion also improved its counterfire capabilities and deep targeting efforts which effectively neutralized the enemy's counterfire capabilities and resulted in the destruction of four enemy 1L-220 Radars. The *King of the Herd* successfully destroyed numerous enemy 2S19 self-propelled 152 mm howitzers and set the JMRC record for counterfire time from round detected to round shot with a time of 2 minutes and 41 seconds.

In May, paratroopers of *Bull Battery* deployed to the country of Georgia in support of Noble Partner 16, a bilateral exercise focused on interoperability between NATO and the Georgian NATO Response Forces. The exercise included over 1,000 Georgian, U.K., and U.S. Soldiers. *Bull Battery* successfully executed a heavy drop live-fire from Vaziani Drop Zone as part of the exercise's opening ceremony, attended by Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili. During the two-week exercise, *Bull Battery* shot over 200 rounds in support of Georgian and U.K. Fire Support Team (FIST) training.

At the end of May, 4-319th Paratroopers conducted a three-day, 700 km convoy consisting of over 60 vehicles to Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in Poland to support Anakonda 16, a Polish national exercise involving more than 31,000 participants from the armed forces of 24 nations. Simultaneously, in support of exercise Swift Response 16, Paratroopers of *Assassin Battery* executed an airborne operation and drop zone live-fire mission on Piaskowy Drop Zone, Poland. As part of the Total Army Concept, 4-319th AFAR seamlessly integrated into the task organization of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade from the Oklahoma National Guard.

Further cementing the battalion's ability to integrate with NATO allies, the *King of the Herd* incorporated a Romanian D-20 Platoon into its task organization, firing 650 accurate rounds as part of the detect and deliver components of the targeting process during the U.S. Army Europe Fires Coordination Exercise. Throughout these operations, the battalion implemented multi-dimensional concealment techniques, preventing detection by unmanned aerial systems.

Colibri 16, a multinational joint exercise with five allied nations, took place in Tarbes, Ger and Pau, France, for three weeks in September 2016. Fourth-319th AFAR's Headquarters and *Chaos!* Batteries partnered with the 35th Régiment d'Artillerie Parachutiste, to train on the Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities (ASCA) as well as conduct two airborne operations. During the culmination phase of the exercise, 4-319th AFAR conducted its third airborne operation of the exercise, inserting onto a contested drop zone and utilized the

ASCA to provide fire support to France's 11th Brigade Parachutiste, the multinational headquarters for the operation.

During November and December, B Battery *Bulls* participated in the multinational joint Operation Atlantic Resolve North. *Bulls* deployed one firing platoon to Tapa Training Area in Estonia and one firing Platoon to Adazi Training Area in Latvia in support of 2-503rd Infantry Battalion's company and platoon live fire exercises. *Bulls* went on to support 2-503rd Infantry's combined arms live-fire exercise in Adazi Training Area, Latvia. *Bulls* successfully integrated Fires with maneuver accurately firing over 1500 rounds, effectively exercising and demonstrating the systems that deter Russian aggression in the Baltic region.

The Italian Army hosted Operation Summer Tempest 16 at Teulada Training Area on the Island of Sardinia in early December. A Battery *Assassins*, C Battery *Chaos!* and HHB *Hydra* participated in operation Shardana 16, a live-fire exercise which involved multiple Italian maneuver units, the 35th RAP (France) and the Italian Fires Brigade serving as an expeditionary NATO Force Field Artillery Headquarters. Shardana 16, the Italian Army's largest annual artillery exercise focused on the interoperability of field artillery units utilizing the new ASCA protocol and built trust and confidence amongst key allies along U.S. Army Europe's southern flank. During this exercise, 4-319th AFAR fired 700 rounds with each mission digitally processed through the ASCA from the NATO (Italian) FA Headquarters, which was initiated by either a U.S., French or Italian observer or radar.

While not deployed in countries across Europe, the *King of the Herd* paratroopers continuously trained at home station in Grafenwoehr Training Area (GTA), Germany, to increase the battalion's readiness and lethality. The battalion was fielded the Rocket Artillery Mortar Warn system which provides an indirect fire warning system to the brigade, fielded and fully integrated the Global Combat Support System-Army and received howitzer software upgrades to the computer meteorological data profiler which allows the howitzer to compute firing solutions. Howitzer, radar and fire direction center (FDC) sections progressed through Table VI certifications. Throughout the year, 4-319th AFAR conducted four separate heavy drop, live-fire operations on Bunker Drop Zone (GTA); dropping howitzers, prime movers and all necessary personal and equipment to execute live fires off of the drop zone. Additionally, the battalion conducted airborne and sling-load operations from both CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Blackhawk rotary-wing aircraft. Paratroopers from *Hydra* and *Chaos!* Battery participated in 1-3rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion's Vipers Table XVIII certification. This exercise validated ASCA-enabled fire mission processing from a U.S. aerial observer (AH-64) through a German FDC (131st FA) to a U.S. firing battery (*Chaos!*) for prosecution.

210th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunder Brigade

By 210th FAB

The 210th Field Artillery Brigade, located on Camp Casey, Republic of Korea, remains the most forward-stationed field artillery brigade in the U.S. Army and supports the counterfire task force, strengthening the ROK-U.S. alliance.

The *Thunder Brigade* continues to assist in deterring North Korean aggression against the south and stands ready to defend South Korea alongside its partner, the Third ROK Army. The Soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the brigade constantly train to deliver



A Multiple Launch Rocket System from 210th Field Artillery Brigade fires a rocket. (Courtesy photo)

rockets, missiles, and 155 mm rounds on enemy targets at a moment's notice.

Soldiers in 210th FAB fortified their partnership with TROKA and refined its lethal capabilities by participating in national, combined annual exercises such as Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Key Resolve. Additionally, the brigade and TROKA planned and participated in combined drills including several live-fire and field training exercises.

Moreover, the brigade conducted quarterly rehearsals to improve its ability to load and transport personnel, equipment, and ammunition to designated locations within a predetermined time standard. Recently, 210th FAB collaborated with the rotational brigade combat team to simulate combat conditions and enhance capabilities to accomplish the brigade's mission.

Furthermore, 210th FAB the conducted training with fellow Indianhead units to improve interoperability to include medical evacuation, casualty evacuation, and sling-load training with the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

The *Thunder Brigade* further strengthens the ROK-U.S. alliance by developing friendly and enduring relationships with the local community. Soldiers from the headquarters and subordinate units volunteer their time to teach English to both elementary and college students. They also volunteered to hand out large charcoal briquettes to disadvantaged residents in the local community to help them to keep warm during the frigid winter months. Similarly, Soldiers teamed up with local Korean volunteer organizations to make

and package over 100 boxes of kimchi for local disadvantaged residents.

As part of the field artillery's restructuring, the brigade receives a rotational Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion from Fort Sill, Okla., and a Paladin battalion from a rotational maneuver brigade, which deployed from their home station and are based on Camp Casey for a nine month rotation. This current year featured 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment (Multiple Launch Rocket System) and 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment (Paladin), who deployed back to the United States in the fall. Currently 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment (Multiple Launch Rocket System) and 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment are counted amongst the brigade's task organization. All four battalions proved and continue to prove to be immense combat multipliers and welcomed members of the *Thunder* family.

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

By Lt. Col. Richard Ikena, Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Ivan Baez-Santana

The 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, *Hamilton's Own*, has aggressively and professionally built readiness throughout 2016. At the end of 2016, we are continuing to sustain and build Fires readiness forward in the Republic of Korea (ROK) through our continued presence within the ROK/U.S. Alliance and deterrence mission on the Peninsula. In 2016, Team Destroyer proudly served in both the 1st Infantry Division and the 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division, both in their 100th year of service to our nation.



Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conduct a time-on-target mission early in the morning May 13 at Fort Riley, Kans., in support of Operation Pine Ridge. (Courtesy photo)

Starting in January, we began collective training by executing a robust Artillery Table XII in order to certify lethal firing platoons. All six platoons were evaluated and certified on all aspects of field artillery operations and the full integration of additional enabling assets during a tough, realistic 48-hour continuous evaluation. In February, *Bonecrusher Battery* executed the proof of concept for the first division artillery readiness test (DART) under the evaluation of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery. During this same period, our fire supporters completed Bradley Table VI and fire support certifications and prepared to integrate with their maneuver elements in preparation for maneuver collective training and follow-on operations in the Republic of Korea.

As the battalion continued to build readiness, the staff traveled to Fort Irwin, Calif., for the Leaders Training Program (LTP) in preparation for NTC rotation 16-08. This event allowed the commanders and the staff to build a cohesive team through mutual trust. We also created shared understanding of how the Fires warfighting function best enables the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team prior to Artillery Table XVIII and NTC rotation 16-08. After LTP, much of the battalion leadership participated in 1st ID Warfighter exercise 16-04 enabling the overwhelming success of Fires forward with the DIVARTY, while the division achieved victory through Fires.

During Operation Danger Focus, the 1st ABCT collective training event, *Hamilton's Own* was able to truly start exercising mission command at echelon. Our fire supports enabled air/ground integration in support of the brigade's company/troop combined arms live-fire exercises and fire control exercises, while simultaneously completing DART evaluations for all three firing batteries. Additionally, the team conducted a rigorous and aggressive Operation Pine Ridge, an Artillery Table XVIII externally evaluated by 1st ID DIVARTY. The capstone event of Operation Pine Ridge was a total Army event, successfully massing both 155 mm Fires and High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System rockets from our Kansas National Guard partners, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery.

Following the completion of Operation Danger Focus, the battalion rapidly and deliberately recovered and deployed forward to NTC rotation 16-08. We enabled Fires throughout the robust decisive action training environment rotation in support of the *Devil Armored Brigade Combat Team*. Upon redeploying from NTC, the team pivoted to final preparations of Soldiers and their families for our mission in Republic of Korea. In October, 1-5th FA, along with the rest of the *Devil Brigade* combat team, became the first brigade-size

element of the 1st ID to forward deploy and support operations in the Republic of Korea.

Our mission in Korea is to provide lethal, timely and accurate cannon Fires in order to deter aggression and, if deterrence fails, to fight and win tonight. Since arriving on the Peninsula, our team has had many unique professional opportunities to develop and train with our skilled ROK partners and this has allowed us to focus on the fundamentals of Fires. Our mission under the Counterfire Task Force of 210th Field Artillery Brigade has provided unmatched training and leader development opportunities that will last for years to come in our formation and in the Army. Make no doubt about it, 1-5th FA stands ready to fight and win tonight should deterrence fail in the Republic of Korea.

Providing timely and accurate Fires for over 240 years, *Hamilton's Own* continues to serve honorably as the longest serving active-duty battalion in the U.S. Army. *Faithful and true since 1776!*

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

By 6-37th FA

The 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, *On the Minute*, is one of two forward-deployed, permanently stationed field artillery battalions on the Korean peninsula. The battalion spent last year focused on honing their field artillery skills, building a team of trained professionals and readiness.

Sixth-37th FAR's primary mission centers around maintaining a constant state of readiness in preparation for a swift response in the face of a North Korean provocation. As a key component of the ground combatant commander's counterfire task force, 6-37th FAR focuses their efforts on providing proactive and reactive counterfire against North Korean long range artillery. To demonstrate this state of readiness, 6-37th FAR conducted regular mission readiness exercises, testing and validating the ability to conduct a limited or no-notice alert and mobilization.

Key training opportunities this past year included Warrior Thunder, a 2nd Infantry Division external evaluation for B Battery, 6-37th FAR that integrated a U.S. cavalry troop and aviation assets to exercise how a Multiple Launch Rocket System battery would fight and defend itself during combat operations. In April, and again in September, the battalion participated in a brigade ammunition

Soldiers from 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, fire rockets during a Table VI live-fire exercise in the Republic of Korea. (Courtesy photo)



combatoading exercise where Soldiers uploaded all ammunition in the battalion and deployed elements to their wartime positions to validate mission command nodes.

E Battery, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air and Missile Defense, the only short range air defense artillery battery in Korea, remains a proud part of the battalion and conducted multiple static displays, to include one for the 39th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, while continuing to hone its skills at protecting the counterfire task force from air threats. Throughout the year, the 579th Forward Support Company maintained our fleet and provided seamless sustainment to the battalion.

The *On the Minute Battalion* continues to stand watch from its forward deployed position and is prepared to fight tonight.

1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment

By 1-38th FA

The 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, continued another eventful year in the defense of the Republic of Korea (ROK) alongside our ROK allies. First-38th FA stood ready to conduct suppression of enemy air defense for the Air Component Command, destroy North Korean long-range artillery threatening Seoul in support of the Ground Component Command Counter-Fire Task Force (GCC CFTF), and execute time sensitive targets in support of the Combined Forces Command. Additionally, 1-38th FA conducted the Third ROK Army Combined Command Post Exercise, Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian and the GCC CFTF field training exercise to build proficiency on these particular mission sets.

Outside of these events, 1-38th FA executed a wide spectrum of other events. These events included three live-fire exercises that qualified 27 launcher crews and 12 fire direction sections. Additionally, the battalion's two Target Acquisition Platoons (TAP) qualified 20 radar sections in support of 10 live-fire exercises for units from across 210th Field Artillery Brigade and the rotational brigade combat team. The battalion also conducted static displays to highlight both the battalion and brigade's capabilities for the U.S. Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army and ROK Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff just to name a few of the visiting dignitaries. Soldiers in 1-38th FA also alerted and deployed on three occasions for counter provocation exercises against North Korean aggression. Throughout calendar year 2016, each subordinate unit of 1-38th FA conducted a change of command that resulted in no financial liability investigation of property loss. Additionally, the battalion received eight new M270A1 launchers and became the first battalion in the U.S. Army to field the new Q-53 Counter Battery Radars for our TAPs.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery, fire a rocket using a Multiple Launch Rocket System. (Courtesy photo)



First-38th FA further honed its skills through the execution of platoon and battery external evaluations, which encompassed units from across 2nd Infantry Division and our ROK security forces (SECFOR) counterparts. The exercise began with a unit alert and a load up of the unit basic load and ammunition basic loads. Then they conducted a reconnaissance of their firing positions alongside a rotational U.S. cavalry platoon and rotational U.S. scout weapons helicopters. The training then focused on the battery's mission essential task list while coordinating with their ROK SECFOR. Additionally, the battery underwent thorough chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) training with elements from a 2nd ID CBRN battalion and medical evacuation training with medical units from across the peninsula.

The battalion's training with our ROK SECFOR was not the only interaction with members of the host nation; the battalion also collaborated with a ROK Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion, and a ROK maintenance battalion. Additionally, the battalion volunteered to assist and teach English to the students of Shihan University, Dongducheon High School and Dongducheon Middle School. Soldiers of the battalion also volunteered their time to help the orphans of Dongducheon by teaching them English, holding various parties for them and providing them charitable donations to assist them in their daily lives.

434th Field Artillery Brigade

1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery Regiment,

Proud Americans

By Maj. Daniel LaBar and Capt. Jedidiah Schlissel

The drill sergeants and cadre of 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, continue to transform civilians into trained, disciplined and motivated Soldiers, ready to execute basic Soldier skills in any assignment throughout the Army.

This year the *Proud American Battalion* completed 21 successful Basic Combat Training graduations, resulting in over 4,200 newly trained Soldiers entering Advanced Individual Training. As they have done for years, the battalion stood up an additional battery to help manage the influx of trainees during the summer surge. The

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, instructed into a good L-shaped position before descending the 30-foot wall, better known as Treadwell Tower, during Week 1 of Basic Combat Training. (Courtesy photo)



Echo Mission integrates Reserve cadre at all levels of leadership to man the additional battery and, as always, the level of training and professionalism is such that you cannot tell a seasoned active duty drill sergeant from their Reservist counterpart. Unlike past years, at the end of the 2016 Echo Mission the battalion permanently deactivated F Battery.

More impressive than the tireless efforts of the 1-31st FA cadre to produce tomorrow's Soldiers, are the added ways in which they set themselves apart. This year, the battalion staff took on the task of running the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge certification, where 46 competitors were awarded medals for completing all tasks to include the top performer from their own A Battery. Along with noncommissioned and Soldier of the Quarter winners up to the post level, this year four more *Proud Americans* were inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. *Proud Americans* can be found in the top 10 finishers in the Fort Sill Army 10-miler qualifier, and even first place in the Oklahoma City Classic Fitness Expo. Even the trainees want to excel. During the 2016 Fires Center of Excellence Intramural 10K, four Soldiers from the *Proud American Battalion* took first place medals in their age categories, one of whom was the overall winner.

The *Proud Americans Battalion* is not just Soldiers, but also their families. The battalion is proud of its active role in building and maintaining relationships with the local community through the Army Partnership with Local Area Schools program. Their partnership with Freedom Elementary School has truly grown through many positive experiences. The *Proud American Battalion* was eager to host the teachers for teambuilding events at the end of the summer and held an annual Back to School Drive. In turn the students and teachers honored them at a Veteran's Day salute.

The battalion continues to train the newest Soldiers and build some of the Army's strongest teams. It would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the cadre and the support of the families and the local community. *Always first!*

1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, Peace Through Victory

By 1-79th FA

The 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery conducts Basic Combat Training (BCT) transforming volunteers into Soldiers each year. Soldiers who graduate are disciplined, competent and confident in Soldier tasks and battle drills, and are able to contribute to their first unit of assignment.

Over the course of the year, the *Peace Through Victory Battalion* forged over 4,000 volunteers into capable Soldiers. The battalion's six batteries conducted the planning, preparation and training execution of 20 graduating classes, led by their competent drill sergeants and cadre. The program of instruction focused heavily on the warrior tasks and battle drills and ensured that each Soldier who graduated was proficient in rifle marksmanship, drill and ceremony and land navigation. Additionally, the drill sergeants bolstered the Soldiers toughness through rifle and hand-to-hand fighting techniques.

The battalion saw a large increase in female Soldiers who attended 13-series military occupational specialty (MOS) advanced individual training. This increase is due to the recent opening of all combat arms MOS's to female Soldiers. Soldiers also took part in the Army's Occupational Physical Assessment Test. The test will serve as a way to determine a Soldier's ability to perform the physically high demands for an MOS.

Additionally, the battalion welcomed a new commander and command sergeant major, as well as three new battery commanders and a new first sergeant. The battalion also said goodbye to F Battery, which deactivated in September. The Soldiers of 1-79th FA continue to train the newest generation of defenders of America. *Peace through victory!*

95th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception), Soldiering Starts Here!

By Maj. Lucas Sparks

Soldiers and civilians from the 95th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception), 434th Field Artillery Brigade, conducted reception operations for 17,823 new Initial Entry Training Soldiers (including most of the Army's newest field artillery and air defense artillery Soldiers) in support of 85 Basic Combat Training (BCT) classes, re-conditioned 190 Soldiers to return to complete BCT or to continue on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT), and separated 1,191 Soldiers. In August, the battalion conducted a change of responsibility to bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Atkinson, Jr. and welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Earven Boyd. The battalion also held three battery-level changes of command and changes of responsibility throughout the year.

In addition to the normal battle rhythm events, the battalion relocated its A and B batteries into the footprint of the 434th Field Artillery Brigade, saving the installation an estimated \$500,000 yearly and allowing for increased throughput of Soldiers. This relocation initiated planning to ship Soldiers two days sooner, and a pilot program will be executed in 2017. Planning for a new reception barracks complex for A, B and C batteries is progressing with the Army Corp of Engineers, and the project is slated for completion by fiscal year 2019.

Battalion cadre trained, certified and supervised the Occupational Physical Assessment Test study alongside Training and Doctrine Command and the U.S. Army Research Institute for Environmental Medicine as part of the Army's efforts to establish gender-neutral standards for all military occupational specialties. In an effort to remain relevant to recent events, the battalion planned and executed an active shooter drill in the new Reception Complex, involving brigade internal assets and installation-level assets from the Department of Emergency Services. The event allowed the installation DES to gain training within and knowledge of the Reception Complex, and allowed the battalion to improve its own emergency response plan. The 95th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) also began training all new Initial Entry Training Soldiers on the Army's Soldier for Life initiatives, introducing them to the concept that as they join the Army, they are now Soldiers for life.

3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment-Korea

By Col. Yi Se Gwon and Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Delong

The 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment-Korea continues to raise the bar for air-ground integration (AGI) of joint Fires, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and sustainment in the Korean Theater of Operations (KTO). The 3rd BCD-K, the only combined battlefield coordination detachment in the United States Army, worked with our Republic of Korea (ROK) counterparts to effectively represent the ground component command and the Eighth United States Army to the Combined Air Component Command. During every phase of the Air Tasking Cycle, the 3rd BCD-K serve as integral members of the Korea Airpower Team led by 7th U.S. Air



Soldiers from the 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment-Korea pose for a unit photo. (Courtesy photo)

Force, ROK Air Force Operations Command and the 607th Korea Air and Space Operations Center.

The 3rd BCD-K's successful synchronization of Army and Air Force operations was best demonstrated by our participation in the two theater-level exercises Key Resolve '16 and Ulchi Freedom Guardian '16. Both multi-national, joint force command post exercises enhanced the ROK-U.S. Alliance and strengthened the Combined Forces Command's ability to fight tonight. The 3rd BCD-K's execution of a six month AGI training model in coordination with CFC's Combined Joint Fires Element and the 8th Army Fires team greatly enhanced the capacity of joint Fires to interdict the enemy across the KTO with devastating effects.

Additionally, our ground liaison detachments (GLD) provided exceptional support towards enhancing the fighter wing capabilities on peninsula. The 375th Ground Liaison Detachment, aligned with the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base, and the 376th Ground Liaison Detachment, aligned with the 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan Air Base, coordinated daily close air support missions for both U.S. and ROK units. During multiple real-world and training exercises, the GLDs showed time and again that they are truly second to none.

Operational joint and combined Fires continue to be a cornerstone of winning in a complex environment. In the changing and complex strategic environment of the KTO, the 3rd BCD-K remains vigilant, determined and ready to respond to future challenges that 2017 may have to offer. Strike deep!

4th Battlefield Coordination

Detachment, *Wolfpack*

By 4th BCD

The 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment is assigned to United States Army Central, and is the Army's liaison to U.S. Air Force Central Command and the 609th Combined Air and Space Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The unit's mission within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) is to liaison, integrate and coordinate between the combined forces land component commander and the combined forces air component commander in support of land power requirements. Their focus is on synchronizing air and ground operations in support of Operation Resolute Support, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent

Resolve (CJTF-OIR) and established Combined Joint Operating Areas.

This year, the 4th BCD received three additional ground liaison detachments (GLDs) from 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment as they deactivated. Additionally, the 4th BCD saw the inactivation of its own 6th GLD at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. As the Army's only split-based, continuously deployed BCD, the *Wolfpack* team conducted distributed operations with 16 contiguous United States GLDs across 13 Air Force bases (Figure 1) while simultaneously supporting seven deployed locations.

The BCD's deployed GLDs provided support for air expeditionary squadrons in Turkey, Qatar, Jordan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates and for carrier air wings aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower and the French naval aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle. These efforts were in addition to 4th BCD's enduring mission that has Soldiers embedded in all divisions of the Combined Air Operations Center located in Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

This year proved to be very busy as the 4th BCD supported distributed operations for Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Resolute Support which also included other NATO missions. Over the past year, the 4th BCD assisted with the coordination of over 16,000 intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance sorties, 10 air drops and delivery of approximately 200 emergency bundles of humanitarian assistance to coalition forces and displaced persons. The BCD was instrumental in the synchronization of air power and airspace requirements for CJTF-OIR, resulting in over 5,500 close air support (CAS) requests, 19,000 CAS sorties, 33,000 flight hours, 8,000 airstrikes and the employment of over 31,500 weapons.

Fourth BCD continued an aggressive, sustained readiness model to prepare our CONUS-based Soldiers for deployments throughout the CENTCOM AOR. This included the adoption and execution of both a BCD and a GLO qualification course. These certification programs were designed to establish a baseline curriculum for all personnel that augmented the training received by the Army Joint Support Team during the Air Operations Center Initial Qualification Training, Joint Air Operations Command and Control and Mobile Training Team (MTT) courses. Practical application is achieved through participation in multiple training exercises. These exercises included: Blue Flag 16 (Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.), the Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise I and II (Camp Lejeune, N.C.), Marine Large Scale Exercises (Quantico, Va.), Eager Lion 16 (Jordan), Red Flag Nellis and Red Flag Alaska. The BCD developed a strong partnership with the 505th Command and Control Wing (Hurlburt Field) to coordinate multiple MTTs, including the Joint Firepower Control Course and multiple Warfighter Exercises (16-04, 16-05, 17-01). The team also fully utilized the Department of Defense's Foundry program allowing Soldiers to attend the Joint Intermediate Target Development, Red Team, the Joint Targeting Staff Course and Network Attack courses. This ensures personnel receive the proper training and schooling to integrate and enable air power across the CENTCOM AOR. Fourth BCDs CONUS GLDs additionally provided support to multiple Joint Readiness Training Center rotations, Prairie Warrior (Minot Air Force Base, N.D.), 10 Green Flag – East (Fort Polk) rotations, and seven Green Flag – Little Rock (Little Rock AFB) and Green Flag– West (Nellis Air Force Base) rotations. Finally, the 4th BCD provided support to U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy pre-deployment training, mobility, airdrop training operations, as well as joint and multi-national fighter and bomber controlled airspace exercises. As part of the joint team, the BCD participated in Joint Air Operations Senior Staff Courses and Fires Conferences discussing the



Capt. Winglemire, of the 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, poses with his counterparts from the French air force. (Courtesy photo)

role of component liaison elements across functions of the CAOC enterprise. This included working with various U.S. and international Navy Carrier Air Wings to prepare them for deployment into the CENTCOM AOR.

Going forward into 2017, 4th BCD continues to support operations both within CONUS and across the CENTCOM AOR. The *Wolfpack* continues to pride itself on consistently representing the ground commander's priorities and requirements to ensure timely and accurate coordination, integration and synchronization of air power in support of mission success.

Wolfpack!

5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, *United in Victory!*

By 5th BCD

The 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment continues to liaise from the Theater Joint Forces Land Component Command to

enable mission command and cross domain Fires synergy in the Indo-Asia-Pacific area of responsibility (AOR). The 613th Air and Space Operations Center is 5th BCD's conduit to enhance joint operations, exercises and theater security cooperation activities throughout the AOR. As the only full-time liaison to the 613th AOC, the 5th BCD is at the forefront of cross domain Fires coordination. The detachment is a leading advocate for multi-domain battle within U.S. Army Pacific, working shoulder-to-shoulder with the command's Fires, targeting, mission command and intelligence elements to refine current and future concepts of operation.

As the 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment deactivated, 11 of its ground liaison detachments (GLDs) and reconnaissance liaison detachments (RLDs) transitioned to 5th BCD's responsibility. With these additional detachments, the 5th BCD extended its reach well beyond the Indo-Asia-Pacific AOR. While the GLD and RLD teams have standing relationships with the Air Force, 5th BCD teams continue to leverage joint interoperability with the Navy as well.



There were numerous training opportunities this year such as Fleet Synthetic Training – Joint 16-72, Fleet Synthetic Training – Mega 17-1 and Rim of the Pacific 2016. These exercises allowed GLDs to liaise on aircraft carriers with the Navy, conduct pilot briefs and ensure the carrier wing commander had a current common operational picture of ground troops. During Red Flag Nellis 16-1, Arctic Anvil 16-2, Pitch Black 16, and Red Flag Alaska 17.1, the Pacific GLDs enhanced the tactical and operational level by supporting Air Force wings throughout the theater in planning and execution of exercises.

Continuing its campaign of education, the 5th BCD pursued air ground integration training with partners in Australia, Indonesia, Taiwan and Japan. In support of Exercise Yama Sakura 69, 5th BCD emphasized digital sustainment training to improve operations with I Corps and other external forces in addition to coordinating air, ground and intelligence activities between components and bilater-



Capt. Joseph Grennon from the 380th Ground Liaison Detachment works with the 25th Infantry Division and 535th Airlift Squadron loadmasters to load and rig container delivery system bundles for a logistic drop in support of Lightning Forge 17-1 at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii from Oct. 30 to Nov. 8, 2016. (Sgt. Chris Hammond/25th ID)

al forces. During Fleet Synthetic Training – Joint 16-72, the 5th BCD continued to expand its liaison capabilities with U.S. Pacific Fleet by integrating Army Mission Command Systems into a Navy Theater Battle Management Core System. During Vital Prospect 16 and HAMEL, 5th BCD reinforced its relationship with the 16th Air-Land Regiment of the Australian Defense Forces and 1st Division (Australia) as the land operational headquarters setting the conditions for seamless operation as a combined BCD during Talisman Sabre 17.

Further solidifying relations with Australia, team members attended the Future Land Force Conference in Adelaide, Australia, discussing 5th BCD participation in future coalition exercises. Overall, the 5th BCD and its GLD and RLD teams continue to maintain and sustain strong regional partnerships and demonstrate full operational capability to enable cross-domain integration in Unified Land Operations throughout the Pacific AOR.

Visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/5thBattlefieldCoordinationDetachment/>.



U.S. Marine Corps and Marine Forces Reserve Artillery Units

10th Marine Regiment, *Fireball*

By 10th Marines

Located at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., 10th Marines is the oldest and one of the proudest of the Marine regiments with over 100 years of service. The 10th Marine Regiment provides fire support to the 2nd Marine Division, employing the M777A2 towed 155 mm howitzer and the M327 towed 120 mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS).

During April, 10th Marine Regiment concluded Exercise Saipan Rain, a regimental-level exercise aboard Camp Lejeune. A first-of-its-kind exercise, Saipan Rain included capabilities from across II Marine Expeditionary Force to include bridging assets, aviation-delivered ground refueling and multiple days of live-fire execution. First Battalion and 2nd Battalion deployed to Twentynine Palms, Calif., and fired in support of Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 3-16, while batteries supported two different Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs) and two different Unit Deployment Program rotations. Of note, Battery E returned from their combat deployment supporting Operation Inherent Resolve with the 26th MEU and Battery C returned from Exercise Cold Response 2016 in Norway.

In May, 10th Marine Regiment participated in the II MEF Exercise. Also in May, Battery G replaced Battery E as the artillery unit supporting the Global Response Force, and Battery K supported Tactical Air Control Party 3-16. Also, Battery F conducted an artillery raid exercise to Bombing Target-11 utilizing internal lift assets with MV-22B Ospreys and the 120 mm Expeditionary Fire Support System in support of 10th Marine Regiment Exercise Fireball Siege 1-16. This exercise marked the first time that artillery assets from any unit used the predominately aviation range and a local venue for 10th Marine Regiment units to conduct a live-fire, over-the-horizon raid.

During July, elements of 1st Battalion participated in Fleet Week Boston, Mass., and elements of 2nd Battalion participated in Core Training for Midshipmen. During this month, personnel from 2nd Battalion underwent Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Integration Course in Twentynine Palms, Calif., and one platoon from Battery K deployed in support of the Black Sea Rotational Force. Also in July, 2nd Battalion, along with supporting units, held a memorial service for Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin, who gave his life

A CH-53E Super Stallion flies an M777-A2 howitzer to the next training area, aboard Fort Stewart, Georgia, August 19, 2016. 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment conducted a live-fire training exercise that required them to be able to shoot, move and communicate over a large area, in order to support fellow Marines. (Cpl. Kaitlyn Klein/U.S. Marines)



during combat operations in support of Operation Inherent Resolve while at Firebase Bell, Iraq.

From Aug. 1 through Sept. 2, 10th Marine Regiment served as the Officer Conducting Exercise, planning and leading Exercise Arrowhead Thunder 16 in Fort Stewart, Ga. This exercise consisted of both battalions with elements of 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Amphibious Assault Battalion, 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Group 28, Combat Logistics Battalion 253, and the Division Fire Support Coordination Center, which integrated indirect Fires and aviation assets during a simulated 2nd Marine Division Operation.

During September, Battery E supported the U.S.S. Murtha commissioning ceremony as well as the International Seapower Symposium traveling aboard the U.S.S. Murtha to Newport, R.I., and Philadelphia, Pa., from Sept. 12 through Oct. 12.

1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, *Nightmare*

By 1-10th Marines

First Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, is the largest artillery battalion in the Marine Corps. With six batteries, the Marines of *Nightmare Battalion* maintained a high operational tempo throughout the year, preparing batteries to deploy in support of geographic combatant commanders and both service-directed and unit exercises.

During the year, 1st Battalion provided a Combined Arms Company Artillery Platoon from Battery C to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, during Black Sea Rotational Force 16.1. While attached, the Marines of 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, were based in Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, and conducted exercises in Norway, Latvia and Bulgaria. Of particular note was Exercise Cold Response 16, held 200 kilometers north of Trondheim, Norway. The exercise refined cold weather tactics, techniques and procedures per the 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment Combat standard operating procedures, increased interoperability between NATO partners, and exercised the ability to mobilize equipment drawn from multiple sites as part of the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program-Norway.

U.S. Marines with gun five, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, shoot M795 High Explosive rounds from a M777 towed 155 mm howitzer during Exercise Arrowhead Thunder 16. The exercise was held to train Marines and sailors on mission essential task skills and artillery, while additionally focusing on their ability to operate as a Marine Air Ground Task Force Command element. (Lance Cpl. Kelly L. Timney, 2nd MARDIV/U.S. Marine Corps)



In April, 1st Battalion took part in Exercise Saipan Rain, with Battery A and Battery I completing a variety of internal training objectives and executed training involving the full MAGTF element, including dryland and wetland bridge crossings, conducted with Bridge Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, as well as a river crossing via a field expedient ferry. Battery K, 1st Battalion, was attached to 2nd Battalion for Exercise Saipan Rain in order to maximize available training opportunities. These operations allowed for continuous movement throughout the Camp Lejeune training areas during the exercise. The battery also conducted internal training such as patrolling, battery defensive operations, Combat Life Saving training and night and day convoy operations. Timely and accurate Fires were executed in support of the battalion and regiment to include several fire-for-effect missions, out of traverse missions, fire plans and coordinated illumination missions. Also in April, Battery B, deployed to Crow Valley, Philippines, in support of Exercise Balikatan 16 with an integrated Philippine Marine artillery platoon while Battery I participated in ITX at Twentynine Palms, Ca.

In June, working closely with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing supporting aircraft, Battery A conducted a platoon-level raid with the EFSS. Prior to the exercise, rehearsals were conducted with the aircraft crews which helped to develop procedures for the on-loading and off-loading of the mortars. During this raid the platoon was able to refine procedures and techniques in relation to loading, off-loading, emplacement, displacement and the firing of the EFSS. Additionally, in May and June, Battery B deployed to Combined Arms Training Center Fuji in support of Exercise Fuji 16.6 and Exercise Fuji Viper.

In August, the battalion embarked its gear and traveled to Fort Stewart, Ga., to participate in Exercise Arrowhead Thunder. During the exercise, the battalion conducted a variety of artillery training to include a full-scale live-fire air assault. Two howitzers and 64 rounds of ammunition were lifted via CH-53 Super Stallions to the air assault location while simultaneously two MV-22 Ospreys transported a platoon of Battery A Marines to the same location. Once on the ground, the platoon accurately and efficiently fired rounds working directly with the observers. The air assault was complete upon the platoons lift and return back to the battery's position.

Pfc. Jaylen D. Miller and Lance Cpl. Aaron J. Spann, fire direction control men with Kilo Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, manually plot data for a fire mission after receiving information about a simulated target during Exercise Arrowhead Thunder. (Courtesy photo)



Battery C concluded the fiscal year's training by conducting howitzer training in the East Fuji Maneuver Area in close coordination with Battery I from 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment in September.

Throughout the year, the battalion continued to prepare batteries and platoons to deploy independent of the battalion. These separate deployments included supporting Marine Expeditionary Units, the Unit Deployment Program and the first-ever rotations of artillery platoons deploying with combined arms companies to the continent of Europe.

2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Gunslinger

By 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines

The 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, started the year in support of Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 1-16 from Oct. 15 to Nov. 12. During this exercise, Battery F and Battery L supported the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), specifically 8th Marine

Top: U.S. Marines with 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, conduct artillery combined arms and fire support training during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 3-16 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. Eighth Marines and subordinate units participated in ITX 3-16 to ensure all elements of Special-Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 8 are prepared for upcoming deployments and operational commitments. (Staff Sgt. Keonaona C. Paulo/U.S. Marine Corps) Bottom: Marines with Lima Battery, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment fire an M777 Howitzer during a live-fire exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 30, 2015. This was the last exercise Lima conducted as a standalone battery. (Cpl. Kirstin Merrimarahajara/U.S. Marine Corps)



Regiment, 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, with timely and accurate Fires. Battery E deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Units until May of 2016 while Battery G attached to the 22nd MEU and deployed in July with an anticipated return in early 2017.

In January, 2nd Battalion executed Battalion Firing Exercise 1-16 aboard Camp Lejeune with a focus on the use of the 120 mm EFSS, direct fire capabilities, and the efficient passage of control via digital and voice communications between a Forward and a Main Combat Operations Center.

In February, Battery L was officially deactivated as an active Marine Corps unit after supporting the prior ITX while Battery F participated in both Exercise Eager Response, a long-range, long-duration raid where a platoon of 120 mm mortars were transported by MV-22B Osprey aircraft in support of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment's maneuver objectives. Nearly immediately afterwards, Battery F supported Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-16 in Yuma, Ariz.

In April, 2nd Battalion took part in Exercise Saipan Rain, serving as the higher headquarters for Battery K in order to complete battalion-level training objectives involving the full MAGTF. These operations allowed for continuous movement throughout the Camp Lejeune training areas during the exercise. The battalion also conducted internal training such as patrolling, battery defensive operations, Combat Life Saving training and night and day convoy operations. Timely and accurate Fires were executed in support of the battalion and regiment to include several fire-for-effect missions, out of traverse missions, fire plans and coordinated illumination missions.

During the summer, Battery E served as the main effort for Task Force Spartan from Fire Base Bell near Makhmour, Iraq. While attached to the 26th MEU, Battery E conducted over 600 missions in support of Iraqi and Kurdish Security Forces and Operation Inherent Resolve.

From Aug. 2 to Sept. 2, 2nd Battalion deployed in support of Regimental Exercise Arrowhead Thunder 16 to Fort Stewart, Ga. During the exercise, the battalion employed the M777A2 at the battery, battalion and regimental levels while providing general support to the 2nd Marine Division.

Throughout the year, the battalion continued to prepare batteries and platoons to deploy in support of Marine Expeditionary Units, the Unit Deployment Program and the first ever rotations of artillery platoons inside Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Thunder Regiment

By 12th Marines

Located aboard Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, with 3rd Battalion collocated and 1st Battalion located aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, 12th Marine Regiment provides mortar, cannon, and rocket fire support to 3rd Marine Division and III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) across the Pacific Region.

Throughout 2016, Marines and Sailors from 12th Marines conducted over 26 mission rehearsals in six different countries, employing the M777A2 towed 155 mm howitzer, the M142A2 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), and the M327 towed 120 mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS). Many of these exercises were conducted by cannon and rocket batteries deployed from the United States to Okinawa, Japan, as part of the Unit

Deployment Program. The quantity, diversity, and quality of these mission rehearsals demonstrates the readiness and proficiency of the 12th Marine Regiment to provide all-weather Fires to 3rd Marine Division and III MEF throughout the Pacific Command area of responsibility (AOR).

In January, Headquarters Battery, 12th Marines, conducted reconnaissance, selection, occupation of position (RSOP) training in the Central Training Area (CTA) on Okinawa. Simultaneously, the division Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC), regimental Fire Direction Center and Target Acquisition Platoon conducted a Fire Support Rehearsal Exercise in Okinawa.

During the months of January and February, Marines from 1-12th Marines deployed to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), at Twentynine Palms, Calif., to participate in Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 2-16 from Jan. 10 to Feb. 23. While at ITX, 1-12th Marines provided Fires in support of 5th Marine Regiment's combined arms breaching, air assault and mechanized maneuver.

The 12th Marine Regimental Headquarters strengthened its relationship with the Western Army Artillery of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) through a bilateral exchange in February. The division FSCC and regimental headquarters practiced their ability to coordinate and deliver Fires in support of 3rd Marine Division by participating in division and regimental command post exercises.

Forward deployed batteries from 3rd Battalion conducted exercises across the western Pacific in February, with Battery B, 12th Marines conducting live fire in the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Kyushu, Japan, as part of the artillery relocation training program (ARTP) and Battery K, 11th Marines conducting live-fire training in Thailand as part of Cobra Gold 2016. The ARTP is a routine training event where forward deployed USMC artillery forces conduct live-fire training throughout mainland Japan to maintain combat readiness in support of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. Rotation of the east coast battery completed a busy month for 3rd Battalion, with Battery A, 10th Marines being replaced with Battery B, 10th Marines.

First Battalion conducted live-fire training with both Battery A and Battery C at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in March. Additionally, Headquarters Battery and Battery A conducted digital fire support training (DFST) in March.

Twelfth Marine Regiment deployed to the Philippines in April to participate in Balikatan 2016 as the ground combat element headquarters. Twelfth Marines served as the headquarters for a USMC infantry battalion (2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment), U.S. Army infantry battalion (2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment), a reconnaissance platoon from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, a cannon battery (Battery B, 10th Marines), and a HIMARS battery (Battery F, 14th Marines). The culminating event for 12th Marines was a live-fire exercise in Crow Valley that included the live fire of HIMARS reduced range practice rockets.

Battery B, 12th Marines, forward deployed to Okinawa with 3rd Battalion, and conducted live fire at Combined Arms Training Center Fuji on the Kanto Plain, on Honshu in mainland Japan. The rotation of batteries continued in April, with Battery K, 11th Marines returning to the U.S. and the arrival of Battery I, 11th Marines. Battery I quickly established itself and conducted ARTP training at the Ojoi-hara Maneuver Training Area in May.

Also in May, Battery R, 11th Marines became the first HIMARS battery to rotate to the Pacific AOR as part of the forward deployed force. Over the course of the deployment, the battery traversed 3,200 miles, firing 36 practice rockets to demonstrate the ability to

rapidly deploy via air and surface craft to support the theater commander's mission requirements in both consolidated and distributed operations.

In June, the Regimental Headquarters deployed to the Republic of Korea as part of the Korea Marine Exchange Program. This program strengthens the relationship and capabilities of both U.S. and ROK Marines in support of the defense of the ROK. During the exchange, Battery R, 11th Marines conducted its first live-fire exercise, firing 24 practice rockets at the Rocket Valley Live-Fire Range in the ROK. First and 3rd Battalions exchanged batteries, with Battery B, 12th Marines returning to Hawaii and Battery C, 12th Marines joining the forward deployed force in Okinawa.

In Hawaii, 1st Battalion conducted Spartan Fury 16.2, a battalion-level exercise at Schofield Barracks, with A and C batteries in the first part of May. First Battalion participated in Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2016, the world's largest international maritime exercise, from June 20 to Aug. 4. This exercise gave 1st Battalion a valuable opportunity to conduct training in amphibious operations and conduct battalion-level live-fire training at the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the Big Island of Hawaii. During this time, Battery C, 12th Marines also supported 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment at PTA during Exercise Lava Viper.

In August, the regiment conducted home station training in preparation for larger exercises to come in the fall. The Regimental Headquarters Battery conducted RSOP training in the CTA on Okinawa, while 1st Battalion conducted DFST on Oahu and Battery C, 12th Marines conducted a live-fire exercise at Schofield Barracks. First Battalion quickly transitioned to the Big Island of Hawaii, conducting live fire at Exercise Spartan Fury 16.3 at the PTA. Third Battalion returned Battery B, 10th Marines to Camp Lejeune, N.C., and received Battery C, 10th Marines into the regiment.

Twelfth Marine Regiment deployed its Regimental Headquarters Battery and 3rd Battalion from Okinawa and 1st Battalion from Hawaii to Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, to participate in Dragon FIREX 16.1. From Sept. 5-23, 12th Marine Regiment exercised command and control of 1st and 3rd Battalion, massing the regiment in the East Fuji Maneuver Area, by executing regimental fire plans and counterfire. This marked the first time in several years the regiment had aggregated both of its geographically separated battalions for live fire. Additionally, regimental leadership continued to nurture its relationship with the JGSDF through subject matter expert exchange and informational presentations.

In September and October, Battery R, 11th Marines deployed two HIMARS platoons aboard KC-130s to support Exercises Valiant Shield 2016 in Tinian and Blue Chromite 2017 in Japan, while one platoon landed in the Philippines from a Spearhead-class Transport Expeditionary Fast vessel to provide Fires for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit during Philippine Bilateral Exercise 33.

Marines from 1-12th Marines deployed from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, to MCAGCC in Twentynine Palms, Calif., for a second time in 2016 to participate in ITX 1-16 from Oct. 13 to Nov. 18. First Battalion demonstrated the flexibility of Marine artillery by successfully integrating cannon batteries deploying from Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton for live-fire operations during ITX, while supporting 4th Marine Infantry Regiment, deploying from Okinawa.

Third Battalion began October by rotating Battery I, 11th Marines back to Twentynine Palms, Calif., and receiving Battery M, 11th Marines on Okinawa. In late October, 3rd Battalion deployed Battery C, 12th Marines to the ROK to participate in Exercise Hoguk, a bilateral amphibious exercise with the ROK Marine Corps. The battery



Marines of the 14th Marine Regiment Headquarters Battery conduct a machine gun range during their annual training aboard Fort Hood, Texas, on 13 June 2016. The regiment provides general support rocket artillery and direct support/general support cannon artillery support to 4th Marine Division units, and serves as a Force Artillery Headquarters which provides a task-organized capability to facilitate command and control of general support Fires in support of the Marine Air Ground Task Force. (Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Endres/U.S. Marine Corps)

conducted an air assault using the 120 mm EFSS mortar aboard CH-47 helicopters and conducted live fire. November ended the inaugural rocket battery deployment, with Battery R, 11th Marines returning to Camp Pendleton and Battery S, 11th Marines replacing them. In mid-November, 3rd Battalion deployed again to CATC Fuji for a battalion ARTP, which lasted until Dec. 3.

14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Dark Cloud

By 14th Marines

The 14th Marine Regimental Headquarters is currently located aboard Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, and its subordinate units are spread throughout 15 cities and 12 states in the continental United States. Second Battalion, 14th Marines Headquarters Battery, is located in Grand Prairie, Texas, with batteries located in El Paso, Texas (Battery D); Oklahoma City, Okla. (Battery F), and Huntsville, Ala. (Battery K). Third Battalion, 14th Marines Headquarters Battery, is located in Bristol, Pa., with batteries located in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (Battery G); Richmond, Va. (Battery H); Allentown, Pa. (Battery I), and Chattanooga, Tenn. (Battery M). Fifth Battalion, 14th Marines Headquarters Battery, is located in Seal Beach, Calif., along with two of its subordinate batteries (Battery O and Battery N). Fifth Battalion's remaining two batteries are located in Spokane, Wash. (Battery P), and Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. (Battery Q). Communications Compa-

ny, 14th Marines, is located in Cincinnati, Ohio, with a Communications Detachment in Indianapolis, Ind.

The 14th Marine Regiment provides general support rocket artillery and direct support / reinforcing / general support / general support-reinforcing cannon artillery to 4th Marine Division units, as well as unit and individual augmentation to I Marine Expeditionary Force, II MEF and III MEF. It also provides communications voice and data communications support throughout the division. Fourteenth Marine Regiment units have continued to serve as a force multiplier for the total force, habitually integrating in both active and reserve battalion and higher level exercises throughout the U.S., as well as outside the continental United States exercises.

The regiment additionally serves as a force artillery headquarters (FAHQ), providing a task-organized capability which facilitates command and control of GS Fires in support of Marine Air Ground Task Forces (MAGTF). During the 2016 fiscal year, the regiment participated in multiple reserve and active component exercises and in MAGTF-level exercises across all three MEFs, during which Marines from the regiment rehearsed and provided fire support around the globe and augmented MEF staffs as the FAHQ. Fourteenth Marines continues to support its enduring tasks to provide community relations, funeral honors, and casualty assistance calls officer support to its surrounding communities.

The official 14th Marine Regiment Sharepoint page is located at: <https://sharepoint.marforres.usmc.mil/msc/div/14MR/SitePages/Home.aspx>



A M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) from K Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, launches a missile during exercise Iron Rage 16 on June 4, 2016. (Abigail Waldrop/Fort Bliss Public Affairs)

The 14th Marine Regiment Facebook page is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/14thMarReg/?fref=ts>

2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Peacemaker

By 2-14th Marines

Second Battalion, 14th Marines, continues to provide general support rocket-missile Fires to the total force. Maximizing its proximity and relationships with sister-service hosts, the battalion habitually conducts joint training with active component Army units in order to build relationships and procedures for integration in a joint environment. With continuing budget reductions, emphasis was placed on exercising organic, home-site assets to capitalize on the previous year's success with high frequency (HF) digital fire mission processing via the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS). Training priorities remained HF voice proficiency and the refinement of HF digital mission processing via AFATDS while maintaining core competencies of the batteries' launcher crews. Training capitalized on the geographic dispersal of the batteries throughout the United States – Oklahoma City, Okla.; Huntsville, Ala.; El Paso and Grand Prairie, Texas, – which allowed the battalion to focus on long-range command and control and distributed operations requiring independent, dispersed training exercises.

In December 2015, Battery D executed the first-ever for Marine Forces C-130 borne live-fire Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System raid. In April 2016, Battery F deployed two High Mobility Artillery

Marines from D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, fire a missile from a M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during a raid on Dec. 4, 2015, aboard White Sands Missile Range, N.M. (White Sands Missile Range Public Affairs)



Rocket System launchers to the Philippines to support Exercise Balikatan with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. In June, the battalion developed long-range C-130 raid packages and executed them with Battery K at Fort Bliss, Texas, in order to refine tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) for future HIMARS doctrinal planning and review.

Training in 2016 capitalized on previous years' success with long-range HF communications capabilities which allowed 2nd Battalion to command and control its geographically dispersed subordinate units, to include joint training and passage of control with 1st Armored Division, Division Artillery (USA), during Exercise Iron Rage in July. Battalion staff primaries were trained and integrated into 14th Marines FAHQ architecture, and follow-on communications and command post exercises allowed for proof of concepts and refinement of TTPs.

The official 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, sharepoint page is located at: <https://sharepoint.marforres.usmc.mil/msc/div/14MR/SitePages/2nd%20Battalion.aspx>

The 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Facebook page is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/2ndBattalion14thMarines/>

3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, *Liberty*

By 3-14th Marines

During the past year, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, executed a training plan that culminated with the battalion's participation in Exercise Saipan Rain. During this exercise, the battalion integrated with 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, to conduct training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. The predominance of training during the fiscal year focused on the development of the battalion staff's command and control capability and training to its mission-essential tasks. Specific emphasis was placed on decentralized operations at both the platoon and battery level.

In terms of time and resources, Exercise Saipan Rain represented the largest share of the battalion's planning efforts. Over 600 personnel from the battalion participated in this year's annual training exercise at Camp Lejeune. As the cornerstone of the battalion's annual training efforts, all key unit leadership participated in this exercise, to include the battalion and battery staffs.

Marines with 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, fire an M777-A2 howitzer during an indirect-fire exercise on Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 30, 2016. The exercise was designed to integrate, build relations with 10th Marine Regiment and conduct firing drills on unfamiliar terrain. (Lance Cpl. Melanye E. Martinez/U.S. Marine Corps)



The battalion leadership conducted a training and readiness review assist with each firing battery throughout the year in preparation for the year's annual training events. Each of the batteries were found to be "mission capable" and further training events were executed prior to Exercise Saipan Rain, enabling the section in each assessed battery to remediate any identified shortfalls. Additionally, the battalion provided support for Exercise Northern Strike 16 in Camp Grayling, Mich.

The official 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, sharepoint page is located at: <https://sharepoint.marforres.usmc.mil/msc/div/14MR/3rdBat/SitePages/Home.aspx>

5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, *Hoplite*

By 5-14th Marines

Fifth Battalion, 14th Marines, is unique in the Marine Corps reserve artillery community in that the battalion headquarters is co-located with two of its firing batteries at Seal Beach, Calif. This allows the battalion to exercise as a battalion (-) during training exercises and to focus part of its field training on battalion-directed operations. This also allows the headquarters battery and battalion staff to play a more direct and central role in planning and support of its firing batteries.

In 2016, 5th Battalion, continued to build upon its relationship with the 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, located approximately 70 miles south of the battalion headquarters. Due to the proximity of their locations, 5th Battalion has established a strong habitual relationship with 11th Marines and their battalions at Camp Pendleton, Calif., producing exceptional training opportunities. In June, the battalion participated in Integrated Training Exercise 4-16 at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif. Meanwhile, Battery Q executed a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise alongside 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, and 4th Tank Battalion aboard Camp Pendleton. The battalion also provided support for Exercise Northern Strike 16 in Camp Grayling, Mich. In addition to these major exercises, the battalion conducted 11 battery and three battalion-level firing exercises.

Marines from N Battery, 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, fired in support of Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) June 4-16, 2016 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. (Photo by Erica Nordberg)





Marines from Communications Company conduct morning physical training (PT) during the start of Exercise Northern Strike 16, August 2016. The three-week combined arms live-fire exercise emphasizes close air support, joint fire support, coordinated maneuver with Fires, and air mobility. (Communications Company, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division)

The official 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment sharepoint page is located at: <https://sharepoint.marforres.usmc.mil/msc/div/14MR/SitePages/5th%20Battalion.aspx>

The 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Facebook page is located at:

<https://www.facebook.com/5th-Battalion-14th-Marines-1699092443685354/>

Communications Company, 14th Marine Regiment

Organic to the 14th Marine Regiment, Communications Company provides general communications support to the entire 4th Marine Division. Throughout the year, leadership from the company focused on, and supported numerous planning conferences representing the regiment and the division. Communications Company Marines participated in Integrated Training Exercise 4-16 aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., alongside 5th Battalion. Communications Company also provided support to the Marine Forces Reserve Communications Exercise, providing planning guidance to participating units, as well as building data servers used to support the exercise. In August, Communications Company deployed to Camp Grayling, Mich., to provide support for Exercise Northern Strike 16, a joint integrated Fires training exercise sponsored by the National Guard Bureau.

From very high frequency adaptive networking wideband waveform training to requesting and utilizing mobile training teams from Marine Corps Network Operation Support Center and the Communications Training Center -2 in preparation for upcoming exercise support, the company continues to ensure its support to both 14th Marines, and the 4th Marine Division as a whole.

The official Communications Company, 14th Marine Regiment, sharepoint page is located at: <https://sharepoint.marforres.usmc.mil/msc/div/14MR/SitePages/Det%20Comm%20Co.aspx>

The Communications Company, 14th Marine Regiment, Facebook page is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/CommunicationsCompany4thMarineDivision>

Marine Artillery Detachment, The Home of Marine Artillery

By MARDET

The Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Okla., commanded by Col. Timothy Parker, is home to all artillery training in the Marine Corps. With 87 permanent party Marines and five civilians, the Marine Detachment teaches 12 Marine-specific courses and collaborates with the Army on six additional joint courses. These courses include entry-level and career-progression artillery and fire support related instruction. Additionally, the MarDet promotes the advancement of artillery programs and instruction through direct coordination with Marine Corps Operating Forces, Headquarters Marine Corps, the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, Training and Education Command and the U.S. Army's Fires Center of Excellence.

The Marine Detachment is organized into several school houses to accomplish its mission and tasks. They include: the Marine Corps Cannoneer School, the Target Acquisition School, Marine Corps Observed Fires School, Enlisted Gunnery School and Officer Instruction Branch. All of these schools are supported and supervised by the detachment headquarters element comprised of a special staff, S1, S3, S4 and the Marine Battery.

The Cannoneer School is responsible for entry-level and advanced training on the M777A2 Howitzer, the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the Expeditionary Fire Support System, a towed 120 mm rifled mortar.

The Enlisted Gunnery School is responsible for entry-level fire controlmen training as well as advanced operations training in order to produce qualified operations chiefs in the operating forces. Enlisted Gunnery School also provides assistance/instruction for the Cannon Crewman Course and Marine Artillery Officer Basic Course.

The Target Acquisition School is organized into three sections. The Radar Section provides entry-level and advanced training for Q-46B and Q-49 radars as well as radar theory and target processing techniques. The Artillery Electronics Maintenance section provides entry-level training for intermediate level repairs of all artillery electronics. The Sensor Support Section instructs entry level and advanced skills in acoustics, artillery meteorology and survey.

The Observed Fires School provides entry-level training in scout observer procedures, advanced instruction in battalion and regimental fire support coordination and instructor and operator certification for the Marine Corps Target Mensuration Only Program.

Both the Target Acquisition School and the Observed Fires School provide some level of instruction to the Marine Warrant Officer Follow-on Course, Captains Career Course, Marine Artillery Officer Basic Course and the Army Warrant Officer Basic Course.

The Officer Instruction Branch (OIB) provides entry-level training for lieutenants and career-level training for captains. The OIB partners with the Army's 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, and the 428th Field Artillery Brigade to teach Marine, Army and international officers to be artillerymen in a joint setting.

Finally, the Marine Battery consists of the battery commander, battery first sergeant, battery gunnery sergeant and three platoon sergeants which supervise, mentor and assist in the training of up-

wards of 450 Marines depending upon the time of year. The battery is responsible for executing the Marines Awaiting Training Program for the entry-level Marines that report to Fort Sill, Okla.

This year proved to be very busy for the MarDet. The respective branches trained over 1,400 officer and enlisted Marines in their entry level and career progression courses.

In addition to training artillerymen, the MarDet sent representatives to the Spring Artillery Operational Advisor Group (AOAG) in March and the Fall AOAG in October. Major topics discussed there included the Target Handoff Systems, Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar and artillery ammunition efforts, doctrine updates, fire support future strategies, and centrally managed joint tactical air controllers. The MarDet has also submitted and/or published updates to Marine Corps and joint doctrine to include the Artillery Training and Readiness Manual rewrite, Marine Corps Warfighting Publications (MCWP) 3-16 Fire Support Coordination in the Ground Combat Element, MCWP 3-16.1 Artillery Operations, Marine Corps Reference Publication 3-16D Dynamic Targeting, and MCWP 3-16.7 Marine Artillery Survey Operations.

Additionally, during 2016, the Marine Battery participated in several base and local volunteer events. These included the Commander's Cup Cross Country 5K, Marine Corps League Scholarship Dinner, Fort Sill Partnership School Program, International Festival and the Buffalo Burger Cookout. The Marine Battery also hosted the 24th Annual Devil Dog Run fundraiser accumulating over \$20,000 in funds from registrations and T-shirt sales.

As the MarDet looks forward to the year ahead it will continue to focus on making artillerymen and providing timely support to Fleet Marine Forces stationed around the world. The dedication and professionalism of the instructors and staff of the MarDet will ensure that its training produces knowledgeable and professional artillerymen that can operate in any clime or place.

Marines in the Fort Sill Marine Artillery Detachment train in a simulated fire direction center Oct. 17 as part of their last week of class before graduating. (Marie Berberea)





U.S. Army National Guard Air Defense Artillery Units

B Battery, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery, North Dakota Army National Guard

By Pfc. Ethan Hongess

In the relentless August sun of the Mojave Desert, Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment made history during their rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. The Soldiers belonged to the first National Guard unit to fire the Stinger missile system during their training. Additionally, they were the first Army component to fire the weapon system at NTC in almost a decade. For a battalion whose motto is, “first to fire, on target,” the opportunity seemed fitting and they worked hard to make those words ring true.

Far from the blustery plains of their home station in Grand Forks, N.D., the men and women of B Battery adapted quickly to the inhospitable climate, rough terrain. They endured long days battling alongside mechanized cavalry scouts, armored infantry and field artillery units to successfully complete their mission, which was to provide air defense to three other battalions’ maneuver forces and to protect critical assets from aerial observation.

Pfc. Anna Croucher said working with the active-duty units was “amazing and we got to see what it was like on the front lines in a very realistic wartime simulation.”

B Battery successfully engaged 32 enemy aircraft, denying the enemy forces observation of their friendly counterparts, and did so with zero incidents of friendly fire.

“They threw everything at us, but my team and I remained focused and shot down anything hostile that flew in our area,” said Spc. Tanner Otto, B Battery avenger gunner.

At the end of the maneuver exercises, B Battery conducted a live-fire exercise. The Soldiers normally train and fire from their

Humvee-mounted Avenger weapons systems. For this particular exercise, however, they fired all 14 of their missiles from shoulder-fired man-portable air defense system, or MANPADS. It was a new experience for many of the Soldiers.

“Shoulder-firing the Stinger missile is a whole new experience compared to the Avenger systems,” said Spc. Jamz Thompson, B Battery.

Nearly every Soldier interviewed said their time at NTC was fast-paced and rewarding training, which provided valuable information pertinent to their military careers.

“It was an amazing training experience,” said Spc. Galen Metz, a mechanic with B Battery. “It offered great, real-world experience to fix a lot of the equipment as the stresses of the desert heat and sand caused equipment failures I’ve never seen before.”

Overall, the air defenders from the North Dakota National Guard met and exceeded expectations set by their leaders.

1st Lt. Cody Brekken, B Battery platoon leader, said he was very proud of his Soldiers’ performance and that they stayed “diligent, kept high morale, and remained very adaptable to complete the mission, even when plans changed on short notice.”

The training will serve invaluable as 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment gears up for a yearlong mobilization to Washington, D.C., this spring to provide airspace security to the Nation’s Capital.

174th Air Defense Artillery, Ohio Army National Guard, Lightning Brigade

By Maj. Bryan Eschbach and Capt. Michael Boyes

Soldiers from 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade participated in Exercise Anakonda 2016 from May to July. The exercise took place

Soldiers of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, conduct an Avenger live-fire exercise. The missile was fired at targets over the Baltic Sea, June 9, during combined American/Polish gunnery exercise as part of Operation Anakonda 16. (Courtesy photo)



in Poland and was U.S. Army Europe's premier multinational training event that brought together more than 31,000 service members from 24 NATO and partner nations to train, exercise and integrate Polish national command and force structures into an allied, joint, multinational environment.

The brigade began working with 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in 2015 to prepare for the exercise. Over the course of the exercise the brigade and its Headquarters Battery coordinated with subordinate and adjacent units to conduct over 18 different training events. These events covered every aspect of warfighting and ranged from convoy operations and recovery to short range air defense of maneuver units and an Avenger Stinger Missile live fire. The brigade headquarters also partnered with the Polish 3rd Surface to Air Missile Brigade for the creation and sustainment of the first ever multinational integrated air picture between Poland and the United States. This was a testament to both units' dedication and commitment to multinational interoperability, and is a glimpse of what the future holds for these two partners and their allies.

In 2017, the brigade headquarters is renewing their focus on field craft and basic Soldier skills. The unit will continue to build its relationship with 10th AAMDC and U.S. Army Europe in order to take advantage of training exercises that demonstrate its ability to contribute to the Army Total Force Concept. The brigade will also send a team to serve as the task force mission command element at the National Capital Region.

1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

By 1-174th ADA

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery began 2016 as a RESET year following their mission to the National Capital Region in 2015. That year quickly transformed into a year of top-notch training for the battalion headquarters as well as each Avenger Battery.

From January to May of 2016, the firing batteries of 1-174th ADA executed a series of extended drill periods to transform their formation from a static defense in the National Capital Region to firing batteries ready to deploy on their Avengers in support of maneuver formations across the globe. The battalion headquarters and A Battery deployed with their Avengers in June to Europe with 174th ADA Brigade Headquarters in support of the 10th AAMDC. While there they worked alongside their active duty counterparts to execute bridge crossings and conduct Avenger live-fire exercises in Poland as part of Operation Anakonda 16. In September, B Battery returned to Europe to participate in Tobruq Legacy with the 10th AAMDC.

C Battery traveled to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., to provide support to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division in their Blue Forces mission. The battery conducted 14 separate engagements of enemy aircraft and utilized their Sentinel radar systems to clear airspace for Fires.

As 1-174th ADA looks into 2017 they plan to capitalize on the experiences of 2016 and increase their skills of field craft and maneuver in preparation for future exercises with the 10th AAMDC in Europe and other parts of the world.

2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

By 2-174th ADA

The 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery spent 2016 in preparation for their upcoming deployment to operation Counter

Rocket Artillery, Mortar (C-RAM) systems in the Central Command area of operation. The unit received notification of their deployment at the end of 2016 and has been planning and preparing since. In July and August, the unit conducted their individual pre-deployment training required for deployment. Building upon that training, they worked in conjunction with 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery at Fort Campbell, Ky., to increase their proficiency on the Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System — one of the major components of the C-RAM mission.

In 2017, the battalion will continue their training, both on the systems and rehearsing scenarios in the distributed mission operations training site. In the second quarter they will mobilize to Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Sill, Okla., to complete their remaining training prior to executing the C-RAM mission overseas.

1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery, Mississippi Army National Guard

By Maj. David Alexander.

The 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery, mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle (ONE) in Washington, D.C., in September 2015 and returned from mobilization in August 2016. This was the battalion's third rotation to the National Capital Region, providing Avenger, Surfaced-Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile and Sentinel assets as part of integrated air defense operations.

In June of 2016, Soldiers in 1-204th ADA also provided a platoon in support of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team's multi echelon integrated brigade training in Fort Hood, Texas. This group of Soldiers provided Avengers and Sentinel Radars to this exercise which greatly enhanced the brigade commander's capabilities.

Immediately following the battalion's return from ONE, A Battery began their preparations for providing an Avenger Battery to 155th ABCT for their upcoming National Training Center rotation in May-June 2017. A Battery is preparing their personnel and equipment to support this mission.

The remainder of the battalion's focus is on reintegration from mobilization and preparing to support any future tasking's.

First to Fire, Last to Leave

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, South Carolina Army National Guard

By Sgt. Brad Mincey

The South Carolina National Guard's 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command spent several weeks in July at Fort Bliss, Texas, assessing and validating the 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the National Capital Region.

The 263rd AAMDC served as the Training Certification Authority, which is one part of the 1st Army Validation process, said Col. Donnie Wilson, Culminating Training Event (CTE) exercise director. Much of the exercise consisted of crew drills and tactics, techniques and procedures.

"Our role in these capacities was to ensure that the incoming air defense battalion was properly trained and able to accurately and efficiently demonstrate their ability to do the mission in the NCR," said Wilson. "The Florida Army National Guard's 3-265th ADA was the unit being evaluated for their rotation in the NCR."



Soldiers from the 265th Air Defense Artillery, Florida National Guard, fire a Man-portable Air Defense (MANPAD) System during a live-fire exercise at a drone July 16, over the desert training area of Fort Bliss, Texas. The MANPAD is a shoulder-fired launcher that fires the Stinger missile at low-flying aircraft. (Sgt. Brad Mincey/108th Public Affairs Detachment)

The mission of the AAMDC and ADA units is to protect an area from low-flying, aerial threats. With a battery of radars and shoulder and vehicle-launched Stinger missiles at the ready, any area the units are deployed to can be protected from incidents like 9/11.

An essential part of the training is the live-fire exercise. During this final phase of certification, Soldiers have the opportunity to fire live Stinger missiles at small, remote controlled, aerial drones.

"This was my first chance to fire a Stinger," said Pvt. 1st Class James Williams, Battery C, 3-265th ADA. "It was a rush! Amazing. Just indescribable."

The Stinger missiles can be fired from a shoulder-launched, Man-portable Air Defense System, (ManPADS) and a vehicle-mounted Avenger Missile System, which fires the Stinger missile from a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV).

"Soldiers love this training," said Capt. Shane DeMarco, 3-265th ADA, NCR battery commander. "It is a great opportunity to prepare for the upcoming mission and fire some live rounds at live targets."

In addition to providing training and certification of other units, the 263rd AAMDC could mobilize and provide Army Air and Missile Defense planning, and command and control (C2) for all missile defense forces deployed to the NCR or anywhere else in the continental U.S.

"In our current role in Homeland Defense, we train and certify both the C2 Task Force and ADA battalion for the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS) that was emplaced around Washington, D.C. after the 9/11 attacks," said Wilson. "This was done to provide freedom of action to our government and to safeguard the continuity of daily government operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year."

Every year, the 263rd AAMDC and other units pack up and head out to Fort Bliss to conduct these live-fire exercises prior to deployments and rotation to the NCR. Fort Bliss provides a perfect area to facilitate this training with already established billeting, dining facilities, as well as administrative and medical processing.

"We conduct the exercise here due to the excellent desert training areas that Fort Bliss provides on the McGregor Range facilities north of Fort Bliss that extend beyond Texas into New Mexico's Tularosa Valley and the White Sands Missile Range," said Wilson.

"This area provides us not only with ample protected airspace for our live-fly training during the CTE, but also with excellent live-fire range space for our live gunnery events [missiles only] with the Avenger/Stinger and the [National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System] weapons systems."

In addition to the exceptional training facilities, Wilson added, the location also provides perfect weather for the training, and minimizes negative impacts and delays to training.

"The terrain here is challenging to operations," Wilson said. "This range area and its environment really tests the battalion's leadership and Soldiers in terms of their ability to conduct the mission during sustained 24/7 operations. If they can conduct and perform their mission to standard here at Fort Bliss, they can certainly do so in the NCR. It requires consistent diligent leadership and performance at all levels in order to be successful as a battalion."

In addition to the South Carolina and Florida National Guard units, 1st Battalion, 188th ADA from North Dakota was also in the field firing live rounds. Although they are not the unit deploying to the NCR this rotation, they joined this training exercise in preparation for their future mission to the NCR.

"We have nine missiles, nine teams and a bunch of new Soldiers," said 1st Sgt. Kenneth Kachena, 1-188th ADA first sergeant. "So this is an opportunity for us to get prepared for next year. We hope to take away a really clear picture of what the CTE is and how it works."

Collaboration between the units from different states has been a key part of creating a cohesive training schedule and ensuring the most is received of the time they have together.

"The South Carolina Guard has given us excellent support," said Kachena. "They have been quick to answer my emails and questions on the ground. They have been very receptive. They have even been giving us copies of their documents so we aren't having to recreate the wheel."

DeMarco said there are seven units capable of performing this mission, and several of those are in the National Guard.

"This will be our fourth time to the NCR, so we have some senior NCOs who have been on this mission multiple times. We have a lot of experience that we are bringing with us."

"Simply put, we have the most experience in performing this mission for Homeland Defense," said Wilson. "Our officers, NCOs and enlisted Soldiers on this mission have gained significant subject matter expertise in not only performing our tasks and responsibilities – but in also performing these duties in the NCR as part of either the C2 TF or the battalion. In many cases a very good number of them have done both."

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, South Carolina Army National Guard, America's Shield

By Maj. Chris Neeley

Soldiers in 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, South Carolina U. S. Army National Guard and its supporting units: 2nd Battalion, 263rd ADA; 678th Air Defense Artillery and 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery conducted vigorous air defense artillery exercises, training and community support during 2016.

The Soldiers of 263rd AAMDC continue to support and direct the National Capital Region's (NCR) Integrated Air Defense System (IADS) mission by providing training and administrative oversight of deploying units.



Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, South Carolina National Guard, conduct a live-fire exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga., on Aug. 20, 2016. Crews from the 2-263rd ADA fired missiles from their Avenger weapon system at remotely piloted aerial vehicles. (Sgt. Kevin Pickering/U.S. Army National Guard)

The command conducted Exercise America's Shield (EAS) 16 at Camp Blanding, Fla., May 19 through June 3. EAS is the final collective training event for National Guard Avenger Battalions mobilizing for the NCR-IADS mission prior to their culminating training event. This training allowed the unit to focus on advanced training while stationed at the mobilization site.

The 263rd AAMDC spent several weeks in July at Fort Bliss, Texas, assessing and validating 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the NCR.

The command provided personnel to support 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in their execution of Juniper Cobra 16 in Israel. Juniper Cobra 16 introduced a brigade-level element task force ballistic missile defense (TF BMD) to perform the tactical level actions freeing the 10th AAMDC to focus on their doctrinal operational level tasks. TF BMD was comprised of personnel from the 263d AAMDC and the 108th ADA Brigade.

Maj. Gen. Glenn Bramhall, 263rd AAMDC commanding general, performed duties as the theater deputy area air defense commander for the Theater Combined/Joint Forces Air Component commander/Area Air Defense commander, Lt. Gen. Williams, and duties as the Theater Army Air and Missile Defense Coordinator for the Joint Forces Land Component commander/U.S. Army North Command commander, Lt. Gen. Buchanan.

The 263rd AAMDC participated in Exercise Vigilant Shield 2017, a North American Aerospace Defense Command-U.S. North Com-

mand Tier 1 command post exercise from Oct. 17-21. The overall objective was to work within a Combined and Joint Collective Force to protect NORAD defended assets in the Continental United States, Alaska and Canada.

As a lead in the NORAD/NORTHCOM (N/NC) Vigilant Shield Exercise 2017 (VS17), the 263rd AAMDC coordinated a deployable integrated air defense (D-IADS) package that deployed to North Bay, Ontario, Aug. 11-22 and integrated with the Canadian Air Defense Sector. This was the first occasion that U.S. Army ground based air defense equipment deployed to the Canadian Air Defense Sector in support of VS17. Personnel and equipment from the South Carolina Army National Guard, 263rd AAMDC and 2-263rd ADA, as well as 51st Combat Communications Group Air National Guard, deployed to participate in the field training exercise. The exercise enabled the units to rehearse expeditionary deployment capabilities, the movement of equipment and personnel by military airlift, coordinating cross-border logistical functions, employment of D-IADS, establishing connectivity with local and external units, and conducting air defense operations.

2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery

By 2-263rd ADA

Soldiers in 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, conducted annual training in July and completed a ground-based air defense exercise at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, S.C. The

battalion fielded eight A3 Sentinel radars which was the largest new equipment fielding and new equipment training since 2004.

In August, 2-263rd ADA sent 34 Soldiers along with three Sentinel radars and three Avengers to North Bay, Ontario, Canada, to support Vigilant Shield Exercise 2017 with North American Aerospace Defense Command. Canadian aircraft flew over the North Bay area from many different angles, verifying the ability of 2-263rd ADA to detect them with Sentinel radars and simulate multiple engagements with the Avenger weapon system. Also, in August, Soldiers conducted a live-fire exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga. Crews, which allowed them to perfect their skills of firing Stinger missiles from the Avenger at remotely piloted aerial vehicles.

In October, 2-263rd ADA mobilized 134 Soldiers in support of Hurricane Matthew. Soldiers were deployed to work alongside state and local law enforcement officers, first responders and local emergency management organizations in order to initiate pre-storm lane reversal and post-storm recovery operations.

678th Air Defense Artillery, South Carolina Army National Guard

By 678th ADA

678th Air Defense Artillery has been conducting mission command exercises and air defense operations. The brigade successfully deployed over 40 personnel to Washington, D.C., and other areas around the United States as part of the National Capital Region,

Integrated Air Defense System. The first consolidated unit annual training this summer included a staff ride and training at the Revolutionary War site of the Battle of Camden, and additional training on Command Post of the Future and military decision-making process with a mobile training team from Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The unit mobilized more than 100 Soldiers from the subordinate battalions and brigade to assist in the National Guard's state mission to support state and local law enforcement officers, first responders and local emergency management organizations. Additionally, 678th ADA is currently participating in a cross-training opportunity with 108th Air Defense Artillery at Fort Bragg, N.C., to assist with that unit's deployment validation and mission rehearsal exercise.

3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, Florida Army National Guard, *Lightning Strikes*

By Lt. Col. Patrick Thompson

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, the *Lightning Strikes Battalion*, deployed to Washington, D.C., in support of Operation Noble Eagle to execute ground-based air defense and minimum deployment package supporting the National Capital Region-Integrated Air Defense System Mission.

In January of 2016, the battalion conducted a change of command and reorganized into two distinct batteries while training for Exercise America's Shield. Faced with a short suspense prior to deployment, the battalion focused on mobilization tasks, individual

Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Croteau, 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, battalion master gunner, helps guide an Avenger crew to aerial target July 16 during the battalion's multiple live fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas. (Staff Sgt. Trinity Bierley/3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery)



and crew certifications, and equipment training on the Sentinel and Avenger systems. Subsequently, the unit mobilized to Texas for a missile live-fire exercise.

The unit's command and staff continue to collaborate with their inter-service and interagency partners, as well as local law enforcement and civilian contractors with an acute focus on the zero defect National Capital Region mission. Concurrently, the outstanding Soldiers of the 3-265th ADA stand watch to ensure the pillars of democracy are protected in our nation's capital.

1st Battalion, 362nd Air Defense Artillery, Indiana Army National Guard, *Renegade*

By Capt. Cordtz Tuato'o

The 1st Battalion, 362nd Air Defense Artillery, *Renegade Battalion*, from 157th Infantry Brigade, at Camp Atterbury, Ind., has been very active this year partnering with National Guard units preparing to assume the National Capital Region-Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS) mission and units tasked to provide air defense during rotation at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. The primary mission of a training support battalion is observing Avenger and Sentinel teams performing air defense operations (mission-specific tactics, techniques and procedures/standard operating procedures), capturing best practices through the after-action review (AAR) process and informing future mobilizing units on current trends to enhance mission readiness.

Early this year, 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment from Sarasota, Fla., began ramping up training in order to

prepare and assume the NCR-IADS mission in August 2016. Upon mission receipt to culminating training event (CTE) execution at Fort Bliss, Texas, in July 2016, The *Renegade Battalion* partnered with the Lightning Strike Battalion by advising, assisting and training Soldiers to be proficient on the Avenger, NASAMS (National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System) Weapon systems, and Sentinel Radar system.

At every battle assembly in Sarasota, Fla., 1-362nd ADA observer, coach/trainers (OC/Ts) applied lesson learned from previous units to assist with improving Avenger team proficiency; NCR techniques, tactics and procedures (TTPs); and track of interest (TOI) prosecutions. Implementing these best practices was very critical and paid huge dividends with an overall TOI prosecution rate of 99.0077 percent at CTE.

"They have really improved, they were motivated and applied best practices we shared on Avenger, National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System, and Sentinel TTPs" said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Giacobbe, 1-362nd ADA OC/T noncommissioned officer in charge.

Soldiers in 1-362nd ADA also partnered with 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in August at Fort Irwin, for NTC Rotation 16-09. *Renegade* OC/Ts observed B Battery, 1-188th ADA Avenger and Sentinel teams in action and provided feedback in the following areas: passive defense, air defense planning, defense design and TOC operations. Throughout the exercise, OC/Ts spent countless hours and shared the hardships of being "in-the-box" with their partners conducting hot-washes and AARs to improve resupply plans, battle track reporting and prevent fratricide

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 362nd Air Defense Artillery, Indiana Army National Guard, fire a Stinger missile during a live-fire exercise. (Courtesy photo)



to name a few. Members of 1-188th ADA began to see an increase in performance and proficiency once they implemented best practices discovered in the AARs.

“It was rewarding to see 1-188th ADA utilize feedback during hasty operations to defend vital command and control assets” said Sgt. 1st Justin Class Daily, 1-362nd ADA Avenger master gunner.

Additionally, 1-188th ADA successfully conducted the first Stinger live fire at Fort Irwin since 9/11.

Soldiers in 1-188th ADA are scheduled to assume the NCR-IADS mission in the spring of 2017 and have started training with support of 1-362nd ADA. Together the units will collaborate under the direction of 263rd Army Air Missile Defense Command to prepare for this “no fail” mission.

For more training and exciting events, you can follow the 1-362nd ADA *Renegade Battalion* on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/1362ADA/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel.

678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Forward, Task Force Swamp Fox, South Carolina Army National Guard

By 678th ADA

Organized in 2014, the 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is the Army’s newest air defense brigade. Headquartered in Eastover, S.C., as part of the South Carolina Army National Guard subordinate

to the 263d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, the brigade is already playing a vital role in homeland defense. Built into the main brigade manning structure, the Integrated Air Defense Section (IADS) operates under an additional O-6 command with a contingent of staff and operations personnel tasked with ground-based air defense of the National Capital Region.

In August of 2016, 678th ADA forward mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle and assumed the National Capital Region – Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS) mission in September 2016. The brigade element exercises command and control over the Air and Missile Defense Task Force, currently known as Task Force Swamp Fox. The largest element of the task force, the 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, comes from the Florida Army National Guard and provides the crews to operate the ground-based air defense assets that make up the integrated air defense architecture. Eastern Air Defense Sector’s Detachment 1 from the New York Air National Guard makes up the third arm of the task force with personnel and capabilities which enable the task force to conduct this enduring mission.

Through the oversight of the 263d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, the brigade and battalion elements of Task Force Swamp Fox underwent a year of rigorous training, to include a missile live-fire exercise and tactical prosecution simulations, before assuming the mission. As a zero-defect element of homeland defense, the NCR-IADS mission tasks Soldiers and Airmen to defend the pillars of democracy.

The members of 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Forward, Task Force Swamp Fox, pose for a group photo. (Airman 1st Class Megan Floyd/169th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



US Army National Guard Field Artillery Units



Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment pose for a photo June 20 during National Training Center Rotation Rotation 16-07, at Fort Irwin Calif. (Courtesy photo)

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment, Minnesota Army National Guard, *Steel Reign*

By Lt. Col. Christopher Ward

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment, *Steel Reign*, spent the first half of 2016 focused on preparing administratively, logistically and tactically to provide Fires for the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team during National Training Center Rotation 16-07. In February, key leaders across the battalion attended the Leadership Training Program (LTP) at Fort Irwin, Calif. The training facilitated the shared understanding of the brigade's Fires enterprise throughout the brigade and aided in the refinement and improvement of the battalion's systems and processes. Upon return from LTP, the battalion successfully staged, inspected and conduct-

ed rail load operations, deploying 242 pieces of rolling stock and 22 containers from the great state of Minnesota to Fort Irwin, Calif.

On June 3, the battalion deployed to Fort Irwin to participate in NTC Decisive Action Rotation 16-07. During the ensuing 23 days, the battalion successfully delivered timely and accurate Fires during the execution of an extremely complex training scenario in one of the most unforgiving environments. The unique scope of the battlefield enabled the forward support company's distribution and maintenance platoon operations to be fully validated. Additionally, each firing battery took part in a maneuver battalion combined arms live-fire exercise that synchronized indirect Fires with direct fire platforms.

The battalion spent the remainder of the year focused on a variety of recovery activities including reverse rail operations, maintenance operations, implementing lessons learned into training and standard operating procedures, and personnel management. The

Soldiers of the 1-125th FAR gained tremendous knowledge, experience and most importantly, confidence in our training strategy and equipment. The battalion is now in the “ready year” of the Army Force Generation cycle and continues to refine its tactics, techniques and procedures based on the lessons learned over an extremely productive 2016. *Steel Reign!*

27th Brigade Combat Team

1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment,

New York Army National Guard,

Washington Greys

By 1-258th FAR

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, *Washington Greys*, endured a rigorous training year that culminated in a rotation at Joint Readiness Training Center with the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Fort Polk, La. Soldiers remained vigilant, motivated and capable, proving that the battalion remains Ready and faithful.

The battalion maximized training opportunities throughout the year which proved to be imperative in preparing Soldiers for JRTC Rotation 16-08. The firing batteries, located in New Windsor, N.Y., and the Bronx, N.Y., conducted field artillery tables throughout the year to ensure howitzers were certified and ready to deliver steel on targets during JRTC. Long hours and austere conditions did not affect the ability of either battery from completing their missions.

Headquarters Battery, based in the Jamaica area of Queens, improved proficiency in establishing mission command while certifying its meteorological, radar, fire direction and survey sections. The biggest challenge came in the form of ensuring that the battalion and brigade were synchronized during the JRTC rotation. The ever changing and complex nature of JRTC presented many opportunities for Soldiers to expand upon their leadership capabilities.

The battalion's forward support company, Company G, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, also based in Jamaica, N.Y., performed well. They provided seamless sustainment to all batteries which ensured they remained mission ready. JRTC provided many opportunities for equipment failures and logistical resupply missions. These Soldiers worked tireless hours and played a crucial role in the battalion's successes.

45th Field Artillery, Oklahoma Army

National Guard, *Red Thunder*

By 45th FAB

This proved to be a dynamic training year for the Soldiers of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, including a brigade field training exercise/live-fire exercise for our annual training and participation in Anakonda 16. The *Red Thunder Brigade* conducted a series of field training exercises with subordinate battalions culminating in annual training at Fort Sill, Okla., in April. The brigade exercised mission command with four of its five battalions in the field training exercise (FTX) including 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery (M777 A2, Missouri Army National Guard), 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, Oklahoma Army National Guard), 4th Battalion, 133th Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Texas Army National Guard) and 271st Brigade Support Battalion (Oklahoma Army National Guard).

The 45th FAB tested early entry operations, the use of a mobile tactical command post and a small footprint main command post while synchronizing Fires in support of a scenario driven, divi-



Soldiers of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade work in a joint tactical operations center during fire coordination exercise Anakonda 16. (Courtesy photo)

sion-level decisive action operation. Key training objectives for the shooter battalions included platoon-level reconnaissance, selection and occupation of a position, tactical movement, fire mission processing and raids for the rocket battalions, and battery movements, occupations and live-fire tables for the cannon battalion, which also included direct fire lanes. The brigade support battalion and forward support companies conducted brigade-level support operations, which included sling operations with UH-60s from the OKARNG. The eight-day field problem was conducted under 24-hour operations in austere (and extremely wet) conditions. In support of a partnership with 1st Cavalry Division, the *Red Team Division Artillery* provided a Q-37 Radar with trainers and Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System and Command Post of the Future operators to replicate higher command during the FTX.

The *Red Thunder Brigade* was also requested to support Anakonda 16 as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters tasked with executing a scenario-based Fires coordination exercise (FCX) at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in Poland. A large contingent of the brigade headquarters and 205th Signal Company deployed the main command post forward by air and sea in order to conduct this exercise. Upon arrival, 45th FAB assumed the tactical control of the Polish 11th Artillery Regiment (one battalion of DANA 152 mm self-propelled, one battalion of WR-40 MRLS), the 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery (-), a HIMARS platoon from 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery (North Carolina Army National Guard), and a platoon of Romanian D-20s (152 mm towed). The *Red Thunder Brigade* integrated Fires from these elements, as well as, the M109 A6s from 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, Polish and U.S. fixed and rotary wing assets in order to execute a multitude of missions including preparatory Fires, suppression of enemy air defenses, deep shaping Fires, close Fires and massing of all elements on large targets. The combined force safely delivered 1,487 rounds of cannon and rocket munitions and conducted multiple fixed and rotary wing sorties during the six-hour FCX.

In addition to our mission essential task list specific training, the 45th FAB also responded to multiple defense support of civil authorities missions to help the citizens of Oklahoma in 2016. The support missions ranged from conducting road patrols to helping stranded drivers during winter weather to sending Soldiers and equipment to provide critical power and water assets to communities in need. Whether it is lethal or non-lethal Fires in support of the war fight or domestic support for our citizens, the *Red Thunder Brigade* delivers!



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, and 1st Battalion, 180th Cavalry Regiment, conduct the final mission brief for an artillery raid at Fort Sill, Okla., Sept. 10. The incorporation of the 1-180th Cavalry Soldiers into the raid mission to provide security and to conduct passage of lines operations provided better, more realistic training for the artillerymen from the 1-158th FA. (Courtesy photo)

1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Oklahoma Army National Guard, Thunderbird

By Capt. Bronson Sapp

During training year 2016, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Battalion aggressively pursued a training plan that would prepare the battalion to stand ready as they approach their Train/Ready Year Two of the Army Force Generation Cycle.

In true form of their dual mission, the battalion began the training year by providing emergency support services during a severe ice storm. Tasked with providing power generators and “water buffaloes” to local communities without power, the battalion ran 24-hour operations for 10 days to ensure citizens were not without essential services in Southwest Oklahoma. After successfully completing their domestic mission, the battalion transitioned to their field artillery craft by certifying crews in order to provide field artillery, rocket and missile Fires in support of a brigade combat team, division, corps or multinational Army force.

The battalion then refined annual training to build upon and synchronize collective tasks practiced and used in training year 2015 to include raid and suppression of enemy air defense missions. This training plan culminated in the later part of 2016, with a joint exercise that tested the battalion under a timed circumstance in response to a raid mission with a maneuver security force element. These maneuver forces were provided by 1st Battalion, 180th Cavalry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Looking to the future, 1-158th FA will continue its field artillery training and preparation to stand ready in response to any local or

Spc. Donte Braxton, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery, pulls the lanyard on an M777 A2 while his unit conducts the Direct Fire Range July 22 at Fort Drum, N.Y. (Photo by Spc. Anthony Honorowski/1-108th FA)

national emergency. The battalion is also an active community participant in the Lawton area, Southwest Oklahoma and continues to strive to foster its community relationships.

56th Brigade Combat Team 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery, Pennsylvania Army National Guard

By Capt. Dustin Wolfgang

The 2016 training year marked another remarkably successful year for the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery. The battalion continued to refine the assimilation of the newly formed forward support company (F Battery, 328th Brigade Support Battalion) and the re-assignment of the brigade’s fire support personnel back into the formation.

The battalion embarked on the training year with a focus on maintaining its exceptionally high metrics in personnel and medical readiness while also achieving the standards of a robust FA certification and qualification program. Throughout the first and second quarters of the training year, 1-108th FA Soldiers completed individual artillery skills proficiency tasks which helped to set the conditions for collective training in the third and fourth quarters. During February and March, inactive duty training periods, the battalion planned and successfully executed a brigade-wide consolidated fire support training and certification event. This event helped to standardize fire support training and certification across the Stryker



Brigade Combat Team and served as a valuable assessment for improving digital communications for future fire support operations.

In April, after a successful three year and eight month tour, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Heasley relinquished command of the 1-108th FA to Lt. Col. Darryl Bertani. Almost immediately after receiving the guidon, Bertani led the battalion into the challenging and extremely successful 56 Stryker Brigade Combat Team warfighter exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. This collective training event helped to forge a lean and relatively new staff into a cohesive team capable of executing mission command and completing the military decision-making process to produce high quality plans and orders for subordinate units.

In July, the battalion traveled to Fort Drum, N.Y., to culminate the training year with the successful execution of an aggressive annual training period which included the completion of Table XII platoon qualifications. While at Fort Drum, 1-108th FA Soldiers received a new equipment training (NET) and all 18 of the battalion's M777 A2 howitzers were retrofitted with the latest version of the Digital Fire Control System, version 4.1.2. With the NET and software upgrade the 1-108th FA significantly improved its accuracy and increased the capability to manage muzzle velocity variations. The 1-108th FA is one of the first Reserve component M777 battalions to receive this upgrade. Additionally, the 1-108th FA executed a joint air lift mission with the U.S. Navy's Helmineron Fifteen Squadron based out of Norfolk, Va., and the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Drum, N.Y. Both of these aviation units helped the 1-108th FA master the

craft of sling loading the M777A2 howitzer using both the single and dual point techniques. This annual training period also allowed F/328, the newly formed forward support company (FSC), to exercise their ability to provide sustainment support to the battalion. The FSC executed their mission flawlessly by repairing all vehicles and mission critical equipment, establishing an ammunition holding area, establishing a rearm, refuel and resupply point, and distributing Class I, III and V to the entire battalion.

The 1-108th FA concluded the 2016 training year on high note and heads into 2017 training year postured to sustain its high standards for combat readiness and aggressive training goals. The battalion's capstone training event for 2017 will be the participation with the entire 56th SBCT in an exportable combat training capability rotation at Fort Pickett, Va. The leaders and Soldiers of the 1-108th FA remain resilient, agile and adaptable; capable of responding to any state or federal mission that may be issued. The Soldiers of the 1-108th FA truly live up to the battalion's motto *Non Sibi – Sed Patriae* (Not Self – But Country).

60th Troop Command

5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery and 732nd

Forward Support Company, North Carolina Army

National Guard, *Griffin Battalion*

By Maj. Chris Rosehart

Fifth Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and 732nd Forward Support Company executed a successful train ready 2 year. The *Griffin Battalion* built upon their hard work in 2015 by executing two major training exercises within deploying forces thousands of miles on two continents. The focus of 2015 was 1st Army Evaluation at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., during a brigade exercise with the 65th Field Artillery Brigade. The second focus was deployment, execution and redeployment from Poland in support of Operation Anakonda 2016. The result of this hard work is the *Griffin Battalion* is ready to deploy by land, air or sea in support of contingency operations across the globe.

The focus of inactive-duty training (IDT) was twofold: First, Soldiers prepared for annual training by conducting rail operations. Second, they prepared the unit's equipment for deployment by vessel to Poland in support of Operation Anakonda. The unit accomplished these tasks through long days while still training on field artillery tasks. The 732nd FSC continued to support the battalion while preparing to work with 340th Brigade Support Battalion during annual training, a task they have not executed in 10 years. In addition, the *Griffin Battalion* sent an operations team to support an emerging state partnership program in Malawi.

Annual training required the bulk of the battalion's vehicles to deploy by rail to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., in May 2016. The battalion and 732nd FSC deployed 108 vehicles and trailers (including 12 M142 HIMARS) and 212 personnel to execute a brigade-level live fire exercise under 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah Army National Guard. The *Griffin Battalion* operated alongside two M109A6 Paladin battalions. The battalion fired 42 rockets during annual training. The 732nd FSC supported the operations by setting up the rearm, refuel, resupply point and sharpening their logistic skills. The *Griffin Battalion*, despite poor weather conditions, had the fuel, food and maintenance they needed.

In June 2016, less than two weeks after annual training concluded, 22 vehicles and trailers (including four M142 HIMARS) and 60 personnel arrived in Poland to support Operation Anakonda. The





Soldiers in 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment, use a launcher in a live-fire exercise to support Operation Gunsmoke in Camp Guernsey, Wyo. (Spc. Nathaniel Free/128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Griffin Battalion fired 24 rockets during two combined arms live fire exercises, a suppression of enemy air defense mission (SEAD), and massed Fires with NATO allies. Fifth Battalion conducted joint operations with two U.S. howitzer battalions, a Polish howitzer battalion, a Polish rocket battalion, a Romanian howitzer platoon, U.S. attack aviation and Polish attack aviation. The exercise capstone was a combined arms live fire exercise. The Griffins executed their assigned tasks firing their rockets with precision throughout the exercise. The *Griffin Battalion* demonstrated the expeditionary capabilities of the Army National Guard by deploying, with less than six months' notice, to two almost simultaneous operations overseas and at home.

63rd Troop Command

1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment,

Michigan Army National Guard, *Sudden Death*

By Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Cann

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 182d Field Artillery Regiment, *Sudden Death*, redeployed to Detroit and Bay City, Mich., after completing their mission in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Kingdom of Jordan, and Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.

UAE: *Sudden Death Battalion* trained with an Emirati High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion refining artillery skills and conducting resupply and medical training. This training culminated in a live fire exercise including the first joint night live fire conducted by the American/Emirati partnership. *Sudden Death* owned, operated, and improved Camp Redleg. This mission fell mostly to Forward Support Company and consisted of a myriad of tasks such as contract management, camp improvement projects, and daily tasks such as fuel operations, maintenance, and cooking three meals a day. The *Sudden Death* FSC performed above all expectations.

Jordan: *Sudden Death* Soldiers trained with a Jordanian HIMARS battalion in order to build relationships and improve interoperability. They conducted two live fire exercises including one where

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, Michigan Army National Guard, fire their High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems during a live-fire exercise. (Courtesy photo)

the Jordanians were able to control Fires using the tactics and techniques trained over the course of the deployment.

In March 2016 *Sudden Death* was called upon to provide Fires in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. *Sudden Death* was the first to provide surface-to-surface Fires into Syria. Fires were delivered with 100 percent accuracy and achieved desired effects on all targets. This was the first combat artillery mission for the *Sudden Death Battalion* since WWII. They were called on five more times for similar missions and their mere presence, with the capabilities previously displayed, completely shut down enemy movement and operations successfully denying the enemy freedom of movement and allowing other coalition operations to be successfully completed with a significantly reduced threat or opposition.



Sudden Death was further tasked to again provide fire support, this time in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in northern Iraq. They deployed a light HIMARS package and successfully conducted over 200 fire missions consisting of over 350 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System rockets at enemy targets with 100 percent accuracy. This resulted in the desired effect on every target. Throughout the mission 1-182nd FAR was called upon more and more as decision makers realized the capabilities and effectiveness of the HIMARS. This directly enhanced the abilities of the combatant command and made a significant impact on the overall mission.

Sudden Death built on what previous unit's had started and forged partnerships and alliances that will have effects long after their redeployment. Might if right – *Sudden Death*!

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/182FA>

65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, *America's Thunder*

By Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn and 1st Lt. Rory Mele

Whether by train, plane or automobile, more than 1,300 service members of the 65th Field Artillery Brigade converged on remote Camp Guernsey, Wyo., for a historic annual training event to be remembered – Operation Gunsmoke.

“Operation Gunsmoke is a concept that we started a few years ago with the brigade commander desiring to bring all of the units together to create a large-scale, field artillery training event, which has never been done before,” said Maj. Jeremy Williams, 65th FAB operations officer. “This was a very unique opportunity of this scale, one that I have not seen, nor will I likely see again in my career, where we were able to exercise our ability to command and control firing battalions.”



Soldiers in 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, shipped their 12 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) via railcar from North Carolina and flew in their troops with commercial airliners. The 340th Brigade Support Battalion arrived via military airlift and fell in on equipment from Wyoming's BSB. First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery commercial-hauled their howitzers, while other Utah-based units convoyed their service members and equipment across the 464 mile journey to Guernsey.

In these years of challenged budgets, it was an astounding accomplishment for the brigade to coordinate for all of its units from across the nation, from California to North Carolina, to participate in the multi-echelon, scenario-based exercise. The operation involved 10 units in either a participation or support role, including support from Utah National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters and Camp Guernsey itself.

“We've really never done anything of this size or magnitude so it was essential to have a solid plan as we came out here and went live with all of these different units,” said Maj. Brett Anderson, 65th FAB headquarters commander. “I am thrilled to have been a part of such a historic operation where we trained with 1,300 troops from six states in one location training together, learning together and doing something that none of us have never done.”

Considering the multitude of moving pieces and increased communications complexity, Col. Todd Thursby, 65th FAB commander, determined his two priorities for the event to be communications and logistics. This set a high bar for the brigade's recently activated 190th Network Support Company, who only received their joint network node (JNN) and corresponding satellite transportable terminal (STT) systems months prior and additionally had just completed a software upgrade for the critical communications equipment. The JNN and STT serve as the backbone of the brigade's digital communications network, so going without was not an option.

The next hurdle in accomplishing the brigade commander's communications priority was to fulfill shortfalls of the battalion-level command post node (CPN) equipment. Only two of the required four CPNs needed had been fielded to the respective battalion headquarters, and all of the CPNs required software updates. While this may not seem like a big challenge those outside of the military, this shortfall was a significant problem as these highly-technical pieces of gear are very difficult to acquire. Planners, leaving no stone unturned, worked tirelessly to coordinate for two CPNs to augment Operation Gunsmoke from Colorado and Wyoming.

Now, with the critical communications enablers finally in hand, Capt. Jeff George, 190th Brigade Signal Company commander, just had to get them all to talk. No other National Guard brigade had achieved this feat in a field training environment, but *America's Thunder* doesn't let failures of others limit its achievements. After much trouble-shooting, technical expertise, and late nights the brigade headquarters and its four subordinate battalions established that which had never been done before by a National Guard unit during a stateside training event—all brigade elements squawking digital. All modes of communications, digital, high-frequency, Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems, and the logistician's very small aperture satellite terminal were online in a milestone achievement.

“Preparation was the key, getting here with all of the right equipment and having a plan are all essential,” said Anderson.

Thursby's next priority was logistics, and the 340th BSB from California came through in spades. They had the challenge of inte-



A M109A6 howitzer is silhouetted against the Wyoming night sky during Operation Gunsmoke. (Courtesy photo)

grating the forward support companies (FSCs) of each battalion into a forward logistics element which was to be located, as the name would suggest, forward of the main headquarters to facilitate logistics operations. The FSCs are typically controlled by their respective battalion, so this change in paradigm was resisted in the early stages. While unfamiliar, this command relationship of the FSCs to the BSB is doctrinally correct. Pressing through initial resistance, the 340th BSB successfully coordinated and executed support for the event driving more than 4,900 miles delivering 38,000 gallons of water, 45,000 gallons of fuel, and prepared an astounding 39,000 delicious meals throughout Operation Gunsmoke.

The Soldiers of 65th FAB took Operation Gunsmoke one step further, stretching to acquire target acquisition radars and unmanned aerial systems to enhance the battle-focused training. While radar units have always been in the structure of the brigade, radar equipment demands for war efforts had kept the brigade without these critical sensors from the brigade's inception in 2008. Again, planners hit the grindstone to source a Q37 Firefinder Radar and two Q-50 Lightweight Counterfire Radar Systems from Colorado and Idaho. These sensors provided invaluable hands-on training and visibility of live acquisitions during the annual training.

Additionally, the 19th Special Forces (Airborne) Tactical Unmanned Aerial System Platoon flew Shadow Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to enhance the training having conducted aerial reconnaissance, call for fire, and even fire-mission adjustments utilizing the advanced camera systems onboard the UAS.

Another great additional to the massive training event was the 144th Area Support Medical Company from Utah, which provided

medical support and training integrating into the 340th BSB as their operation's medical element.

"For us, Operation Gunsmoke was great," said Maj. Trish Brown, 144th ASMC commander. "We frequently conduct a lot of training on our own, but we don't get to interact at a brigade level which is how our unit would actually function if we were to deploy. We were working with the brigade surgeon and battalion physician assistants and medics to integrate our medical operation to ensure that execution is seamless from the gun line, or point of injury, to the medical support area in the rear."

External evaluations are an important element of any training, and at the doorsteps of the objective "T" requirements, Thursday would not let a collective training event such as this go without feedback. Coordination was made so that the brigade headquarters, the firing battalions, and even the BSB were provided evaluation teams. This detailed feedback provided unbiased, objective feedback to brigade leaders to build upon successes and appropriately address any shortcomings.

The ground shook in the small town of Guernsey from May 9-23 as 57 tracked and 432 wheeled vehicles of the 65th FAB executed Operation Gunsmoke, where 2,400 155 mm howitzer rounds were fired, 42 HIMARS rockets were launched, more than 140,000 rounds of .50 caliber, 7.62 mm, and 5.56 mm were shot in total.

"In this exercise we had nearly 1,300 Soldiers executing their individual jobs as artillery crew members, fire direction control personnel, administrative personnel, medics, logisticians, supply personnel, signal and communications and many more, and each one functioning at their individual level for the success of the mission,"



Vehicles from 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment, 65th FA Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, wait in line for fuel while a Soldier from the 214th Forward Support Company directs traffic, during Operation Gunsmoke, May 16, 2016. Operation Gunsmoke is the 65th FA Bde. live-fire exercise consisting of 1,300 Soldiers from six states, conducting operations in Camp Guernsey for annual training 2016. (1st Sgt. Brock Jones/128th MPAD)

said Williams. "This opportunity tests their training, their understanding and everything they learned at their military schools."

More impressive than the statistics created during Gunsmoke was the safe, battle-focused collective training that was conducted which improved unit readiness, forged life-long relationships with leaders and members alike, and provided a training milestone that all will reference for many years to come. *America's Thunder!*

1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, Utah Army National Guard, Big Red

By 1-145th FA

During the 2016 training year the service members of 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, *Big Red*, participated in multiple exercises that tested their artillery skills and Homeland Response Force (HRF) proficiency.

In March 2016, 1-145th FA conducted live fire artillery operations on Camp Williams. This training validated the battalion fire direction and gun sections in preparation for annual training. In May 2016, *Big Red* along with other units from the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, gathered for annual training to execute operation Gunsmoke in Guernsey, Wyo. The operation included 1,300 service members from six states. During operation Gunsmoke, 1-145th FA BN was able to employ in-direct Fires in large scale operations while working with brigade fire control elements. In order to sustain firing capabilities, *Big Red's* 214th Forward Support Company conducting

fuel, resupply, and food service operations. Operation Gunsmoke allowed the battalion to validate their war-fighting functions.

In addition to their artillery mission, 1-145th FA supported multiple HRF training exercises. In May, the battalion participated in Centennial Rogue, a HRF capstone exercise in Denver, Colo. *Big Red* validated their decontamination, wide area search, security, and command and control mission. During Centennial Rogue, the battalion executed various real-world disaster scenarios to include, casualty search and extraction from a collapsed building, wide-area search supporting a simulated airline explosion, and a dirty bomb scenario at the airport. The highlight of the operation was training with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at their natural disaster building. The FEMA training center was able to simulate different extreme weather scenarios testing the battalion's response capabilities.

As always the service members of the 1-145th FA executed all required missions in 2016 with a high level of proficiency. They represented themselves, their unit, and the battalion with distinction.

2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Utah Army National Guard, Triple Deuce

By 2-222nd FA

The 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, *Triple Deuce* conducted a heavy artillery skills training year during Fiscal Year 2016. Under the guidance and direction of 65th Field Artillery Brigade, the battal-



Soldiers in 2nd Battalion, 22nd Field Artillery Battalion, fire a round from a Paladin howitzer at the direct fire range on Camp Guernsey, Wyo., May 16, 2016, during Operation Gunsmoke 16. Operation Gunsmoke is 65th Field Artillery Brigade's live-fire exercise which included 1,300 Soldiers from six states, conducting operations in Camp Guernsey for annual training 2016. (Courtesy photo)

ion participated in two live fire training exercises at Camp Williams, Utah, where crews and sections focused on basic artillery skills and tasks. The focus of these training events were on the basics of field artillery and sustainment.

Following the live Fires, the battalion participated in the largest field artillery exercise ever conducted by the 65th FAB, Operation Gunsmoke. This training event took place at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., where over 1,300 Soldiers from five different states participated in a live fire exercise. The Soldiers of 2nd-222 FA successfully processed over 400 fire missions initiated at both battalion and brigade. The battalion was also able to establish a high functioning tactical operations center where they used a command post nodes to establish digital communication with brigade, allowing all Mission Command Systems to function at high levels. During Operation Gunsmoke, 213th Forward Support Company was able to train with their higher echelon command, 340th Brigade Support Battalion, from California for the first time since the transformation to a forward support company in 2007. The FSC pushed and pulled sustainment over hundreds of miles supporting the battalion. This large scale training event created a training environment that allowed the battalion to train with multiple echelon levels of command.

Soldiers of the battalion continued to train for their state mission conducting training on force packages as directed by the state. Unit leadership worked to improve relationships throughout communities in Southern Utah conducting multi-agency emergency re-

sponse exercises in the communities our armories reside. This type of collaboration helps greatly improve unit readiness and ability to respond to emergencies.

81st Brigade Combat Team 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, Washington Army National Guard

By 1st Lt. Daniel Pierce and 1st Lt. Timothy Kastenholz

In 2016, the 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery began preparing for the transition from the self-propelled 155 mm Paladin howitzer to the towed M777 A2. The senior leadership of the battalion allowed many of its Soldiers to provide input, plan and execute training focused on basic Soldier skills in 2016. Annual training took place at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and reinforced the concepts of field craft and being light on our feet. The battalion lived, ate and slept in the field, completing ruck marches, M4 qualifications, setting up general purpose tents and OE-254's, establishing observation posts, firing points and completing obstacle and confidence courses. They were trained, tired and motivated Soldiers by the end of it. The team-building and camaraderie that occurred helped develop elements that are more cohesive and set the conditions for a successful transition to the M777.

As a part of the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the 2-146th FA sent Soldiers to support the Cascadia Subduction Zone exercise,



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, sit in a HMMWV sits while the sun rises above Mount Rainier, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. (1LT Daniel Pierce/2-146 FA)

to highlight how the National Guard provides defense support to civilian authority as a part of its mission(s). The preparedness exercise included people from Washington Emergency Management, the cities of Renton, Issaquah, Seattle, Kirkland, Vashon Island and King county. The Cascadia Subduction Zone, or fault, extends from Northern Vancouver Island to Northern California and if it were to shift at once, a predicted magnitude 8.7-9.2 earthquake, could affect the major cities of Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia; Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Ore. The citizen Soldiers and their equipment supported the exercise by participating in emergency planning, logistical support, establishing a command post and air assault activities, all while being subordinate to the civilian authorities.

Soldiers in 81st SBCT were paired with 7th Infantry Division and 2-146th FA received training oversight from 2nd Division Artillery as part of the Associated Unit Pilot Program. With this relationship comes more training opportunities that fall in line with the 2nd DIVARTY standards and our new equipment's capabilities. On Dec. 3, the Soldiers of 81st SBCT attended a re-patching ceremony with 7th ID to remove the Raven Head patch and don the Indian Head patch to symbolize our relationship.

110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, Missouri

Army National Guard

By Capt. Thomas White

During 2016, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment focused on exceeding objectives while elevating proficiency in delivering accurate and timely Fires. The battalion started the training year off by welcoming its new commander, Lt. Col. James Meyer, who assumed command previously assigned as the 70th Troop Command, deputy commanding officer. The battalion continued meeting command readiness objectives in strength, comprehensive unit level readiness, operational readiness, Soldier and equipment availability and compliance in all command inspection programs, allowing Soldiers to focus during annual training 2016 alongside 45th Field Artillery Brigade.

The battalion's training highlights for the year include a three-day field training exercise; four digital communication exercises; 13D, 13B, and 13F safety certifications and qualifications; howitzer crew, section chief, and Big Three certifications; and individual and crew-served weapons qualifications, all culminating in the safe and accurate delivery of 1,324 artillery rounds throughout the year.

During annual training 2016, the battalion conducted its 15-day exercise alongside its alignment for training higher headquarters, the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, for the fourth time in five years at Fort Sill, Okla. The battalion took advantage of several external resources and cross-training opportunities in order to elevate the battalion's overall ability in delivering accurate and timely Fires. The 1-129th FAR also, for the first time in over 15 years, processed and shot direct fire missions with the M777 A2 howitzer, allowing howitzer section chiefs to engage their own targets in the impact area. Altogether, the battalion fired 1,124 artillery rounds with tremendous effects, conducted 32 battery occupations with no safety

Staff Sgt. Donald Derickson (middle left) from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, Missouri Army National Guard, directs fire missions for his section during the direct-fire lane at Fort Sill, Okla., during annual training April 22. (Jordan Wyatt/Lantern Creek Productions)



issues, and successfully met all training requirements for Artillery Tables V through IX.

Facebook Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/1-129th-Field-Artillery-Battalion-Missouri-Army-National-Guard-114199088610600/>

130th Field Artillery Brigade, Kansas Army National Guard, Redlegs

By 130th FAB

Soldiers of the 130th Field Artillery Field Artillery Brigade, Redlegs, focused on individual readiness throughout the year. Led by the command team of Col. Thomas Burke and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Anderson, the brigade spent the year building personnel and equipment readiness with a culminating event during annual training conducting Mission Command System Integration events level I and II. The brigade continues to build partnerships with both the 1st Infantry and 35th Infantry Divisions as well as its aligned-for-training field artillery battalions.

Brigade headquarters hosted the annual field artillery St. Barbara's event with over 500 personnel in attendance, the headquarters also hosted the Kansas National Guard Association Joint Conference in Manhattan, Kan. The brigade provides oversight and mission command responsibilities of two field artillery battalions, a brigade support battalion and a combat service support battalion of over 2,000 Soldiers.

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard

By 1-161th FA

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, focused on individual readiness, unit readiness and section-level training. The battalion executed platoon-level dry fire safety certification and validation, section evaluation and section qualification. Training was mission essential task list-focused, section-to-platoon training which builds the section up to a safe, collective and tactical section. All units focused on key tasks while using the crawl, walk, run method in order to achieve the desired end state.

Annual training was conducted at Fort Riley, Kan., June 4-18. The M109 A6 Paladin, howitzer crew members of A, B and C batteries completed 95 fire missions, safely firing 952 155 mm high explosive projectiles. A Battery completed 37 missions, safely firing 380 rounds of 155 mm high explosive projectiles. B Battery completed 22 missions, safely firing 192 rounds of 155 mm high explosive projectiles. C Battery completed 36 missions, safely firing 380 rounds of 155 mm high explosive projectiles.

Throughout the course of the year, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery qualified 45 combat life savers by conducting three classes. This is testament to the unit's dedication to Soldier and unit readiness. During annual training, they safely controlled artillery Fires for 952 rounds including a 91-round fire for effect mission. In addition, they maintained command and control of three firing batteries and processed 95 fire missions.

This year, 1-161th FA was named parent unit to Task Force Broncbuster located in Garden City, Kan., The Kansas Army National Guard established Task Force Broncbuster to maximize resources and enhance the battalion's presence in a growing community such as Garden City. Task Force Broncbuster focuses on skill Level 10 training and enhances chances for recruitment in low density military occupational specialties.

2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, Knights of Fire

By Capt. Matthew Nordquist

The focus of the battalion in 2016 was to complete Field Artillery Table XV and achieve battery-level certification, reorganize units to support two separate mobilizations, and provide a smooth transition into premobilization training. All this without losing retention and recruiting efforts, as well as readiness goals.

In February, the battalion conducted a communication exercise (COMEX) to test and exercise the battalion digital tactical standard operation procedures. The COMEX was crucial to the success of upcoming events and annual training. Units of the battalion were able to communicate and process fire missions across northeast Kansas. From the Headquarters in Hiawatha, to Battery A in Holton and Marysville, to Battery B in Paola and Lenexa, being able to communicate over secure radios at this distance is a great capability for the battalion as well as the state.

In May, the battalion was asked to participate in a live-fire testing of an Army Tactical Missile System at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Seven Soldiers were sent to support this historic event. The missile test went extraordinarily well and was a highlight to training year 2016.

Also in May, the battalion supported 1st Infantry Division Artillery during their division artillery readiness training exercise. This was the first time 2-130th FA supported 1st ID DIVARTY in a training exercise. The battalion supported with three sections. The event was a great success and another highlight to the year.



The battalion confronted the challenge of achieving one of the main training goals for the year, battery level certification (FA Table XV). The battalion began certification (FA Tables XIII–XV), building upon what the batteries had accomplished over previous months. To facilitate the process, a team from 1st Army Training Support Battalion, Camp Atterbury, Ind., was present. All batteries were certified by the 1st Army Evaluation Team, which was a huge success for the battalion. Soldiers in 2–130th FA also fired all allocated rockets in under two hours in the culminating live-fire exercise. This is was a record for the battalion, beating the previous time by almost an hour.

After such exceptional training successes in training year 2016, the battalion will shift focus moving into the available year. The goal being to sustain the level of tactical and technical proficiency required to accomplish the modification table of organizational equipment mission. An aggressive training plan has been put in place with the culminating training events based on mission requirements. *Semper Parvo Meliores, Always a little better.*

Battalion Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/2ndBattalion130thFieldArtillery/>

Battalion Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe9Voyi6MACusGGS4yTZEJA>

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, conduct Field Artillery Table VI certification in support of 1st Infantry Division Artillery readiness training in May at Fort Riley, Kan. (Capt. Zane Curtis/2–130th FAB PAO)

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, Western Kansas Redlegs

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, 130th Fires Brigade, focused on individual readiness, unit readiness and section level training. The battalion executed platoon-level dry-fire safety certification and validation, section evaluation and section qualification. The training was mission essential task list-focused, section-to-platoon training, which built the section up to a safe, collective and tactical section. All units focused on key tasks while using the “crawl, walk, run” method in order to achieve the desired end state.

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fire for effect mission. In addition, they maintained command and control of three firing batteries and processed 95 fire missions.

This year the 1-161st FA was named parent unit to Task Force Broncbuster, located in Garden City, Kan. The Kansas Army National Guard established Task Force Broncbuster to maximize resources and enhance our presence in a growing community such as Garden City. Task Force Broncbuster's focus is on skill-level 10 training and enhances our chances for recruitment into low density military occupational specialties.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard, Kentucky Thunder

By HHB, 138th FA

Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery, 138th Field Artillery Brigade spent 2016 focused on preparation for Warfighter Exercise (WFX) 17-2 in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., To prepare, HHB 138th FA focused on core field artillery competencies and the development of war fighting functions within the brigade staff sections. Staff sections dedicated numerous hours on the military decision making process developing the operations order in preparation of WFX 17-2. Six new equipment fielding's were completed and associated Soldiers attended the equipment training to become more proficient in system operation.

Annual training was conducted at Wendell H Ford Regional Training Center where the brigade command post was deployed and all systems were fully integrated for the first time since the original fielding in 2011. Staff sections attended a week of Mission Command Training at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. Afterward, the staff sections trained with the unit on Mission Command Workstations, refinement of battle drills, and then standard operating procedures were updated and rehearsed.

In addition to preparing for WFX 17-2, HHB 138th FA also excelled at numerous other missions throughout the year. State active duty missions supported during 2016 include, cannon salutes, military honor burials, Breeders Cup security, Thunder Over Louisville support, and the governor's inauguration.

HHB 138th FA had a challenging training year in 2016 and succeeded in meeting those challenges. The year proved to be excellent staff training and headquarters integration in preparation for WFX 17-2 and the battery is ready to excel and continue to meet any mission in 2017.

103rd Brigade Support Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard, Thunder Support

By 103rd BSB

During training year 2016, the 103rd Brigade Support Battalion experienced an modified table of organization and equipment re-structuring that reduced personnel and equipment, thus diminishing the sustainment support capabilities to the 138th Field Artillery Brigade. The 103rd BSB staff conducted a staff exercise during annual training while simultaneously battle tracking over 30 support operations and finalizing the equipment redistribution plan. The battalion successfully conducted lateral transfer of equipment to nine separate organizations on 16 pieces of equipment to eight locations in the state covering 2,500 miles.

In total throughout the year, 600 line item numbers (LINS) were transferred or turned-in and 48 LINS were conditioned coded by the Headquarters Service Company maintenance section prior to trans-

fer resulting in 6,700 man hours. The reduced maintenance section still managed to complete 100 percent of the brigade's S-Services on 94 pieces of equipment. Doing it once would be an accomplishment in itself, but they have done it for nine consecutive years. This year it was done with reduced personnel and while preparing equipment for redistribution. The 103rd BSB has two transportation companies attached. The 2123rd Transportation Company is the first-ever to participate in the Associated Unit Pilot Program with the 101st Sustainment Brigade at Fort Campbell, Ky. In addition to the before mentioned training events during training year 2016, the 103rd BSB has assisted the local community by participating in 25 state active duty events.

2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Kentucky Army National Guard, Long Rifles

By 2-138th FA

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, *Long Rifles*, successfully completed a very busy training year in 2016. The battalion laid a good foundation in its core mission essential task list and leaders devised a framework to achieve the training goals. The battalion concentrated on Army Warrior Tasks in the beginning of the year qualifying on M4, M249, M240, M2 .50 caliber and MK19 40 mm weapons. The battalion also did crew-served qualification mounted on field artillery ammunition support vehicles.

The *Long Rifles* moved to Fort Knox, Ky., and began certifying key leaders on the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test for their required military occupational specialty (MOS). The battalion made a deliberate effort to focus on drivers training for new Soldiers while training on field artillery Tables III, IV and V.

In June, the battalion mustered at Fort Knox where we moved to the field and finished certifying the howitzer sections. Staff Sgt. Anthony Longo, A Battery, was the first howitzer section chief in the battalion to achieve a perfect score on the section certification and went on to win the "Top Gun" competition. Field artillery and aviation Soldiers worked together to conduct combined training on medical evacuation training and sling load operations. The battalion also moved 30 miles north by convoy to occupy a tactical assembly area in preparation for military operations on urban terrain training. The battalion culminated annual training with a combined arms exercise completing field artillery crew-served live fire and emergency fire missions on the same range. These events exercised the staff, as well as the enabler MOSs within the battalion.

In August, the battalion installed the new M284A1 cannon assemblies and again assembled its gunnery team to conduct fire control alignment tests and fire each howitzer in order to properly seat each new tube. The maintenance section and Kentucky maneuver area training equipment sight worked diligently overcoming equipment breakage and deficiencies; correcting them on the spot so the battalion could successfully deliver Fires. The rest of the battalion fell in on their equipment in the field to train on Tables IX-XII, platoon operations, with a follow-on live fire exercise.

Additionally, 2-138th provided approximately 100 pax and provided 24-hour security to 225 horses competing in the Breeders' Cup Races, both controlling barn access and implementing Breeders' Cup and Kentucky Racing Commission security and integrity protocols. The detail controlled daily access by 5,000-10,000 people authorized barn access out of the 100,000 race attendees.

The battalion was called to state active duty to assist with a snowstorm that dropped over 12 inches of snow and shut down parts of I-65.

1st Battalion, 623d Field Artillery Battalion, Kentucky Army National Guard, *Morgan's Men*

By 1-623rd FA

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) spent the past year focusing on field artillery core competencies in order enhance its ability to provide accurate, timely, and decisive rocket and missile Fires in support of unified land operations. This training included a focus on conducting fire mission processing at all levels through the PRC-150 Harris at extended ranges. *Morgan's Men* also conducted joint training with the load masters from the 123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard. The culminating event of training was each High Mobility Artillery Rocket System crew preparing a launcher for air movement and loading it onto a KYANG C-130. This was the crawl phase of training, which the both units will continue to build upon in Training Year 17.

The battalion conducted its annual live fire exercise at Fort Knox, Ky., in June, taking advantage of the event to conduct a family day and Boss Lift. With support from the 63rd Theatre Aviation Brigade and Kentucky Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Office, 15 employers were flown to Fort Knox on Blackhawk helicopters to watch their employees in action as part of the Kentucky Army National Guard. As always, this was a very popular event that enabled civilian employers and family members to see the training and experiences our Soldiers get as part of the Army National Guard. It also underscored the importance of their support to both the Soldiers and the organization as a whole.

Annual training was conducted at Volunteer Training Site-Milan, near Jackson, Tenn. This was a new training area for the battalion, which offered excellent training opportunities, especially during reconnaissance selection and occupation of position and unit movement. The battalion also provided a number of Soldiers in support of training at the Joint Readiness Training Center and in support of Operation Anaconda 2015. Both of these opportunities allowed the Soldiers to demonstrate their abilities in excellent training environments, while also learning valuable lessons that they brought back to the unit to share with the Soldiers.

In addition to focusing on field artillery tasks, *Morgan's Men* continued to excel in providing outstanding support to our local communities and the Commonwealth of Kentucky through the performance of a wide-range of state active duty missions, including providing security at the 2016 Breeder's Cup. The battalion was awarded the Kentucky Adjutant General's Award for Physical Security 2016, while the 203rd Forward Support Company won the KYARNG Philip A. Connelly Award 2016. *Morgan's Men* achieved all established goals for Training Year 16 and is positioned for continued success as it moves into Training Year 2017.

155th Armored Brigade Combat Team 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, *Strike*

By Maj. Dennis Biddle

Lt. Col. Rodney Bowman assumed command of 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment during a Feb. 21 change of command ceremony at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss. just south of Hattiesburg.

Bowman, of Ackerman, relieved Lt. Col. Michael Hunter as battalion commander of the Starkville-based unit. The 2-114th, *Strike*,



Lt. Col. Michael Hunter, 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment outgoing commander, addresses Soldiers and family members during the unit's change of command ceremony Feb. 21 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss. (Maj. Dennis Biddle/2-114th Strike)

is the Mississippi Army National Guard's only direct support field artillery unit and falls within the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team.

Bowman said the assumption of command is an honor. The Mississippi State has a tremendous amount of time and talent invested in the battalion. He enlisted in the unit as a cannon crewmember in Battery B, 2-114th in 1988. Three years later, he received his commission as a field artillery officer and went on to recruit his two sons as current unit members as well.

"It was God's will, not mine, that brought me to command the Dragon Battalion," he said.

Bowman possesses valuable experience from multiple Iraq deployments and envisions a renewed focus on training for future battalion missions.

"No matter what training event or real-world mission awaits, I will make sure we are properly trained and well taken care of."

As Hunter released hold of the battalion, fellow artillery Soldiers paused to reflect on the exceptional service provided by their former commander. He enlisted in 1987 as a forward observer within Starkville's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-114th *Strike* and has been a loyal artilleryman ever since. The Bosnia and Iraq war Veteran is proud of the unit for its exceptional service and said he will miss the battalion's family atmosphere.

"Where else can a Soldier go and actually conduct live-fire training from any point on the ground?" said Hunter. "We've had to form a tight-knit bond because we're truly a one-of-a-kind unit."

The 2-114th *Strike* has a long, storied history within the U.S. Army's FA community. It began with the conversion of the 1st Mississippi Artillery to 114th FA in 1927. Since then, the *Dragon Battalion* served in almost every major conflict and multiple overseas theaters, including two Operation Iraqi Freedom rotations in 2005 and 2009. There, the *Dragons* conducted arguably the most versatile array of missions including patrolling, stability operations, counterinsurgency, convoy operations, and of course, fire support. They have also, on numerous occasions, mobilized in support of numerous state and local emergency service missions.

The unit added to its lineage in the summer after they participated in 155th ABCT's Multi-echelon Integrated Brigade Training exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, in June. The event focused on company-level operations and prepared the brigade for training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in 2017.

Video from the Multi-echelon Integrated Brigade Training:
<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/472545/mibt-2016>

169th Field Artillery Brigade, Colorado Army National Guard, *Liberators*

By Maj. John Sweet

The *Liberator Brigade* was very busy in 2016 as they prepared for their current deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. Capitalizing on lessons learned during Warfighter 16-2, Soldiers in 169th Field Artillery Brigade conducted two command post exercises which replicated FA brigade operations in a decisive action combined arms maneuver scenario against the full spectrum of threats, including near-peer adversaries. Though retaining the hard-learned lessons resulting from a decade and a half of counter-insurgency efforts, the *Liberators* prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century by mastering digital communications and the fire direction environment that exists during unified land operations.

The *Liberators* focused on operating, networking and utilizing the entire array of Army Mission Command Systems, streamlining the sensor-to-shooter link, improving the commander's current operating picture and engaging in high-volume fire mission processing during high intensity conflict scenarios. Fire support principles such as massed Fires and seamless air-ground coordination and executing the targeting process guided the training objectives.

Our organic firing battalion, 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, preceded the brigade headquarters into theater by several weeks and delivered lethal High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Fires against both Da'esh and anti-Afghan forces from a variety of undisclosed locations. They were required to reorganize specifically for the mission, which includes the deployment of multiple platoon operations centers and several M142 (HIMARS) launchers. Soldiers in 3-157th FA have mastered the Light HIMARS Package concept which further validates the weapon system's effectiveness for the 21st century warfighter.

Support elements have also been very busy during the past year. The 147th Brigade Support Battalion currently serves as Colorado's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), providing decontamination, search and extraction and medical triage capabilities for the state. In August, 147th BSB completed their CERFP external evaluation at Camp Rilea, Ore. They are preparing for a National Training Center rotation next year. Last summer 540th Network Support Company deployed to Korea for annual training, where they supported Headquarters, Eighth Army operations in Yongsan and Daegu.

The Target Acquisition Platoon fielded the Q53 and Q50 radar systems in preparation for deployment. Soldiers in 169th Field Artillery are actively supporting U.S. forces, allies and regional security partners, and are fully-engaged in the Theater Security Cooperation mission in United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and elsewhere. The *Liberator Brigade* was well prepared for the ongoing CENTCOM deployment in support of various contingency operations. Across the U.S. Army Central area of operations the *Liberator Brigade* continues to be on target!

3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment, Colorado Army National Guard, *Lightning*

By 3-157th FA

The 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment, *Lightning*, was heavily engaged in 2016 preparing for multiple deployments, sup-

porting fire support training operations in Europe and supporting the Colorado U.S. Army National Guard, state partner of Jordan. The battalion received multiple notifications of sourcing in the summer of 2015 and began immediately preparing for the deployment of a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battery (+) in support of multiple operations occurring in the Middle East, including a HIMARS platoon that will support special operations in the region.

B Battery, 3-157th FA was re-organized to form Task Force Berserker which conducted rigorous training at home station and Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying to the Middle East in August 2016. They are currently delivering precision munitions from multiple locations in operations directly related to the fight against Da'esh. This is the battalion's first time performing field artillery missions in support of combat operations.

Soldiers from A Battery will deploy as Task Force Apache in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. They will be responsible for supporting special operations forces located in Afghanistan. Currently, Task Force Apache is training at Fort Carson, Colo., in HIMARS operations for their specialized deployment. They will then transition to Fort Bliss for their final training and deployment.

Additionally, in April the battalion participated in Operation Summer Shield, conducting Fires Integration training in Latvia at the Adazi Military Training Site and Adazi Military Base. This was a major collective training exercise including fire support elements and joint tactical air controllers. As part of the Colorado U.S. National Guard state partnership program with Jordan, 3-157th FAR conducted joint exercises with the 29th Royal HIMARS Battalion, building interoperability and strong bonds. The *Lightning Battalion* continues to provide rear detachment operations to assist with family readiness, family programs and support of all Soldiers who have been deployed. Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery, and the remaining Soldiers in A/3-157th FA spent the remainder of 2016 into 2017 training preparing to support a live-fire exercise as part of Operation Saber Strike, in support of United States Army Europe.

The battalion looks forward to 2017 as they continue to remain engaged delivering rockets in support of multiple theaters of operation.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/169th-Field-Artillery-Brigade/105633532804556?fref=ts>

196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard, *Dakota Steel Rain*

By Maj. Chad Wika

During training year 2016, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, *Dakota Steel Rain*, was in its reset year of the Army Force Generation cycle. The training focus was on individual and squad-level tasks with a focus on survivability.

The battalion did not conduct a live-fire exercise this year, instead pursuing opportunities during annual training which enhanced individual Soldier development through the execution of multiple nonstandard missions. Some of those missions consisted of Officer Candidate School Phase I, II, and III support which ranged from staff operations, conduct of officer candidate task instruction and assessment, and opposing force missions.

Golden Coyote, which is the longest running National Guard exercise, saw support from two of the battalions units: B Battery and 147th Forward Support Company. These units were tasked with



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota Army National Guard pose for a unit photo. (Courtesy photo)

a wide array of missions that included opposing forces, lanes training, maintenance, fuel, and feeding support for more than 800 Soldiers from around the nation. Lastly, the battalion was able to send a small element from its headquarters section to support the Fires warfighter cell for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., during 35th Infantry Division's Warfighter 16-05 exercise.

The battalion also saw several equipment fielding's such as the new M2 50 cal machine gun, Joint Capabilities Release and the

Lt. Gen Stephen J. Townsend, commander of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, and Col. Paul Nugent, commander of Task Force Al Asad, observe A Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, conducting operations in Support of Operation Inherent Resolve. (Capt. Ryan E. Alvis/U.S. Army)



ORSV-T system. Three out of 1-147th FA's four units received the National Guard Bureau's Superior Unit Award for achievement of high standards in training, personnel and equipment readiness for training year 2015 and three units qualified again for the award in the 2016 training year.

In September, Lt. Col. James Linn relinquished command of the battalion into the capable hands of Lt. Col. Phillip Stiles. The battalion is currently preparing for an aggressive 2017 training year which includes several field training exercises, crew-served weapons qualification, hand grenade and claymore certification and a Multiple Launch Rocket System live-fire exercise.

197th Field Artillery Brigade, New Hampshire Army National Guard, Granite Thunder

By 1st Lt. Wes Keniston

During the past year, 197th Field Artillery Brigade deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. As U.S. Army Central's Force Field Artillery Headquarters, the 197th FAB executed three lines of effort: Mission Command, strike operations, and theater security cooperation (TSC). Among other accomplishments, the brigade built relationships with partner nations, conducted counter-ISIL operations, and

successfully coordinated, integrated, and employed joint fires in the U.S. Army Central Command area of responsibility.

Deployment preparations began in earnest in late January. For more than a month, 197th FAB Soldiers conducted pre-deployment training at Fort Devens, Mass., Fort Drum, N.Y., and at home station in Manchester, N.H. In early March, the brigade traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas, to commence mobilization training. The seven-week mobilization period culminated with a warfighter exercise (WFX) at Fort Bragg, N.C. During WFX 16-4, the brigade trained alongside the 18th Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, and 19th Special Forces Group. The brigade's strong performance during the WFX proved its readiness for the upcoming mission. During the first week of May, 18th Field Artillery Brigade transferred authority of the theater FFA HQ to 197th FAB, marking the first time that a National Guard unit assumed this role in the area of responsibility.

While occupying several countries in the Middle East, 197th FAB quickly adapted to distributed operations. At all times, the brigade maintained a fully functional main command post, a forward tactical operations center, and a logistics operations center. Additionally, the brigade provided knowledgeable teams to support targeting efforts under Special Operations Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. Further, the brigade augmented the theater battlefield coordination detachment with a liaison officer team in order to expedite fire mission processing and provide FA expertise to the combined air operations center. Despite the challenges associated with distributed operations, the brigade managed to synchronize and integrate all personnel thus maximizing its productivity as the theater FFA HQ.

The 197th FAB arrived in theater just as the demand for long-range surface fires was increasing. As the volume of fire doubled, the brigade ensured forward elements received the necessary supplies and support to stay in the fight. Among other accomplishments, perhaps the most significant was to establish High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) capability in Turkey. This effort was initiated by 18th FAB and worked to execution by the 197th and its subordinate HIMARS unit, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment. Midway through the deployment, after successfully emplacing HIMARS near the Turkey-Syria border, the 197th FAB and A/1-94th FAR proudly executed long range precision fires on ISIL targets in Syria. In the fight against ISIL in Iraq, the 197th FAB and its subordinate units of 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment continue to provide long range precision fires in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve operations.

For TSC operations, 197th FAB was responsible for building field artillery relationships with partner nations and increasing interoperability in the region. The brigade quickly built a rapport with existing FA partners in Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and UAE. Additionally, the TSC team initiated the first FA partnership in Egypt. All told, the brigade conducted more than 30 TSC events comprised of senior leader engagements, FA seminars, exchanges, and bilateral/multilateral live fire exercises. These events dramatically expanded partner capacity while increasing security throughout the area of responsibility.

After a fast-paced and demanding year abroad, 197th FAB will transfer authority to the 169th Field Artillery Brigade, Colorado Army National Guard, in early January 2017. Soldiers of 197th

FAB look forward to rejoining their families and taking some well-earned time off. Granite Thunder!

E Battery, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, New Hampshire Army National Guard

By Capt. Mario Rey

Soldiers from E Battery, 197th Field Artillery Regiment underwent three and a half weeks of new equipment training (NET) to prepare them for fielding the new AN/TPQ-53 Radar and follow-on mission to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). The NET which was conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas, in March was brilliantly prepared and presented. The instruction was a perfect mix of classroom technical education and practical hands-on repetition and practice. The exposure the unit received from the NET trainers would pay large dividends during their deployment.

Shortly after the NET, E Battery, consisting of 20 Soldiers, received the target acquisition mission from 18th Field Artillery in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq, with a focus on the Euphrates River Valley. However, it was not long thereafter that the battlefield shaped in preparation for the Mosul offensive which required additional radar support without the plus-up in personnel count. Thankfully, the new Q-53 proved a repeatable and dependable platform which offered efficiency to reduce manning requirements (as articulated in the Jan.-Feb. Red Book 2015). By the summer timeframe, the 20 Soldiers from E Battery were responsible for operating three Q-53s and one Q-50 at two separate locations which quantified to over 53 percent of all target acquisitions in the Iraq area of operations.

By fall, more Q-53s were moved into Iraq and the target acquisition missions were once again realigned. E Battery conducted two transfer of authorities and was now responsible for the operation of three Q-53s, one Q-36 and one Q-50 radar. Undoubtedly, this small, 20-Soldier target acquisition team showcased their flexibility to operate multiple systems with skeleton crew staffing, operate three different types of radars, and maintain them and their supporting equipment. While providing target acquisition capability was E Battery's primary mission, they were also successful in leveraging their expertise and the capabilities of the new Q-53 radar to better support task force commanders and their mission to aid and enable the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). There are many variables that thwart the accuracy of the ISF artillery, such as, ammunition being supplied from a variety of countries, variations in propellant and firing tables not matching weapon systems, languages or shell/prop combos. In an effort to improve accuracy, E Battery coordinated with joint fires cells and host nation fire direction centers to execute multiple

Soldiers of E Battery, 197th Field Artillery Regiment complete new equipment training in March 2016 at Fort Bliss, Texas, prior to their deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. (Courtesy photo)



friendly fire missions which provided immeasurable value to ISFs quest for accuracy.

It should be noted that not only did E Battery provide decisive sensor-to-shooter target acquisition data, but they also provided Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command with sensor management capacity. This duty was fulfilled primarily by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dana Moore, E Battery, assistant counter-fire officer. Moore collected information for 10 radar assets across six different sites in order to provide CJFLCC with a comprehensive pattern analysis for the area of operation. Additionally, he provided all the radar sites with mechanical support, parts acquisition and distribution, movement support and overall liaison with U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command and CJFLCC.

E Battery, 197th FAR will redeploy in January 2017, and upon their return to New Hampshire, one of the last few remaining target acquisition batteries will dissolve into a target acquisition platoon under the brigade's headquarters, and headquarters battery. However, their legacy of success in support of OIR will endure and their professionalism and skill will propagate under the brigade colors.

1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery Regiment, Rhode Island Army National Guard

One of the top priorities for the 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery Regiment in training year 16 was "The Road to War" in absorbing the Rhode Island decontamination (DECON) portion of the New England chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and enhanced (CBRNE) enhanced response force package (CERF-P) from the Rhode Island Air Guard. Comprised of over 50 soldiers from all units within the 1-103rd FAR, the DECON team, on order, responds to a CBRNE incident and assists local, state and federal agencies in conducting consequence management by providing capabilities to conduct patient decontamination. The team conducted certification training throughout the year to include a culmination event, Vigilant Guard, bringing all the elements of the CERF-P together. Beginning with training year 17, the 1-103rd FAR is the owning unit of the mission.

Captain Elwood J Euart, a member of the 103rd FA, was lost at sea Oct. 26, 1942, when the S.S. President Coolidge ran aground and subsequently sank off the coast of Espiritu Santo north of Australia. He was one of two casualties that day, the other being a member of the ship's crew. Euart had made it ashore, but he heroically went back out to the listing ship when he learned that there were trapped Soldiers aboard. Euart is credited with saving a number of men before the ship listed to an almost vertical angle and he was unable to escape himself, going down with the ship. Recently, the wreckage shifted and divers discovered human remains. DNA evidence, along with some personal effects found near the remains, concluded that the remains were in fact those of Euart. Army officials, working with local experts, recovered the remains and personal effects. Working in conjunction with the surviving family, the Army escorted the remains to Euart's hometown of Pawtucket, R.I., Euart was buried with full military honors and laid to eternal rest next to his parents

at the St. Francis Cemetery Aug. 31, 2016. Members of the 1-103rd FAR performed duties of casket guard, pall bearers and grave side funeral honors.

For further reference:

<http://wpri.com/2016/07/21/pawtucket-hero-coming-home-74-years-after-giving-his-life-to-save-his-mates/>

1-103rd FAR entered into and further developed a working relationship with the active component during training year 16. During annual training, elements of 10th Mountain Division Artillery worked with members of 1-103rd FAR. Among them, the radar section of 10th MTN DIVARTY worked side by side with 1-103rd FAR Soldiers and provided observation support during the live-fire exercises throughout the annual training period.

1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery, South Carolina Army National Guard

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery conducted annual training at McCrady Training Center in Columbia, S.C., with 2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery from Fort Stewart, Ga., and the 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard. The battalion staff conducted a military decision-making process (MDMP) exercise, which included a higher headquarters and reinforced mission processing down to the unit level. Utilizing 45th FiB as the higher headquarters enabled the staff to complete the process and plan for operations based on doctrine and guidance provided from outside the battalion. Following the MDMP training the units were deployed and conducted a live-fire exercise with the assistance of the 2-306th FA. The units fired 254 total rounds of high explosive, smoke and illumination with no incidents or accidents and all rounds had the maximum effects on target. Soldiers refined tactics, techniques and procedures on mission processing, fire control and targeting. The exercise allowed the battalion to build on their relationship with 45th FiB and the 2-306th FA.

First-178th FA was activated for state active duty in October in preparation for Hurricane Matthew and stood up 580 Soldiers throughout its assigned area of responsibility, the Northern Conglomerate of the South Carolina Coastline. The Soldiers were the Northern Task Force lead assigned with assisting civilian law enforcement authorities with evacuations in the area of the projected hurricane landfall. The battalion provided logistical and equipment support within the area. Support operations included support for seven county emergency operations centers, over 100 traffic control points, the disbursement of 18,500 gallons of fuel, removed 522 obstacles from roadways, cleared over 300 miles of roadway and rescued over 300 citizens during the recovery operation. The battalion successfully completed over 70 directed missions that supported the commander's intent and aided the citizens of South Carolina.

The year 2016 was robust and productive for 263rd AAMDC and its supporting units. A foundation has been laid for a strong "Palmetto Projection" in air defense artillery in operational year 2017.

America's shield!

March-April, 2017: Branch transformation

The Fires force is evolving with new requirements, new recruits, less manpower and money to accomplish the mission. Topics to be covered: Merging military occupational specialties in field artillery and air defense artillery; changes to how the artillery engages and identifies targets; updates to weapon systems such as the IBCS and AFATDS. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 1, 2017.

Send submissions to usarmy.sill.fcoe.mbx.fires-bulletin-mailbox@mail.mil or call (580) 442-1090 for more information.

Soldiers in 1st Platoon, Company A, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, clean the barrel of a M109A6 Paladin howitzer between fire missions at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 2 2017. Field artillery at Al Assad Air Base provides support for Iraqi security forces as part of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. CJTF-OIR is the global coalition to defeat ISIL in Iraq and Syria. (Sgt. Lisa Soy/U.S. Army)

