

A joint publication for U.S. Artillery professionals

January-February 2018

# Fires



**RED BOOK 2017**

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# Fires

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Wilson A. Shoffner

Major General, United States Army  
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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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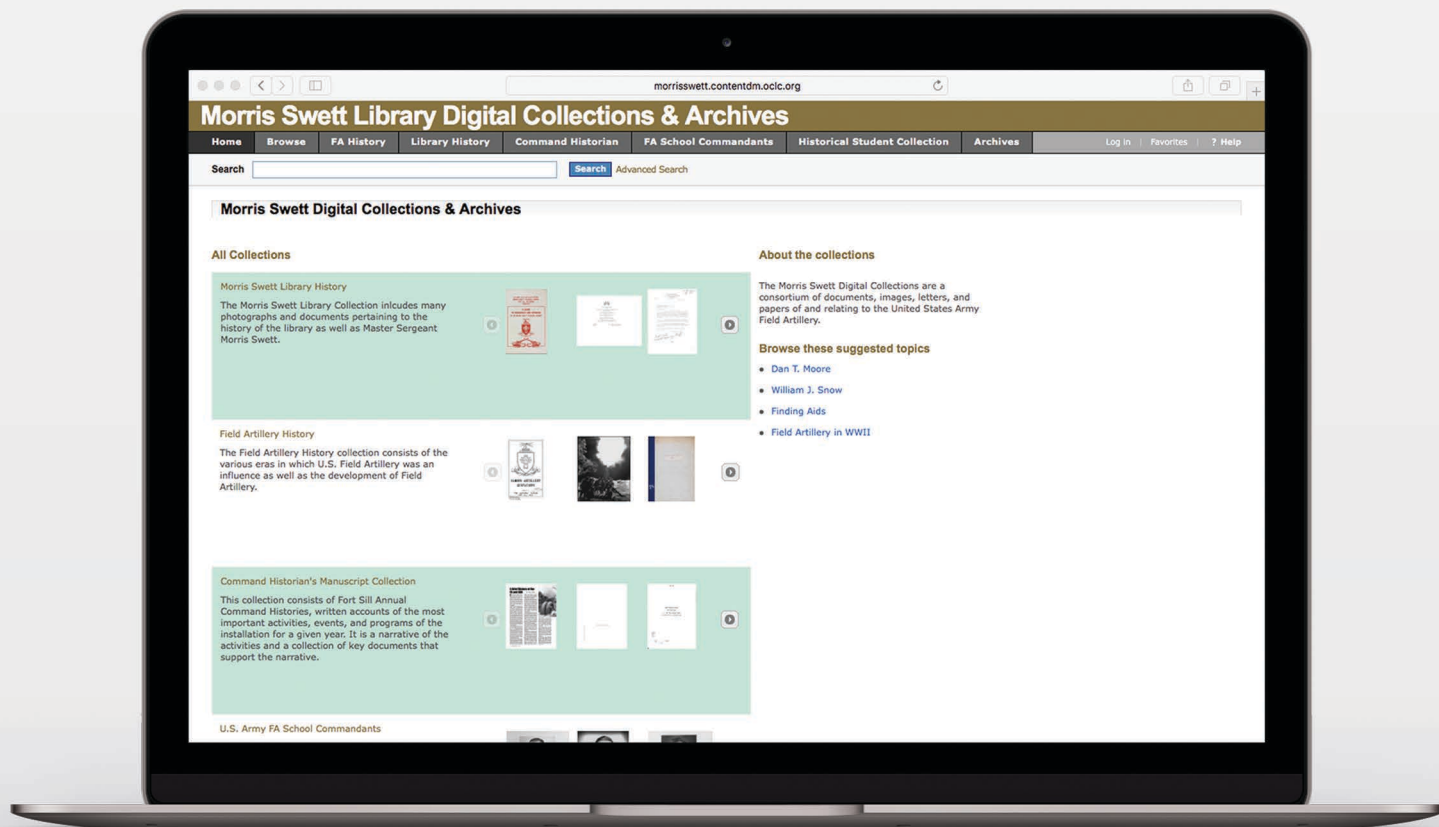


# Did you know you can submit your field artillery photos to the Morris Swett Digital Collections and Archives?

## Help the Field Artillery Digital Collection and Archives

The Morris Swett Archives has a rich history deep within its collections. Materials can be the first lecture given to students when the School of Fire (Field Artillery School) first opened to the studies and reports on the merger of field artillery and air defense artillery. One can also find student papers from the Field Artillery School, dating from 1911 to 1938. We are slowly adding and updating our digital collections to reflect materials from the Fire Support Research Collection (rare books) and fun items found in the archives.

We are looking for more collections to add to our archives. Perhaps you have a family member's letters or photos from their time in field artillery. We are always interested in historical and unique items to add to the Morris Swett Archives, especially related to Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. In the meantime, please contact us with any questions and/or to schedule an appointment to start your research in the Morris Swett Digital Collections and Archives.



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

# Air defense artillery 2017 review

Throughout the year I have pledged that we as leaders must invest in our most precious resource, Soldiers. I believe it is our mission to create world-class leaders through our officer and noncommissioned officer education systems by updating the programs of instruction to increase rigor and make our air and missile defense leaders more tactical and technical experts. This educational shift will transform the branch ensuring officers, NCOs and Soldiers are flexible and adaptive leaders prepared to meet all future requirements. During my tenure as the air defense commandant, I have maintained the following pillars as my top three priorities: ADA branch transformation, air and missile defense modernization and a holistic short-range air defense strategy.

With my first priority, ADA branch transformation, my intent is to fundamentally change the way we man, train and equip the ADA force. The initial strategy for this change focuses on the way ADA units are organized. It is our goal to organize our force in a manner which allows us the flexibility to provide an array of systems based on strategic or tactical need. This is the driving reason why we are continuing our efforts to field a system of systems to integrate all air and missile defense capabilities known as Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD). To achieve the concept of AIAMD, we will continue our testing effect with the command and control solution that will give us this flexibility, the Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS). IBCS is designed to replace current mission command systems at all echelons and integrate a single common operating picture.

In addition to a material solution, a shift in training must also occur. We must shape the NCO force by revitalizing the technical phase of the Army Leaders Course and the Senior Leaders Course. Though this revitalization our NCOs are provided the time and instruction geared to leveraging their cognitive skills and in turn further their expertise as air defenders. In an effort to keep a pulse on our branch transformation through the tenants of DOTMLPF integration and socialization of ideas across the force, we will

hold quarterly ADA Branch Transformation Summits beginning with the Fires Conference in May at Fort Sill, Okla.

My second priority, the modernization of our air and missile defense (AMD) force, looks at every aspect of the Patriot system; software, hardware, launchers and missiles. Modernization efforts began in the Pacific and will transition to U.S. and European based units. Even Sentinel radars will undergo a modernization upgrade through a retrofit to the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle chassis.

The final priority for the branch is holistic Short-Range Air Defense strategy. The genesis of this priority began in May of 2017 when the Chief of Staff of the Army directed a Man Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) pilot program to train infantry Soldiers how to operate the Stinger. Two iterations were held in October and November 2017 for U.S. Army Europe units. We graduated our first U.S. Forces Command MANPADS Course Dec. 13. It was a five-week course which consisted of Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division. Additionally, Soldiers of 1st Cavalry Division, and then Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division will attend this training. As you can see, air defense is reasserting its role back to the maneuver units as a combat force multiplier at the operational and tactical level.

The Army National Guard Soldiers of the Air Defense Artillery Branch reside in eight separate States: Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Mississippi, Ohio, North Dakota, and South Carolina. These 2,300 plus Soldiers participated in numerous state emergency missions, ranging from Hurricane Harvey relief in Florida to agency support during the fires in California and Colorado. With over 400 Soldiers deployed or forward deployed, these ADA Soldiers participated in numerous multi-component and joint exercises across the world. Currently Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Ohio National Guard are forward deployed to Afghanistan in support of the Counter-Rocket Artillery Mortar mission. Collaboration of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade and 49th Ground-Based Mid-



“All of this doesn’t matter if you’re dead, that’s why we need air defense.”

—Gen. Mark Milley  
chief of staff of the Army

Course Defense (ground missile defense) resulted in tremendous success that has contributed to the U.S. Northern Command’s homeland defense mission.

The Office of the Chief of Air Defense Artillery team has been extremely busy and effective during calendar year 2017. Missions included unit-level career professional development briefs and outreach in collaboration with Human Resources Command personnel. OCADA also presented career professional development briefs to Army National Guard personnel at the National Guard Regional Training Institute sites in Florida and active component/reserve component site in Indiana. Likewise, active component personnel received career professional development briefs, branch updates, the Soldier 2020 Initiative, and other important career information (e.g. promotion analysis) at the Noncommissioned Officer Education System Academy, Sergeants Major Academy, and at ADA units throughout the United States, Pacific Command and United States Army Europe. The ADA branch marketing initiative saw great advances disseminating information to U.S. Military Academy, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and Officer Candidate School cadets contem-

plating a future military career in ADA. The 2017 Cadet Summer Training event held at Fort Knox, Ky., saw increased interest about the branch with participation and attentiveness at the ADA displays, informational brief and question and answer sessions surpassing last year’s numbers by more than 1,000 cadets. OCADA, with assistance from unit-level representatives, briefed cadets at more than 30 military and state universities and colleges. Of the 51 USMA cadets and 85 ROTC cadets that branched ADA, 62.5 percent designated ADA as their number one branch choice. Air defense accessed the most ethnically diverse cadets, and our accessions were 21 percent female. Diversity is the strength of our branch.

I would also like to congratulate and send my highest regards to the 2017 recipients of the James A. Shipton, Henry A. Knox and Hamilton Awards. Respectively, the awards went to: 1st Lt. Benjamin Schiff, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery (Germany); Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Active Component, and B Battery, 2-174th, ADA (National Guard-Ohio).

I would like to welcome our new Fires

(Capt. Adan Cazarez/U.S. Army)





*Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment, conduct a mission brief Aug. 8, 2017, before the start of a mass casualty exercise during annual training at Camp Ripley, Minn. The exercise is designed to train units and medical personnel on treatment and transportation of multiple casualties within a short timeframe. (1st Lt. Aaron Smith/U.S. Army)*

Center of Excellence Commander, Maj. Gen. Wilson Shoffner. The air defense artillery looks forward to what 2018 will bring with you at the helm as the new Fires 6. The FCoE command team, Shoffner and Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Fagan, continue to lead the FCoE through this exciting period of modernization, transformation and growth initiatives. We are the branch that has the Army's focus on its strategic, operational and tactical initiatives which leads us to the many challenges the United States Army Air Defense Artillery School has experienced in 2017.

As your commandant I have another responsibility to the branch in that I have been selected as the ADA Cross-Functional Team director. The concept for the CFT is to develop a requirement, informed in appropriate cases by experimentation and technical demonstrations, through teaming, agility, and rapid feedback to enable the development of a capability document and improve the decision making for a potential program of record. On Oct. 3, 2017, at the Association of the United States Army Conference, Gen. Mark Milley, chief of staff of the Army, published his six modernization priorities to restore dominance and transition the Army to the future. While discussing them (Long

Range Precision Fires, Next Generation Combat Vehicle, Future Vertical Lift, Network/C3I, Air and Missile Defense and Soldier Lethality) Milley abruptly stated, "All of this doesn't matter if you're dead, that's why we need air defense." With this responsibility comes the reorganization within existing decorates in order to staff and execute these initiatives. Again, we have the talent to make it happen. With all that the branch has taken on, I will echo my opening in stating that none of this can happen without the quality of leader, Soldiers and civilians we have in our great branch.

I look forward to the year ahead and the continuing excellence that comes with working with the many talented professionals within our branch. I am always amazed that our branch, for the size it is, continues to be the most sought out and deployed force in our Army. 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 2018 will bring.

First to Fire!





**Brig. Gen. Stephen Maranian**  
U.S. Army Field Artillery  
School commandant

# Looking back at 2017, looking forward to 2018

After 18 months serving our *Redlegs* as field artillery commandant, I am more convinced than ever that our branch has never been more needed nor more relevant than it is today. We are now, but must continue to work hard to remain, the world's premier artillery force. As we look at our nation's potential adversaries, we see competitors who have modernized their formations while we've been busy in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must be ready to deter, and if deterrence fails, decisively defeat an enemy's Army, starting with their Fires formations.

Command Sgt. Maj. Berkeley Parsons and I have traveled extensively in the United States and overseas, to both Army National Guard and active component units, to engage the operational force. The dialogue we've had with you, the Soldiers and leaders of our formations, has enabled us to make some adjustments to the branch priorities and lines of effort, which you will see reflected in our 2018 vision for the branch.

Our 2017 Field Artillery Vision for the branch states we will "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."

This vision contains five lines of effort (LOEs), encompassing the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development, personnel, facilities and policy (DOTMLPF-P) domains, and provides us with a common azimuth of fire which has enabled us to put together solid training strategies and programs in 2017.

As we look forward to 2018, we will further tighten our focus. As a result of the input we've received from *Redlegs* in the operational force, from our leaders in Training and Doctrine Command and from those inside our schoolhouse, we will slightly adjust our LOE and supporting efforts.

## Enable readiness within operational force

Our number one LOE has been and will remain – Enable readiness within the operational force. In 2017, we supported this LOE by collecting and disseminating lessons

learned, enhancing the Fires Knowledge Network, and by providing opportunities for branch-wide discussion and collaboration. The single most effective means of enhancing readiness has been through conducting frequent visits with our Army's FA units and with their division, corps and Army service component command leaders.

In our travels, we've met with units on the ground, asked questions, listened to concerns, and conducted leader professional development forums in every place we've been. These face-to-face interactions built trust, understanding, and a real sense of a shared mission. I believe that this has had a significant impact on communication between the operational Army and the institution and is something we will sustain in the years to come.

A big part of our visits to FA formations involves engaging with maneuver leaders to assist them in optimizing the effectiveness of our Fires formations. As we engage senior leaders across our Army, we will continue to hone our ability to effectively integrate and synchronize Fires with all other warfighting functions.

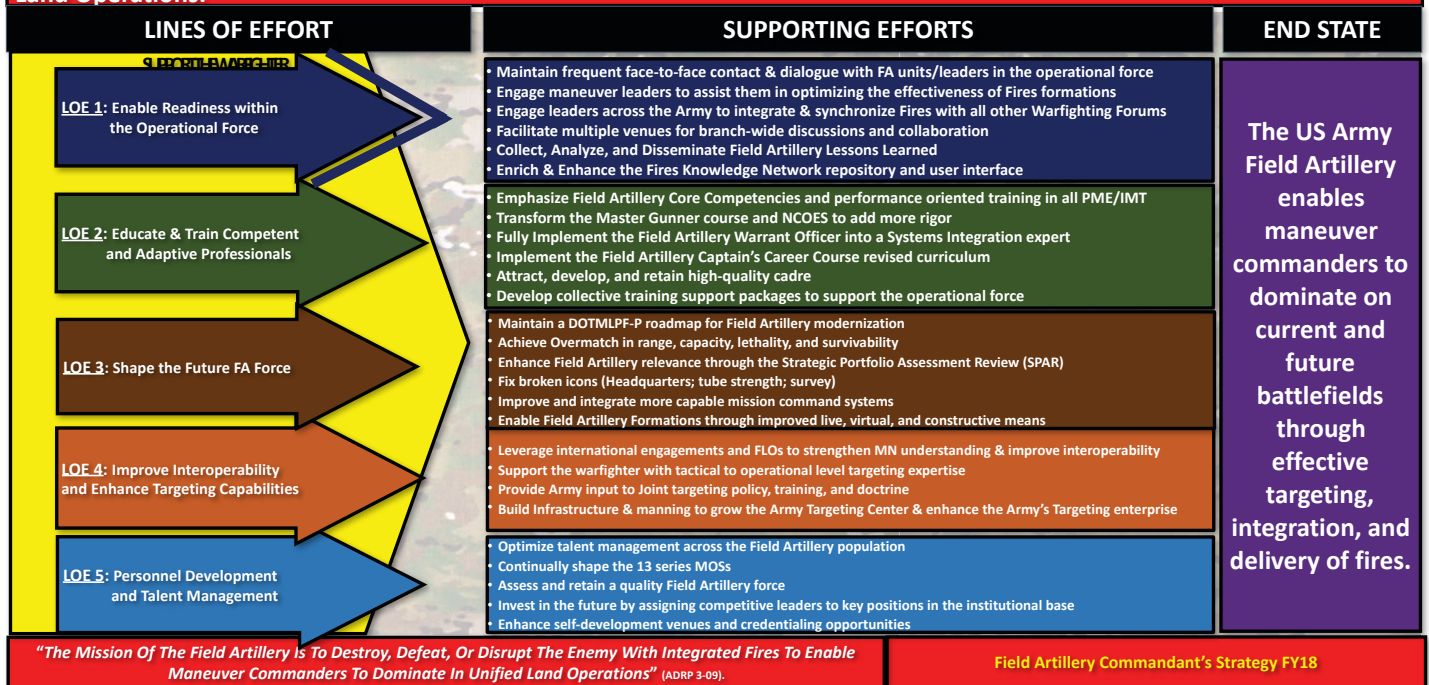
Information collected from these engagements will continue to inform our cyclical and focused updates to programs of instruction (POI) for initial military training and professional military education (PME), in an effort to optimize the education of our FA force. High quality, rigorous institutional training and instruction foster professional and personal growth throughout our force. When leaders and Soldiers are properly trained, we all benefit from a competent and confident FA force.

## Re-emphasizing battlefield design

From our observations over the past year, I believe that we must continue to focus leader energy on aiding our maneuver commanders to optimize planning and synchronization of warfighting functions to make Fires more permissive. As I talk with maneuver and Fires leaders, it is evident that we must get better at the early and iterative process of fire support coordinators and fire support officers dialoguing with their ma-



# The 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.



neuver commanders and their staffs about battlefield design. This is an absolute must to effectively integrate and synchronize Fires and maneuver.

We must be more sophisticated in our fire support approach. We must help design a battlefield architecture that enables maneuver commanders to bring all elements of combat power to bear simultaneously at the time and place of their choosing on the battlefield. Techniques that may have been effective in counter-insurgency (COIN) operations, such as establishing blanket low-level coordinating altitudes, result in unnecessary clearance of Fires drills and ineffective indirect Fires when applied in a decisive action training environment (DATE). We must operate more efficiently when training in a DATE, to optimize our valuable time at our combat training centers (CTCs).

Our Fires force must enable all users of airspace to synchronize, plan and execute a cohesive air de-confliction resolution. To do so, we must design our battlefield geometry to coordinate airspace integration to ensuring that conflicts between ground Fires and air operations are minimized. We do this by effectively using fire support coordination measures (FSCMs) and airspace coordination measures (ACMs) that are integrated with one another in a cohesive plan. It is only through the integrated use of FSCMs and ACMs, which balance and are agile enough to adjust the levels of permissiveness and

restrictiveness, that responsive Fires may be obtained.

The missions and assignments of our leaders during the decade following 9/11 have resulted in many of our Redleg leaders having grown up with an unconventional fire support background. Years of performing non-artillery duties have yielded over the past five years to a focus on large-scale combat operations (LSCO), but it remains imperative for senior field artillery leaders to take on the role of mentoring subordinates in the art and science of integration and synchronization of Fires and maneuver at the high end of the spectrum. We must continue to see positive trends in improving rehearsals, tactical fire direction and battlefield design.

Of note, in 2017 we conducted three iterations of the Brigade Combat Team (BCT) Commander Pre-Command Fires Orientation Course, to familiarize these leaders with the roles, functions and tactics, techniques and procedures of Fires integration. This course has proven invaluable in improving the integration of Fires and maneuver at the BCT level, over the past year. One of the many highlights is practical instruction in the integration of the fire support element with the air defense airspace management/brigade aviation element (ADAM/BAE) cell. The ADAM/BAE cell provides situational awareness that encompasses a broad spectrum of military and non-military air

activities. We've renewed focus on digital sustainment training and enhanced institutional training on the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) which will increase the Fires cell's ability to leverage a real-time, three dimensional airspace clearance tool. When synchronized, these two sections provide a powerful capability to the BCT commander and staff. Optimizing that capability will require leader energy to ensure that we are adequately trained to provide BCT commanders the necessary situational awareness and capability to de-conflict, and when necessary clear airspace in real time.

Additionally, in 2017 we secured funding to resume teaching the popular and highly demanded Joint Operational Fires and Effects Course (JOFEC). JOFEC educates leaders from all services on joint capabilities and targeting methodology to create both lethal and non-lethal effects. JOFEC has proven to be an excellent opportunity for Army and sister service personnel to receive training on the joint and service targeting processes. The operational impact of JOFEC has been significant and tangible. The course has helped fill a gap in leader education on Fires at the operational level, in support of joint force commander mission and priorities. This course was resumed based on requests from the field to provide a solution to close a leader gap in operational Fires education. JOFEC accomplishes this by providing students instruction on and application of joint doctrine, the joint operational environment, the joint targeting process, joint functions and staff responsibilities, joint and service capabilities and platforms, and how joint Fires and effects are synchronized. The course has prepared students to plan and coordinate Fires at the operational level of a joint headquarters in military operations, including integrating across all domains. JOFEC is scheduled to be continued into 2018.

To build upon our success with JOFEC, and to address operational needs identified by the combatant commands, we intend to grow the Army Multi-domain Targeting Center in 2018 to facilitate instruction of target material production, inclusive of intermediate and advanced target development. This growth, combined with a planned reach-back capability for operational level units in the field, will be a significant supporting effort in the months and years to come.

## **POI updates**

We are well down the path of merging

the fire direction and control military occupational skill (MOS) of cannon (13D) and rocket (13P) systems into one integrated MOS – 13J. In order to process missions for both cannons and rockets, the MOS courseware has been updated in conjunction with the fielding of our latest version of AFATDS, version 6.8.1.1. This update dramatically improves the integration of organic and joint targeting sensors and effective data sharing of Army and Joint Mission Command systems. This will enable the targeting process and fire support planning to deliver accurate and timely Fires in support of the commander's scheme of maneuver.

Fire support specialist (13F) courseware has been updated to include the mission essential packages for the Knight, Fire Support Vehicle and Bradley Fire Support Vehicle. The firefinder radar operator, 13R, courseware was updated to remove the old Q36 and Q37 radars and add the Q50 and Q53 radar systems.

The Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) has undergone an entire POI rewrite, moving from COIN to LSCO focus, removing radar maintenance, and implementing enhanced Fires integration capabilities through use of Fires mission command systems. WOBC also received Classroom XXI digital upgrades, to allow for better instructor to student interaction in support of the Army Learning Concept for Training and Education 2020-2040.

The Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC) is also being updated, with increased instruction on advanced target development, to provide students a better understanding of intelligence collection processes, the Joint Targeting Cycle and weaponizing. The FA branch worked diligently this past year to gain approval to begin pilot courses for A+ Certification under the Army University Credentialing Program, in an effort to align FA WOAC with other branch schools. This will begin January 2018.

The FA Basic Officers Leaders Course (BOLC-B) received a significant upgrade to its POI. To facilitate the teaching of joint fire observer (JFO) skills to our lieutenants, we added JFO Interactive Multimedia Instruction (IMI). The JFO IMI is a software program students can access on Blackboard that provides virtual equipment "hands-on training." The program allows students the ability to get familiar with equipment they will utilize in the force. The JFO IMI instructs students on how to operate a Defense Advanced GPS Receiver. It also incorporates the Lightweight Laser Designator Range-

finder, the Advanced System Improvement Program Radio, and the Multiband Inter/Intra Team Radio. Currently, we are working on adding the Joint Effective Targeting System and the Harris 117G radio to the mix.

Additionally, the Fire Support Department increased the amount of digital training provided to lieutenants. Students receive hands-on training with the Pocket Forward Entry Device (PFED) and then incorporate it into their live-fire training. During the fire support coordination lanes and Redleg War, students utilize the PFED to call for fire, thus providing the fighting force competent leaders in the digital Fires realm.

The department also completed a standardization review of JFO academic products across FA BOLC-B, 13F Advanced Individual Training and the JFO resident course. This included a revision of JFO simulation scenarios that incorporate more decisive action situations to better prepare the students for training at our CTCs.

This year in gunnery, we have updated the base reference to Training Circular 3-09.81, "FA Manual Cannon Gunnery." We transitioned all instructional material to reflect changes in AFATDS version 6.8.1.1. This is now reflected in all classes, homework, simulations, live Fires and tests. Finally, the team has incorporated the Modular Artillery Charge System Rapid Firing Table values and enhanced mode muzzle velocity variations into all aspects of instruction.

Finally, we completed a complete POI review of the FA Captains Career Course, to capture and codify the changes that have been made over the past several years. We will not stop here, however, as I've directed that we immediately go back into a POI rewrite to improve the quality of instruction and focus on those blocking and tackling skills required to be successful in a decisive action training environment (DATE) or fighting in LSCO.

As we look toward 2018, we will roll out new performance oriented POI for the Career Management Field 13 Advanced Leader Course (ALC) and Senior Leader Course (SLC). These POI are the result of a comprehensive scrub of the current instruction. In ALC, we will focus our efforts on developing muscle memory in those skills required to be effective as a section chief. Likewise, in SLC, we will work on the skills required for noncommissioned officers to be effective platoon/gunnery sergeants, task force fire support NCOs, and battalion fire direction NCOs. These updates, and our planned growth to our master gunner POI, will re-

sult in a much needed recalibration of our NCO PME.

## Doctrine updates

Battlefield experiences combined with new concepts require new doctrine that effectively describes how the field artillery will accomplish its assigned missions.

During Fiscal Year 2017, our Doctrine Division published two field artillery doctrinal publications, Army Techniques Publication (ATP) 3-09.30 and ATP 3-09.90.

ATP 3-09.30, "Observed Fire," updated the previous version of the publication to include all of the skills required for a JFO. It also adjusted the distribution restriction of the publication, so that it is now approved for public release, allowing us to share this critical doctrine with our allies, partners and international students in our schools.

ATP 3-09.90, "Division Artillery Operations and Fire Support for the Division," is a new publication that establishes doctrinal techniques for the employment of the division artillery to deliver Fires, integrate all forms of Fires and conduct targeting in support of the division.

Over the next fiscal year, the field artillery portion of Doctrine Division will focus on updating Army Doctrine Publication (ADP), Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP), and Field Manual (FM) 3-09, "Field Artillery Operations and Fire Support" to ensure that they are in line with evolving joint doctrine, as well as the recently published ADP, ADRP, and FM 3-0, Operations. We will also update ATP 3-09.24, "Techniques for the Field Artillery Brigade," to reflect the evolving techniques for that organization. Finally, we will work with the AMTC and the Operational Training Division to assist with updates to ATP 3-60, "Targeting," and TC 3-09.8, "Field Artillery Gunnery."

## Army Multi-domain Targeting Center

The AMTC's primary focus in 2017 was to ensure that the Army develops a Targeting Enterprise capable of empowering the operational force to successfully leverage cross-domain capabilities and employ cross-domain Fires in multi-domain battle through the joint targeting process, while maintaining the Army targeting standards necessary for land-based operations. However, the Army is currently neither manned nor trained to adequately meet Joint standards for target development; a critical capability gap that prevents the operational force's ability to submit targets to be serviced by cross-domain Fires. The AMTC was



tasked to develop an organization that enables the Force Modernization Proponent to achieve institutional unity of effort for related and continually converging DOTMLPF-P targeting developments. With this guidance, the AMTC staff has been working diligently on preparing a concept plan for submission to the Project Objective Memorandum 21-25 that will resource the Army's ability to fully train and support the operational force's efforts in meeting joint target development standards.

Additionally for 2017, the AMTC was responsible for the successful restart of JOFEC. We are working closely with the staff of Army University and the Command and General Staff College in order to develop and implement a JOFEC-like elective for CGSC students. Also in 2017, the AMTC began a target mensuration only growth effort that will provide the operational force the ability to certify its own operators.

In 2017, the AMTC also provided the lead for three mobile training teams (MTTs) in Ukraine, consisting of the AN/TPQ-36 Operator Course, AN/TPQ-36 Maintainer Course, and the Army Basic Instructor Course. These MTTs trained over 40 Ukrainian officers, NCOs and junior enlisted Soldiers in the technical and tactical employment of the Weapons Locating Radar systems to assist in ongoing combat operations in eastern

Ukraine. Finally, the AMTC supported Unified Challenge 17.2, by providing support to the Fires battle lab.

## Focused 2018

As we forge ahead into 2018, our focus will remain on the chief of staff of the Army's three priorities of readiness, the future Army and taking care of the troops. These priorities guide everything we do at the Field Artillery School, and everything we endeavor to do for the operational force as the field artillery proponent. From equipment modernization to training to leader development, we have our eye on providing a force capable of deterring potential adversaries and if deterrence fails, aiding our maneuver formations to quickly and decisively win on the modern battlefield. I want to thank you for all that you do and for the sacrifices that you and your families have and will continue to make in service to our great nation. I am proud of all we have accomplished in 2017 and I look forward to all that 2018 will bring us.

We have the greatest Soldiers in the world, and with your leadership and dedication, we will continue to be the world's premier artillery force; ready to deliver decisive Fires, 24/7/365, regardless of weather, in any terrain, quickly, accurately and *Danger Close*.

*Spc. Ryan Reliford, a gunner with 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, participated in a Cold Hit Site Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (Staff Sgt. David N. Beckstrom/2-25th ID)*



# FIRES KNOWLEDGE NETWORK



*A world of knowledge at your fingertips*

[HTTPS://WWW.US.ARMY.MIL/SUITE/PAGE/130700](https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/130700)





# Aviation Soldiers collaborate with Fires

By Nathan Pfau

The U.S. Army consists of multiple organizations designed to work as one when taking on world threats. Members of two Army centers of excellence came together to ensure seamless collaboration when that time comes.

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence reached out to the Fires Center of Excellence in Fort Sill, Okla., to provide expertise in aviation tactics, doctrine and simulation, as well as to build relationships to enhance training, according to Capt. Robert Kelly, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, Combined Arms Division chief.

The trip, which ran from Oct. 16-20, was the first of its kind. Kelly coordinated with Capt. Erick Balish, Field Artillery Captain's Career Course small group leader, to gain the approval needed for the visit. It included subject-matter experts from the 1st Aviation Brigade, the Directorate of Training and Doctrine, and the Fort Rucker, Ala., Directorate of Simulations.

"I wanted to take some subject-matter experts from here at USAACE over to Fort Sill because they don't have any — they have no aviation officers at all within their schoolhouse," said Kelly. "Here (on Fort Rucker) you have artillery, armory and all these guys — they have that, as well, just no aviation."

The USAACE team included Kelly; Capt. Dustin Duncan, Aviation Captain's Career Course instructor; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rocky Jensen, Warrant Officer Advanced Course instructor; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lee Kokoszka and Staff Sgt. David Mills, both of DOTD; and Capt. Ken Weiss, Directorate of Simulations.

The main focus of the visit was to support the FACCC's culminating event where groups of field artillery battalions and ma-



*Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rocky Jensen, Warrant Officer Advanced Course instructor, fires the M119A3 Howitzer during a visit to Fort Sill, Okla., where U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence subject-matter experts provided expertise in aviation tactics, doctrine and simulation. (U.S. Army)*

neuver battalions compete against each other in a simulated battle.

Kelly wanted to provide aviation expertise in their training.

"They bring all sorts of enablers, like engineers, air defense artillery, but they don't have any aviation, so they kind of just make it up. So, we decided that we'd bring some guys over there ... to spend a week with them and provide all the information they need, and on top of that, we were going to help update their lesson plans on Army aviation," said Kelly.

The initial introduction and briefing by Kokoszka was well received with nearly 120 Soldiers in attendance. He gave a classified briefing about aviation platforms and the hybrid threats that are a risk to aviation. He also explained the role artillery could play when it comes to suppression of enemy air defense.

"It was a great brief and the students were really engaged, and it really set the tone," said Kelly, adding that it was apparent that the junior leaders had very little experience when dealing with integrating aviation tactics.

"You could see that a lot of them had a light turn on that showed them that there is a lot of stuff they can do with Army aviation and a lot of things we need to plan and integrate with them," said Kelly.

Duncan and Jensen provided FACCC students with knowledge on the different capabilities that a combat aviation brigade is able to offer, including how and when to request air assets.

"The most important thing we can do is integrate all elements of the Army, so we can be prepared to win the next fight," said Duncan. "I felt we did a good job integrating Army aviation with field artillery, so that we can better understand how to incorporate each other in a decisive action environment."

"This shows how we validate our systems from an outside perspective and it gives us clarity, depth and sustainability," added Jensen. "Leveraging functional assets ... provided a non-evasive environment for us to provide insight from an aviation perspective, coupled with their willingness to receive the information, allowed for a breadth of knowledge to be shared. I hope this is a continuing effort and that we can reciprocate."

Kelly said he hopes this is the beginning of a partnership that will help both sides work together to integrate all aspects of training.

"Basically, what we wanted to do, under our combined arms theme, is see an inherent relationship between Army aviation and field artillery," he said.



# Field artillery changes NCO professional development

*By Command Sgt. Maj. Berkeley Parsons*

Army Executive Order 236-15 directed the Army-wide implementation of the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System (NCOPDS) from the NCO Education System during the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2017. The NCOPDS initiatives involved renaming the Warrior Leader Course to the Basic Leader Course and adding a Master Leader Course for noncommissioned officers selected for promotion to master sergeant. Subsequent fragmentary orders added the implementation of deferment policy updates, the Select, Train, Educate, and Promote (STEP) policy, the delivery of the Digital Ruck Sack, and enhancing the Army Career Tracker. These directives guided change to the entire NCO professional military education (PME) learning continuum. These changes consist of the creation of the Distributed Leader Courses (DLC), which is the complete overhaul of the legacy Structured Self-Development (SSD) program, linking the

DLC to the resident NCO PME, and ensuring the entire learning continuum is sequentially and progressively linked.

## **SSD to DLC**

In November 2016, the Training and Doctrine Command command sergeant major directed the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA) to redesign and rebrand the legacy SSD and create the Distributed Leader Course. The redesigned DLC links self-development education with the resident PME courseware and is a prerequisite for the next level of resident NCO PME. The USASMA is in the initial phase of redesigning the legacy five levels of structured self-development, which averages 80 academic hours of curriculum. The new Distributed Leader Course will consist of six levels, averaging 43 academic hours. The projected delivery of DLC I to the force is June 2018, and DLC II to follow in August 2018. Levels III, IV, V and VI will activate

*Soldiers, instructed by the noncommissioned officers from the 7th Army Training Command, complete the Basic Leader Course April 19. (7th Army Training Command)*







*Soldiers conduct their final training lanes and evaluations during the early morning of July 12 while attending the Warrior Leadership Course. (Sgt. Harley Jelis/N.Y. Army National Guard)*

sequentially in three to four month increments following August 2018. Soldiers currently enrolled in their requisite level of SSD will remain in those courses until they are completed. Upon full implementation of DLC, Human Resource Command will automatically enroll Soldiers into the new course after their selection for promotion.

### **Basic Leader Course redesign**

The Basic Leader Course (BLC) focuses on instilling leader skills, knowledge and experience needed to lead a team/squad size unit; providing the foundation for further training and development; and building functional leadership attributes and

competence. The current BLC program of instruction includes 30 lessons, nine assessments and three multiple choice examinations. The USASMA is conducting the content validation of the redesigned BLC with a target completion date of March 2018. The goal of delivering the redesigned BLC is June 14, 2018. BLC will remain a 22-day, non-live-in course consisting of 169 hours. The BLC redesign will have 22 lessons, five assessments, and no multiple-choice examinations. The new BLC curriculum increases the educational rigor, requires more student collaboration in the classroom and replaces the multiple-choice examinations with written assessments.

### **Leader core competencies**

TRADOC determined that there are six leader core competencies (LCC), which all NCOs should develop through PME. The six LCCs are readiness, leadership, training management, Army and joint operations, program management and communications. These leader core competencies fill the educational gaps from the subjects formally known as common core in the NCOES. All levels of PME in the learning continuum will have the leader core competencies in the curriculum.

### **Advanced and Senior Leader Course**

The redesigned LCCs in the NCOPDS will even provide the proponent Advanced Leader Courses (ALC) and Senior Leader Courses (SLC) with educational curriculum that builds upon the leadership competencies required of all Army NCOs. Using the leadership requirements model, Soldiers collaborate and exchange ideas on innovative approaches to leadership and training. They examine management techniques, analyze mission command systems, construct a persuasive essay, create platoon training and leader development plans, and learn basic negotiation principles. As a result, NCOs gain an understanding of the significance of becoming a senior noncommissioned officer and the responsibilities inherent in that role. The USASMA will deliver the 55-hour framework for the ALC and SLC Leader Core Competencies to the proponent schools and centers. The proponent schools and centers will infuse the LCCs into their programs of instruction. The ALC and SLC Leader Core Competencies prepare NCOs for the duties associated with being a staff sergeant and sergeant first class.

### **ALC and SLC revisions**

The changes to NCOPDS provided us an opportunity to relook at the effectiveness of our field artillery technical and tactical training and how we are delivering the instruction. Our analysis was conducted within the framework of necessity. Is it what a field artillery NCO needs at skill level and MOS. Relevance: Is it aligned with current force needs? Is it sound? Does it align with current field artillery doctrine? Is it focused on unified land operations and is it performance oriented versus classroom/lecture? Are we effectively using the time we have available while students are attending the course?

The results, coupled with the implementation of LCCs, determined we could get a whole lot better. The first step is to go to a six-day training week in the active component (AC) ALC and SLC courses. This not only gives us more time to get after the critical tasks and implement the LCCs, but it also aligns the AC NCOPDS course length with the Army National Guard Regional Training Institute's NCOPDS courses to better facilitate One Army School System attendance. The amount of time students spend at Fort

Sill, Okla., will remain the same, but we will use that time more effectively.

We have undertaken a complete re-write of every ALC and SLC program of instruction (POI) in Career Management Field 13 which has not occurred in years. The intent is to eliminate common core not accredited through LCC, remove "good to know tasks" and eliminate outdated, unnecessary instruction. The time gained will be used to conduct more performance-oriented training and evaluation (hands-on) for critical tasks and where applicable, more repetition. The new POIs will place emphasis on those tasks that are primary to the training of the field artillery NCO at skill level and by MOS and focus efforts on creating effective field artillery NCOs through repetition, reinforcing expertise of the appropriate tasks to ensure students have mastered the application and theory of each. Our end state is not to produce mere graduates of ALC and SLC, but to create validated, competent section chiefs and platoon sergeants capable of training, certifying and qualifying their section or platoon on the mission essential task list and are able to execute their craft in the decisive action environment.

We will begin to implement these new POIs in the near future with a target of complete implementation across all ALC and SLC courses no later than third quarter, fiscal year 2018. I expect there may be a higher attrition rate for academic failure in the initial stages due to the amount of rigor we will inject. NCOs must understand that we will expect more from them, so they should be prepared.

### **Master Leader Course**

As of Oct. 1, 2017, USASMA delivered and implemented the resident Master Leader Course (MLC). The purpose of the MLC is to prepare selected senior noncommissioned officers for positions of greater responsibility throughout the Army and Department of Defense utilizing a synchronous instructional strategy. The course develops the professional skills and competencies required of master sergeants in the 21st century accomplished in a rigorous learning environment. The course serves to challenge and educate selected sergeants first class in the areas of professional writing, communication skills, public speaking, critical thinking, organizational and command leadership, management skills, joint and operational level of war fighting, discipline, readiness, health and administrative requirements. Additionally, MLC students cover topics like national security, joint intergovernmental and multinational and strategic thinking. Ten NCO Academies currently deliver the resident MLC. Starting in November 2017, the USASMA will start the instructional delivery validation of a non-resident version of the Master Leader Course (MLCNR). HRC will enroll eligible Soldiers into the MLC and MLCNR courses based on the Soldier's selection for promotion to master sergeant. Current projections have the non-resident course coming online on or about May 2018.

With the exception of four levels of DLC, the USASMA expects to deliver all NCO PME redesigns to the Army by Oct. 1, 2018. By putting the "leadership" back into the NCO PME courses, the intent of the learning continuum redesign is to revolutionize NCO professional development that will better educate and train noncommissioned officers to become agile, adaptive, creative, innovative, critical thinking and problem-solving leaders who will meet the challenges of an ever changing and complex operating environment.





*Soldiers from the 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command, attached to the 613th Air Operations Center Pacific Air Forces, track a ballistic missile that was launched from North Korea, Sept 14, 2017, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Staff Sgt. Perry Aston/U.S. Air Force)*

# A layer of defense-watching the sky

*By Sgt. 1st Class Claudio Tejada*

With a constant threat of ballistic missile launches by North Korea, the Army maintains forward Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance Systems, or AN/TPY-2 on mainland Japan to keep a watchful eye above the skies scanning for threats.

The responsibility of keeping a watchful eye falls to a small group of Soldiers stationed in remote areas at Kyogamisaki, and Shariki, Japan. The location of the two radar sites are unique in that it provides regional defense for Japan while also significantly improving the defense of the United States.

The Soldiers in these units operate high resolution, phased array, X-band radars designed and built specifically for the U.S. missile defense missions. The radars can perform air surveillance to very high altitudes, identify and track aerial targets including incoming ballistic missiles. The radar also has the ability to differentiate between warheads or space debris.

The 10th Missile Defense Battery, located at the Shariki Communications Site in Shariki, have been operational since 2006. This was the first AN/TPY-2 Radar installation in Japan and also the first new U.S. military installation to open there since the end of World War II.

The AN/TPY-2 radar is integrated with the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense,

or THAAD system, and serves as its primary sensor. The radar's mission is to track the late stages of the missile course enabling the THAAD's capability to intercept both outside the atmosphere and once a re-entry vehicle enters the atmosphere.

The 14th Missile Defense Battery is the newest radar unit located at the Kyogamisaki Communications Site and has been operational since October 2014. Since then, both units have been in the constant watch with recent events in the Korean peninsula.

Their mission is to pass highly accurate missile track data to sensor managers in the Air and Space Operations Center, located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, and sensor managers throughout the United States.

"We provide the strategic level early warning for all ballistic missiles launched from North Korea that have the potential to impact the United States homeland," said 1st Lt. Seth Bond, 14th Missile Defense Battery executive officer.

The information received by the AN/TPY-2 radar is critical data. Both units also work closely with the 100th Missile Defense Brigade based in Colorado Springs, Colo., feeding data and cueing various radar sensors throughout U.S. Army Strategic Command and Pacific Command.

Data collected and shared with joint forces and allies, 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 U.S. Pacific Command assets and the continental United States.

"This information cues the various sensors located throughout the Pacific to ensure any intercept vehicle will accurately engage the warhead," Bond added.

Once a possible threat has been detected, either through space based, naval or elevated sensors, Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command can either engage the threat or, if capable, pass the engagement to an asset that is able to range the target.

"The 14th MDB has successfully tracked and processed all ballistic missile launches originating from North Korea," said Bond. "The unit is extremely efficient and we provide updates to entities across U.S. Army Japan, PACOM, U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Northern Command."

With the increase of threats from North Korea, the Soldiers from the 10th MDB and 14th MDB remain focused on being our nation's *First Line of Defense*.

*Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th Air Defense Artillery, fire a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile. (Courtesy photo)*



## Battalion tests THAAD's limits against North Korean threat

Soldiers assigned to Battery A, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), 11th Air Defense Artillery, *Imperial Brigade*, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, made national and international news in July 2017 with two successful flight tests that resulted in the intercepts of an intermediate-range ballistic missile target and a medium-range ballistic missile target.

Their mission was to test the THAAD weapon system outside of the limits of its original system design. This was because of the growing threat from North Korea who tested more ballistic missiles in the spring and summer months, showing progression in their development programs. The test came at an opportune time of less than a week after the Democratic Peo-

ple's Republic of Korea had one of their successful launches. A/2nd ADA's success validated that the THAAD weapon system is a suitable defense against the advancing missile threats in the Pacific region and became an inadvertent U.S. response to North Korea's launch.

Soldiers from A/2nd ADA conducted launcher, fire control and radar operations using the same procedures they would use in an actual combat scenario. The operators were not aware of the actual target launch time and subsequently reacted as they normally would have in combat situations.

Prior to the test, the THAAD equipment was line hauled via truck or transported by air from Fort Bliss, Texas. A small group of Soldiers led by Lt. Sarah Brown and Staff Sgt. William Harris, assisted in loading

equipment onto ships at the Port of Tacoma in Washington. Working with the Matson Shipping Company, the team of six Soldiers inspected the THAAD equipment as it arrived at the port then was shipped to Alaska.

Simultaneously, Capt. T. Justin Webb and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Anthony Sarago, leading the Initial Coordinating Element were the first to reach the Kodiak test site and oversaw operations as the battery convoyed for two hours across the mountainous island to the emplacement site.

To see a video of the test flight from various vantage points, visit the 11th ADA Brigade or A-2nd ADA THAAD Facebook pages and visit <http://fortblissbugle.com/2017/07/19/a-2-thaad-successfully-intercepts-missile-target/> for more pictures and news.

# Active US Army and U.S. Marine Corps FA and US 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 US Army and U.S. Marine Corps FA and US 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.

I BTRY (ADA), 1-11 ACR

## Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

MCTP, 32nd AAMDC

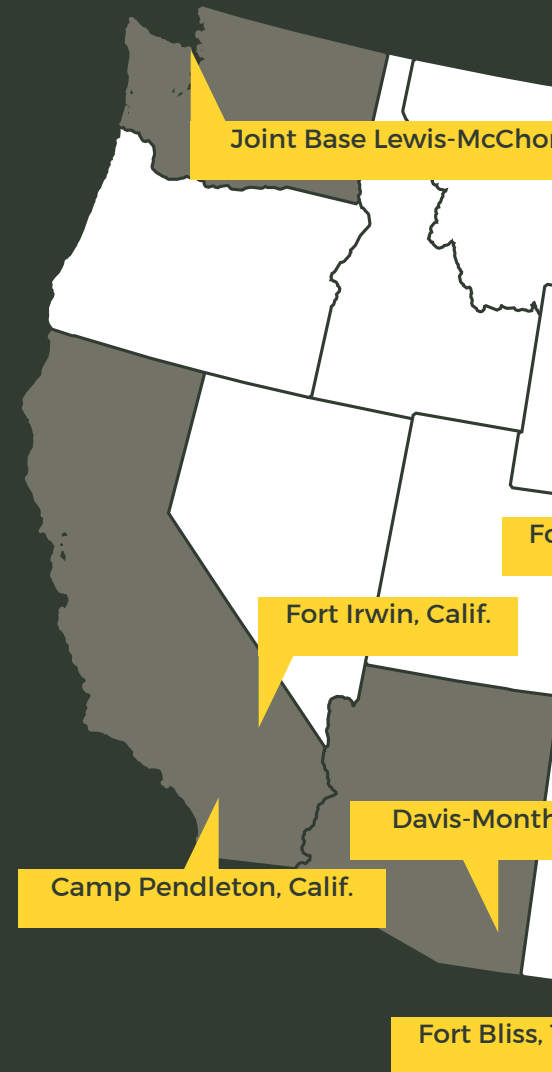
## Fort Polk, La.

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

# US Army National Guard and US 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

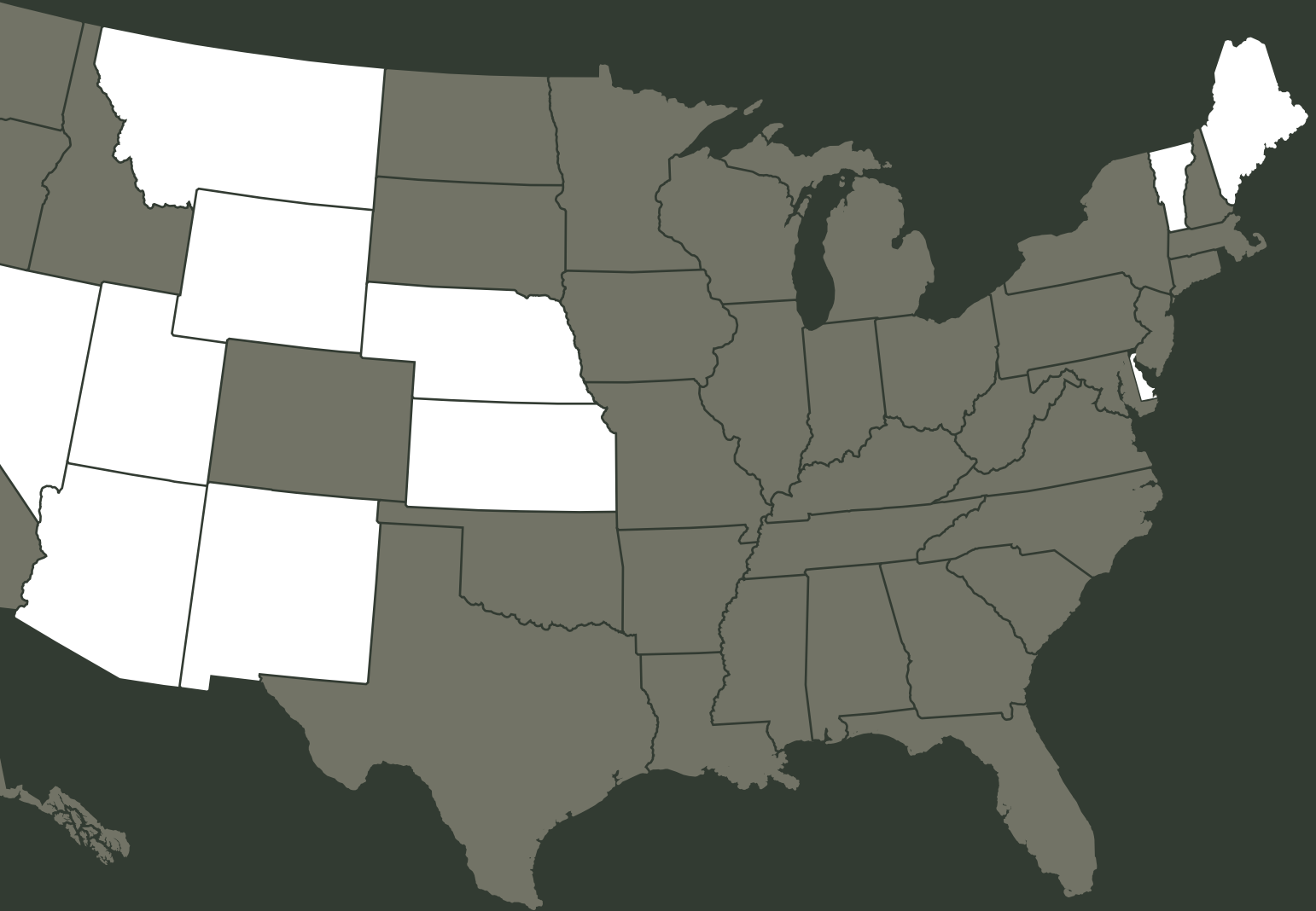
## 45th FA BDE

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



# US Army Active Duty Air Defense Artillery



*Spc. Matthew Williams, cavalry scout, 2nd Cavalry Regiment fires a Stinger missile using Man-Portable Air Defense Systems during Artemis Strike, a live-fire exercise at the NATO Missile Firing Installation off the coast of Crete, Greece, Nov. 6, 2017. (Sgt. 1st Class Jason Epperson/10th Army Air and Missile Defense Public Affairs Office)*

## 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

As the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command began Fiscal Year 2017, the unit was geared up for what would be “the year of execution” across U.S. Army Europe. The 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment trained hard through rain, sleet and snow in preparation for the challenging Patriot gunnery Table XII certifications and external evaluation. A significant highlight was Tobruq Legacy, where more than 1,800 Soldiers and airmen from 22 nations came together to enhance the interoperability of NATO surface-based air defense forces across multiple countries to include Lithuania, Czech Republic and Romania.

Another high point during Fiscal Year 2017 was Artemis Strike, a German-led multinational tactical live-fire exercise at the NATO Missile Firing Installation in Chania, Crete. Soldiers from 5-7th ADA worked with more than 650 German airmen from Surface Air and Missile Defense Wing 1 to create an integrated air and missile defense system construct as part of a NATO tactical evaluation

with Patriot, Avenger, Stinger Man Portable Air Defense Systems and Ozelot systems putting steel on target. Not to be overlooked, Aurora 17 was truly one event that made history.

The execution of Aurora 17 was Sweden’s largest exercise in history. It enabled American Patriot fire units to enhance their partnership with Swedish air and missile defense forces while sending a direct message to deter Russian aggression within the region and enable Sweden to work more regularly with NATO. This historic event involved more than 20,000 Soldiers from nine separate countries. It was a direct response to a growing Russian influence and a forever changing dynamic in the Baltics region. More importantly, it was one of the first exercises where Sweden openly worked side-by-side with multiple NATO countries. American participation was especially critical to the success of this exercise through the deployment of U.S. Patriot assets and served to build a strong relationship between both Swedish and American air and missile defense (AMD) forces. The 5-7th ADAR integrated with the Luftvärnsregimentet Swedish Air Defense Regiment by developing and testing tactics, techniques and procedures and standard oper-



ating procedures required to support the Multinational Kill Chain Exercise (MKCE) made up of U.S., French and Swedish AMD forces. This MKCE relied on interoperability of different weapon systems and sensors provided by a joint tactical data interface link (TADIL-J/Link-16), which generated a common operational picture between the Swedish Air Operations Center, the Deployable Information and Coordination Center and the U.S. Patriot firing units.

During the exercise, Swedish and American sensors detected air tracks and Swedish AOC and U.S. DPICC processed these while U.S. Patriot firing units engaged. In addition to the MKCE, U.S. Soldiers also worked with their Swedish partners to coordinate, plan and execute several small arms and crew-served weapons ranges. These events increased unit readiness, provided familiarization of both Swedish and French weapon systems and enabled a 550 kilometer convoy across the country of Sweden. During the course of three weeks, the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers from 5-7th ADA and Lv-6 resulted in the successful execution of all lines of efforts. Simply put: deep and lasting relationships were built during this historic exercise—tactical relationships were formed with strategic, more lasting impacts.

While one year ends and another begins, it is filled with new and unique challenges. As U.S. Army Europe transitions into the “year of integration,” training with allies and partners will play a pivotal role in the combat readiness of 10th AAMDC. During 2018, 10th AAMDC will participate in Juniper Cobra, which will train and exercise tactical units and a joint task force staff. Another ex-

ercise on the horizon is Saber Strike 18, a premier combined arms maneuver exercise focused on reinforcing deterrence measures and reassuring NATO allies in the Baltic States and Poland. For Soldiers in the 10th AAMDC, the “year of integration” is sure to be one filled with opportunities.

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

The 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, located at Fort Bliss, Texas, is the sole active component air and missile defense (AMD) functional command in U.S. Forces Command and the global force provider of AMD capability. The 32nd AAMDC, *Blackjack*, executes training readiness authority for four separate ADA brigades comprising nearly 80 percent of all active component air defense artillery.

Globally engaged and strategically responsive, 32nd AAMDC maintains a continual forward presence in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, while providing forces worldwide to deter aggression and promote stability. This year, 32nd AAMDC supported U.S. European Command exercise Austere Challenge, conducted two combatant command focused brigade-level planning exercises, and a rehearsal of concept at the component level in CENTCOM.

Notably, in 2017, 32nd AAMDC successfully executed the forward-stationing of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) capability to Korea while balancing THAAD support to global

*A noncommissioned officer from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command works the situational training exercise lanes during the annual Blackjack Warrior Competition Week at Fort Bliss, Texas, July 2017. (Sgt. Aura Conejos/32nd AAMDC).*





operational and modernization requirements. The command also provided counter-rocket, artillery and mortar protection to Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and maintained AMD protection of critical assets across the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Placing high emphasis on mastering AMD core competencies, 32nd AAMDC supported over 20 joint air and missile defense exercises to include Red Flag, Blue Flag and multiple Fleet Synthetic Trainer exercises, as well as the command's first expeditionary deployment in support of Air Missile Defense Exercise.

Over the past year, the command remained steadfast in all areas of readiness, including training readiness with the implementation this year of Objective-T. The command also executed command inspections and mission rehearsal exercises across four brigades and six installations. At the Soldier level, the focus on core skills and readiness culminated in the July 2017 *Blackjack Warrior Week* Competition. Meanwhile, the 32nd AAMDC remained at the forefront of the effort to modernize the ADA force with Patriot Configuration 3+ and PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhanced testing. These and other modernization efforts will ensure the Army's ADA forces are ready and responsive for 32nd AAMDC's next 50 years. Swift and Sure!

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/32ndAAMDC/>

## 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Imperial

### Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Hammer

The year of 2017 started off in the "run" phase. The *Imperial Brigade* welcomed the year in maintaining the global response force (GRF) mission after certification in November 2016. As the unit relinquished GRF responsibilities, the brigade quickly reorganized and by mid-February, took to the training mindset and supported the 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command in Germany, in support of Operation Austere Challenge 2017. This was a training exercise designed to test the air missile defense structure against an air missile threat in a European Command scenario, a first for the 11th ADA Brigade. The Soldiers accepted the challenge and helped

their sister division hone its command and control skills to optimal proficiency. By the time the summer months rolled around 11th ADA was poised to prepare and execute our mission rehearsal exercise in preparation for deployment. During the month of July it was the *Imperial Brigade's* turn to hone command and control skills according to the rigorous standard set by their division, the 32nd Army Air Missile Defense Command, certifying the brigade for deployment.

Upon deploying, the *Top Notch* and *Imperial Brigades* combined to become the largest air defense artillery brigade in the Army with three firing Patriot battalions, a missile defense battery, along with three firing Patriot battalions and three Terminal High Altitude Area Defense batteries at home station; Fort Bliss, Texas. All said, the brigade's combat operating strength is six of the 15 Patriot firing battalions in the Army.

The brigade's No. 1 priority is combat readiness, managing transitions and building relationships, with special emphasis on theater security cooperation. The *Imperial Brigade* will always be ready to protect the combatant commander's critical assets.

The *Imperial* vision is humble: to be the best air defense brigade in the world, consisting of trained, responsible, motivated and caring Soldiers and families, capable of executing any air defense or assigned mission with unequaled success.

Train to Fight. Battle Ready.

11th ADA *Imperial Brigade*: [www.facebook.com/pages/11TH-ADA-Imperial-Brigade/137584586302412](https://www.facebook.com/pages/11TH-ADA-Imperial-Brigade/137584586302412)

HHB, 11th ADA Brigade: <https://www.facebook.com/HHBFR-G11ADA>

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

First Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, safely re-deployed from a 12-month mission in support of Central Command's Operation Spartan Shield, a ballistic missile defense mission intended to preserve, protect and enhance the capability of the CENTCOM area of responsibility in the defense of its general populace and territorial assets. The battalion's overall mission was

*Soldiers from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade board a plane during a recent deployment. (Courtesy photo)*







*Spec. Haden Finley runs power cables while emplacing the Electric Power Plant. The Warrior Battalion executed Table VIII Intermediate Patriot Gunnery Certifications throughout the month of November while deployed to U.S. Central Command. (1st Lt. Micah A. Uchida/U.S. Army)*

to defend a population center of 1.5 million people in order to deter Iranian aggression.

The *Cobra Strike Battalion* is currently a focus readiness battalion in charge of providing combat capability to combatant commanders in support of worldwide missile defense contingencies at any given moment. The air defenders maintain training, personnel and equipment readiness and are postured for a “ready now” response to fight and win in a complex environment. In addition, the battalion continues to reinforce the Partner in Education program by affiliating with Burnet and Dolphin Terrace Elementary through the El Paso Independent School District with the focus on building and maintaining community relations. The *Cobra Strike* Soldiers are consistently working to strengthen the workforce and ensure the safety of their battle buddies by creating programs such as Eliminate the Risk, El Paso. This program provides safe, reliable and free transportation to the Soldiers of the *Cobra Strike Battalion*. *Cobra Strike* strives every day to achieve mission success by building lasting relationships with the Soldiers and their families.

Facebook: 1-43 ADA *Cobra Strike Battalion*

<http://facebook.com/cobrastrikebattalion>

## **2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Warriors**

After a hard, rigorous nine-month train-up period, 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, *Warrior Battalion*, took over the PAT-Central mission from 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery

in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2017. Before the transfer of authority, each crew in the battalion certified on the Patriot equipment in theater to demonstrate the crew’s proficiency at executing air and missile defense operations. Each month, the crews continued to certify, in excess of 40 operational readiness exercises throughout the deployment.

Despite a high operational tempo and dedicated maintenance schedule, Soldiers of the *Warrior Battalion* pursued self-development by attending the Basic Leaders Course and various other schools to help them progress in their careers. The *Warrior Battalion* also had five noncommissioned officers graduate from the prestigious Patriot Master Gunner Course, while deployed, with a 100 percent pass rate.

The *Warrior Battalion* hosted the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command command chief warrant officer and his team for their deployed compliance and standards and discipline checks, where the battalion was recognized as the best unit they have inspected to date. The 2-43 ADA is the first unit to achieve an 100 percent pass rate on the compliance checks; a testament to the technical and tactical competence and overall excellence that each *Warrior* strives to achieve. The *Warrior’s* legacy of excellence and mission accomplishment will forever be etched in the history books of air defense artillery.

*Strength in Honor! Second to None!*

2-43rd ADA Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/243A-DA/>



*Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, erect an antenna mast group during an Information and Coordination Central certification at Forward Operating Base Stallion, within the Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range Complex, N.M. (Courtesy photo)*

### **3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Legion**

In 2017, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, *Legion*, continued as the Department of the Army selected Patriot battalion to support air defense modernization. The battalion's modernization effort (upgrading to Post Deployment Build-8) is the largest modernization effort in decades and over the past 10 months, the battalion completed a Patriot recapitalization and solidified the honor of the first PDB-8 (configuration 3+) battalion in the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command. To date, the battalion fired 15 Patriot missiles in support of the PDB-8 and Missile Segment Enhanced testing and, in late November, fully validated both programs for full materiel release and full rate production. To achieve these milestones, the battalion conducted three extensive operations covering thousands of miles and targeting the most advanced enemy threat replicas and scenarios ever developed for the Patriot system.

From North White Sands Missile Range, N.M., to the islands of the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, the battalion deployed, engaged and proved the most capable Patriot weapon system in the Army. Simultaneously, the battalion managed two Terminal High Altitude Defense battery global response force assumptions by B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment and A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment and the subsequent flawless deploy-

ment of A-4th ADA to Korea on an accelerated mission to support Pacific Command. Moving forward, the battalion is postured to deploy for any worldwide contingency and is ready to support future branch modernization efforts. *Send the Legion!*

### **5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Team Deuce**

For the past 12 months, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, has maintained one primary focus, readiness. Readiness has been the central theme of every task and exercise the battalion has done since July of 2016. Fifth-52nd ADA, known as *Team Deuce*, has tackled a multitude of challenges; from completing a battalion field training exercise while manned at less than 50 percent to completing their mission rehearsal exercise with stellar results. The battalion exceeded expectations in the face of every challenge leading up to the culmination of their training, deploying to the Central Command area of responsibility where they will have the ability to showcase their tactical and technical skills.

After assuming the global response force mission during the fourth quarter of 2016, the battalion shifted its focus to preparing for the CENTCOM mission, while maintaining the ability to deploy on a moment's notice. That commitment to readiness led to 5-52nd's standard setting exercise. During the mission rehearsal exercise, the battalion was able to showcase their ability to fight advanced air battles, maintain combat power, and plan against dynamic and evolving threats. The Soldiers' aggressive execution of





*Soldiers from B Battery, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conduct a guided missile transport reload, Oct. 24, 2017. (Courtesy photo)*

the exercise allowed them to complete all requirements in only 10 days instead of the standard 20 days.

Upon completion of the exercise, the battalion began packing and preparing for their mission. While also executing qualification ranges, completing property book inventories, and allowing Soldiers to take pre-deployment leave, the battalion ensured all air battle crews received their required air battle management training in order to continue building their tactical skills. This commitment to readiness was evident in every facet of their deployment preparation as the battalion met all pre-deployment requirements while executing a seamless property transition with their sister battalion.

Readiness will continue to be the central theme for 5-52nd ADA as they deploy. The battalion is tasked with ensuring they maintain complete coverage of strategic assets while maintaining the ability to fight advanced level air battles. Their competencies will be tested during the deployment through multiple evaluations and competitions. In addition to their commitment to combat readiness, the battalion will emphasize individual Soldier development as scholars, athletes, and leaders through their Objective Platinum campaign plan to ensure all *Team Deuce* Soldiers become complete leaders both on duty and off duty.

5-52nd ADA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheOnlyTeamDeuce/?fref=nf>

### **A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Gunslingers**

In July 2017, Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) conducted a deployment readiness exercise to Kodiak, Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands. While there they conducted multiple test launches of their weapon system against both medium-range and intermediate-range ballistic missile targets. A Battery, 2nd ADA's successful intercepts validated the THAAD weapon system's capability to defend against the advancing missile threats in the Pacific region and elsewhere, protecting our homeland, forces abroad, and allied nations.

<https://www.facebook.com/A2ADA/>

### **A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment**

A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Battery, as part of the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, trained, certified and deployed on short notice to the Republic of South Korea in response to increased tactical ballistic missile (TBM) and nuclear threats issued by the People's Republic of North Korea. The superior air defense capabilities and strategic and geopolitical influence of the



*Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery fire the first Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor launched from the Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska in Kodiak, Alaska. The THAAD successfully intercepted an air-launched Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile target on July 11, 2017. (U.S. Missile Defense Agency)*



*Soldiers from A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery, conduct air operations for a logistics and personnel movement to a site in the Republic of Korea. (Courtesy photo)*

THAAD system made A-4th ADA the perfect candidate to deploy in defense of South Korea and deter hostile threats.

While forward deployed to the Republic of South Korea in support of Combined Task Force Defender, A-4th ADA operated from a remote Tactical THAAD Site (TACSITE), the first of its kind in the world, in the Seongju Province. Public unrest prohibited vehicle traffic from accessing the site via ground and the unit was required to fly personnel, fuel, equipment and supply to and from

the TACSITE by helicopter. A-4th ADA was responsible for tracking all personnel, supply, food, water and fuel on the TACSITE and coordinating for all movements and resupplies.

On several occasions, A-4th ADA crews witnessed North Korean short, intermediate and intercontinental TBM test launches and were the first reporting source of such activities. The powerful THAAD radar enabled the unit to acquire the hostile threats before other sources and provided early warning to joint and allied partners. A-4th ADA's air defense systems, along with highly skilled and competent operators, collected precious data on all test launches. A-4th ADA operators collected critical national security data on the threat and provided it to the Missile Defense Agency where the data will be further analyzed to gain a better understanding of North Korea's TBM capabilities.

### **B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment**

B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) was established in April 2014. After a successful culminating training exercise in November 2016, B/2nd ADAR successfully deployed in defense of Guam and U.S. assets against a tactical ballistic missile threat from North Korea. After a successful 12-month mission, the unit redeployed to Fort Bliss, Texas, and was quickly assigned as a global response force (GRF) unit. Over the past 12 months, B/2nd ADAR executed numerous deployment readiness exercises and field training exercises (basic/mission qualification), in accordance with all 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command GRF requirements. B/2nd ADAR is ready to respond now to a worldwide emerging threat in order to protect U.S. and allied nation assets.

Facebook: B-2 ADA THAAD

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/b2thaad/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/b2thaad/photos/?ref=page_internal)

## **31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Archer Brigade**

The 31st Air Defense Artillery, *Archer Brigade*, continued its drive to success through 2017 under the command of Col. Janice Chen and Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Jacobitz. The brigade spent much of the year training to assume the ADA brigade headquarters' prepare to deploy mission. In January and April the brigade conducted two internal command post exercises (CPXs). These missions focused on air defense academics, command post/site layout and internal network communications, and brigade battle drills during simulated scenarios. Additionally, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery commander executed multiple deployment readiness exercises and 30 km tactical road marches to prepare the unit to deploy, operate and sustain itself in austere conditions.

From May to June the brigade executed its second counter-rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM) battalion mission rehearsal exercise (MRE) in support of the 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, Ohio Army National Guard. The MRE included system of systems integration, a CPX, a live-fire exercise, and a culminating training event (CTE). The *Archer Brigade* was successful in preparing, supporting and certifying the 2-174th ADA's tactical command post, battery command posts, engagement operation battle drills, and staff procedures through progressive gunnery tables. Another C-RAM MRE in July 2017 certified an additional battery from the 82nd Airborne Divisional Artillery. Both MREs successfully prepared these Soldiers to deploy and perform C-RAM operations in the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

Thirty-first ADA's role in Tobruq Legacy 17/Saber Guardian 17 kept the ball rolling from June to August as the brigade headquarters

conducted expeditionary deployment operations to Mihail Kogalniceanu Airbase, Romania, in order to fulfill U.S. Forces Command requirements. Upon arrival, the brigade executed a CTE evaluated by a team from 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The brigade staff conducted battle synchronization, battle tracking, and sustainment requirements in order to certify to assume the brigade headquarters' prepare to deploy mission. Immediately after successful completion of the CTE, the brigade headquarters transitioned to support Tobruq Legacy 17/Saber Guardian 17, working closely with 4th Infantry Division and 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The brigade's air defense artillery fire coordination officer teams supported the exercise control and reporting center in Bucharest, while the brigade tactical operations center (TOC) provided mission command of 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, South Carolina Army National Guard.

Upon completion of recovery and reintegration from the deployment to Romania, Operation Archer Vengeance took precedence for the Headquarters Battery during the months of September and October. The primary purpose of Archer Vengeance was to conduct a CTE to certify 4-3rd ADA to assume the Patriot battalion prepared to deploy mission in the fall of 2017. The *Archer Brigade* led the way once again during this mission by successfully establishing tactical sites and communications, while also conducting deployment readiness procedures, air defense operations, force protection measures and brigade TOC operations.

<https://www.facebook.com/31stAirDefenseArtilleryBrigade/>

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

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Lethal Strike*, returned from post-deployment block leave in January 2017 following a year-long deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. During this period, the battalion's Patriot equipment was taken to Letterkenny Army Depot for maintenance to sustain the battalion's readiness for an upcoming Fiscal Year 2018 deployment. Simultaneously, the battalion initiated focused individual readiness training and validated a mission command platoon and three separate platoons to assume the Fort Sill, Okla., incident reaction force (IRF) mission in March 2017. The unit maintained the battery (+) IRF mission through September 2017 by sustaining trained and readily available platoons to respond at a moment's notice to any garrison threat or natural disaster.

The battalion conducted a change of responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Plotnick to Command Sgt. Maj. Tammy Coleman March 10, 2017, and a change of command from Lt. Col. Matthew Dalton to Lt. Col. Pedro Camacho III June 9, 2017. Additionally, throughout the spring and summer months, the battalion experienced a significant change in leadership, welcoming battalion executive officer Maj. Daniel Corbett, battalion S3 Maj. Michael 'Woody' Woodhouse, and S3 Sgt. Maj. Quinnus Caldwell.

The battalion's subordinate units also experienced changes in leadership: *Hammer Battery* led by Capt. Jeremie Regnier and 1st Sgt. Justin Phillips; *Assassins Battery* led by Capt. Chris Ono and 1st Sgt. Brett McCray; *Beast Battery* led by Capt. Matthew Gremillion and 1st Sgt. Chris Cooper; *Centurion Battery* led by Capt. William Abbott and 1st Sgt. Antonio Golden; *Death Dealer Battery* led by Capt. Megan Parris and 1st Sgt. Marques Johnson; and *Enforcer Company* led by Capt. Neal Mooers and 1st Sgt. Brian Kimes.

Upon return of the final Patriot equipment from LEAD in August, the battalion conducted a battalion field training exercise cen-



tered on air and missile defense (AMD) operations. The focus was air battle management for the new AMD crews. This field exercise also served as a venue to conduct a joint training exercise with the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The event coordinated the Air Force Airborne Warning and Control System and Patriot Early Warning operators utilizing Link 16 to create a shared air picture.

As the *Lethal Strike Battalion* managed a high operational tempo, it also continued to support the local community through its volunteer programs. The battalion reenergized its Army Partnership with Local Area Schools, sponsoring Pioneer Park Elementary School. Partnership events included a highly successful pencil drive in the spring, as well as a back-to-school school supply drive to help children in need. The battalion and the school are working together to improve the citizenship and learning experience of children in Southwest Oklahoma.

In September, the battalion participated in the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness (SPEAR). This training greatly expanded battalion and battery crews' level of expertise in air battle management. Evaluators provided feedback to the information and coordination central, engagement control station, and battery command post crews, enabling a greater level of understanding and experience. Following SPEAR, the battalion embarked on Table VII training which led to Table VIII certifications in October.

In October 2017, the ADA commandant, Brig. Gen. Randall McIntire, approved the Regimental Honorary Leaders recognizing the honorary colonel, retired Col. Jimmy Jenkins; the honorary command sergeant major, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Lovett; and the honorary warrant officer, retired Chief Warrant Officer Claflin. In mid-October, the battalion concluded the Table VIII certifications with all units certifying, completing one of the pre-deployment requirements. The *Lethal Strike Team* continued to prioritize efforts in November for its December USCENTCOM mission readiness exercise. The 31st ADA will assess the *Lethal Strike Team* with support from theater-deployed 1st Battalion, 7th ADA augmenters. Upon completion of the exercise, the battalion will be certified to deploy and transition to pre-deployment block leave over the holiday season. The *Lethal Strike Battalion* is on glide path to reassume the same deter and defend mission in the USCENTCOM AOR that its Soldiers successfully accomplished almost 15 months ago.

*Lethal Strike-Battle Ready!*

<https://www.facebook.com/3.2adabn/>

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

Readiness was the watchword for 2017 in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Timothy Woodruff and Command Sgt. Maj. Bryon Mulligan. And for the *I Strike! Battalion* this meant a heavy focus on training, maintenance and new equipment fielding.

The battalion started the year by upgrading to the most cutting-edge Patriot software and hardware, followed by fielding the Army's newest small arms and crew-served weapons and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear protective equipment. Throughout the process, 4-3rd ADA Soldiers executed a crawl, walk, run approach to the new equipment; training both in academic settings and with hands-on instruction led by technicians from Raytheon and the unit's own subject matter experts.

Patriot gunnery tables were next on the calendar and progressed

from the operator-level, to the battery-level, and on to collective battalion-level Patriot Table VIII gunnery certifications. Not content to simply execute gunnery tables in a sterilized environment, the battalion chose to conduct them while operating in a simulated austere environment with a persistent opposing force threat permeating the battlespace.

Upon the completion of gunnery certifications, *I Strike!* Soldiers did not rest on their laurels, but instead proved their Patriot war-fighting capabilities and rapid deployment ability by sending the battalion to Fort Riley, Kan., for the unit's culminating training exercise. The exercise consisted of multiple air battle management scenarios, master scenario event list injects, and other tactical training dilemmas. The exercise concluded with a successful battalion-level tactical road march of 440 miles back to home station at Fort Sill, Okla.

After the exercise, the battalion once again assumed the role of the air defense global response force. While it maintains this duty, the battalion stands ready to deploy, fight, and win at a moment's notice anywhere in the world.

[https://www.facebook.com/43AirDefenseArtillery/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/43AirDefenseArtillery/?ref=br_rs)

### **5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, *Dragonslayers***

The *Dragonslayers* of 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, commanded first by Lt. Col. Judson Gillett and then by Lt. Col. Troy Bucher, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Hall Sr., had an extremely busy and successful year in 2017. The battalion deployed in support of U.S. Central Command for Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve. A Battery was responsible for the entirety of the Afghanistan area of responsibility (AOR) while B Battery and C Battery split the responsibility for the Iraq AOR. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery deployed two elements to both theaters of operations to provide oversight and logistical support for the line batteries. While the forward elements transitioned with 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment and ensured there was no loss of established counter-rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM) coverage, the Rear Detachment element at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., began operations to stand the unit up at Fort Sill, Okla.

While deployed, A Battery placed an emphasis on providing non-military occupational specialty-qualified Soldiers the opportunity to advance their careers by attending the Bagram Airfield Basic Leader's Course (BLC) for junior enlisted Soldiers. In addition to providing C-RAM coverage and ensuring Soldiers careers were not impacted by the deployment, A Battery also helped to install the intercept capability into a coalition forces base in southern Afghanistan. B Battery Soldiers participated in a spur ride with two of Soldiers earning their spurs. C Battery focused on facilitating OIR in an austere environment through site improvement of both the battery fighting positions and of the base itself. Additionally, both B and C batteries emphasized career progression by sending Soldiers to attend BLC in Kuwait.

In July, the battalion completed a relief in place and transfer of authority with the Ohio National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. In every location, incoming Soldiers of the 2-174th ADA had nothing but positive things to say as they drew upon the knowledge and experience of the *Dragonslayers*, while the unit completed preparations to return home. As each element completed its transition, the leadership of the 2-174th ADA sought to recognize various *Dragonslayers* through the presentation of challenge coins to those that performed above their peers.



After recovery, reintegration and block leave, the battalion focus was on completing the move to Fort Sill, Okla., as well as training for its next deployment and support for units rotating through the National Training Center. The battalion reorganized itself to meet personnel shortages across the formation, and cross-trained Soldiers from different military occupational specialties to meet mission requirements. Key leaders and personnel also moved to Fort Sill to facilitate the unit coming online at its new home in Oklahoma. The battalion Rear Detachment element officially deactivated in December, closing a chapter in its history at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

During 2017, 5-5th ADA accomplished amazing feats in training, deployments, and relocation preparations. Achievements in the face of adversity have built unity among the formation and lasting memories that invoke unit pride and unbreakable bonds among the Soldiers of the unit. The road ahead will be tough and filled with long days, but the Soldiers and families of the *Dragon-slayer Battalion* eagerly await the coming challenges and opportunities with a fierce mentality of success.

<https://www.facebook.com/5th-Battalion-5th-Air-Defense-Artillery-Regiment-173362599415940/>

### **Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Execute!***

In February of 2017, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade redeployed from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. The brigade headquarters served nine months successfully supporting the air defense mission, helping sustain readiness throughout the AOR.

In April of 2017, HHB hosted the brigade's annual golf scramble tournament in order to raise funds and build esprit de corps amongst the battalions. Thirty-six teams across the formation participated in this event which raised over \$1,000 and handed out as much in gifts and prizes.

In May, the brigade command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Brown, conducted a change of responsibility with the incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas William.

In June, Col. Richard Harrison relinquished command to Col. Curtis W. King after 24 months as the 69th ADA commander.

From Nov. 1-8, HHB participated in a brigade-level field training exercise (FTX) which tested the unit's abilities to rapidly deploy to an austere environment with an asymmetric threat. On Nov. 1, HHB was recalled and began deployment readiness exercise Level 2 operations. During the FTX, the battery completed and validated mission essential task list tasks, and successfully conducted a combined live-fire exercise with 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery. After sustaining operations for 96 hours, the brigade was given the order to move. The next day HHB jumped the brigade tactical operations center (TOC), the first time they have done this in recent memory. Forty-eight hours later the TOC jumped once more. During this move, HHB was able to refine its footprint, standard operation procedures and field craft.

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

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, *Strike First*, redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas, following their mission in support of Operation Spartan Shield, where they were responsible for the air defense of the combatant commander's strategic assets and operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

In August of 2017, the battalion was tasked as the 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery pusher unit while that unit serves as the U.S. Forces Command Patriot global response force. First-44th ADA augments deployment teams and supports equipment preparation for air load operations. Additionally, the battalion assisted 1-62nd ADA in their mission readiness exercise by serving as observers, coaches and trainers. E Battery, 1-44th ADA executed an M2 Range Aug. 30-31, qualifying 15 crews across the battalion. A Battery, 1-44th ADA successfully completed their Air Defense Gunnery Table (ADGT) VIII certification in order to maintain readiness in accordance with the sustainment readiness model.

In September of 2017, B Battery, 1-44th ADA successfully completed their ADGT VIII certification in order to maintain readiness in accordance with the Sustainment Readiness Model. C Battery, 1-44th ADA supported Fort Hood's efforts for M320A1, M205, M240 and M4A1 fielding. First-44th ADA supported 1-62nd ADA's refueling operations and their certification with Patriot equipment in preparation for their upcoming deployment. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-44th ADA executed an M249 Range on Sept. 12 qualifying 17 crews across the battalion. The battalion staff conducted a battalion staff exercise in order to assess sustainment, protection, tactical operation center procedures, and mission command tasks. First-44th ADA received commendable ratings during the battalion environmental compliance inspection conducted by Fort Hood's Environmental Control Management Office. C/1-44th ADA coordinated a unit volunteer opportunity with Habitat for Humanity to renovate the home of a military veteran.

Soldiers from 1-44th ADA supported Freedom March Sept. 11 at West Ward Elementary School, the battalion's adopted school, as a tribute of remembrance and honor to those we lost in the terror attacks of 9/11. The Soldiers served as road guards and marched with the students to celebrate the nation's freedom.

In October, 1-44th ADA successfully conducted a battalion field training exercise Sept. 25 to Oct. 5, to validate staff competency; certify HHB on ADGT VIII, and certify units on ADGT IVc. B/1-44th ADA conducted forklift reload training and certification for 1/3 crews with 13/15 completing ADGT IVc certification. Sixty-eight personnel conducted entry control point operations. They searched personnel, reacted to improvised explosive devices (IEDs)/vehicle-borne IEDs, and a person with an IED in accordance with the training and evaluation outlines. C/1-44th conducted missile reload training in preparation for their upcoming ADGT VIII, Reconfigurable Table Top Trainer (RT-3) Lab training with engagement control station crews 1 and 2, and ADGT V-VI for all crews to include reconnaissance selection and occupation of a position (RSOP). D Battery, 1-44th ADA conducted a tactical 30K road march controlled by the battalion. E/1-44th ADA conducted Patriot Multi-Echelon Training led by intermediate support element team training for maintenance personnel. E/1-44th also conducted 36 vehicle service operations, night vision goggle training, night driver's familiarization and recovery training, and facilitated battery training objectives. First-44th ADA's Supply Support Activity operations resulted in a 100 percent commendable rating during the 32nd AAMDC Command Supply Discipline Program inspection. C/1-44th ADA conducted 28 hours of training in the RT-3 Lab with ECS Crew 1 and Crew 2 to sustain their AMD proficiency. They accomplished this in addition to conducting training on ADGT V-VII for over 54 hours of collective march order and emplacement drills.

In November, 1-44th ADA participated in the 69th Brigade field training exercise, Lightning Odyssey, from Nov. 1-8, to validate

the battalion's readiness to execute its mission in an austere environment. On Nov. 1, the battalion conducted a recall and executed a deployment readiness exercise Level 2 for deployment. Upon getting a tactical order, the staff conducted military decision making processes and published a warning order to the subordinate units. After being given a road-to-war brief from the brigade, the battalion received orders and conducted a tactical convoy to Training Area 35. HHB/1-44th, A/1-44th and D/1-44th emplaced in their respective locations in support of the brigade's AMD mission requirements. During site occupation, the batteries conducted priorities of work by unit standard operating procedures, employing force protection measures for site security, while posturing to respond to AMD threats. The batteries sustained their AMD proficiency in the field by employing its RSOP team with two site jumps, while the crews participated in 10 netted air battles with the information and coordination central and brigade ADA fire control operations. Reload crews and all launcher crews conducted daily drills with five launchers. Table IV testing for 14E and 14T air defenders was administered in the field in order to build sustainment crews for upcoming Table VIII certifications. Furthermore, Nov. 2-8 the units conducted four standalone launcher crew certifications.

### **1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery, Aim High**

In January of 2017, the *Aim High Battalion* finalized a three-month long equipment reset of all tactical vehicles and weapon systems. This phase highlighted the tenacity and overall capability of every unit's respective maintenance section and postured the battalion for follow-on training with upgraded equipment.

The following month, units deployed to tactical field environments throughout Fort Hood, Texas. In February, batteries executed initial and advanced gunnery training which resulted in successful Table VIII mobility certifications.

In early March of 2017, select operators throughout the *Aim High Battalion* were selected to participate in the prestigious Combined Air Defense Working Group exercise in Israel. Throughout this exercise, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery exemplified their ability to stay at the forefront of the air and missile defense (AMD) community. Additionally, tacticians were exposed to combined and joint AMD operations and tactics.

The *Aim High Battalion* continued tactical operations throughout the month of April and finalized training with a culminating training event (CTE). First-62nd ADA executed the CTE as a full deployment rehearsal, validating the execution of unit movement operations, tactical convoys and finalized with completion of Table VIII gunnery for primary crews. The successful completion of this exercise validated the battalion's overall readiness to assume the global response force mission. For the next 90 days, 1-62nd ADA maintained a readiness level postured to answer any global emergency call requiring a Patriot force.

Following the successful CTE, the unit continued to refine and sharpen its tactical capabilities through the preparation and execution of the Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness (SPEAR). Batteries continued to train hard throughout the summer to certify to 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command gunnery standards. Following SPEAR, 1-62nd ADA provided critical support to the 11th Brigade mission rehearsal exercise, setting the stage for cooperation during the follow-on deployment in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR).

In August, the *Aim High Battalion* used seven months of tactical training in a final mission rehearsal exercise (MRE). Throughout

this exercise, 1-62nd ADA demonstrated its expertise and preparedness for the upcoming deployment. The overall result of this exercise demonstrated to 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade that 1-62nd ADA was fully capable to execute its assigned deployment mission.

Soldiers in 1-62 ADA recovered from the MRE and immediately began equipment movement operations for vessel and strategic airlift deployment to the CENTCOM AOR. On Oct. 31, the *Aim High Battalion* cased its colors for deployment to Kuwait. Lt. Col. Ayodele Lawson and Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez thanked all families and friends of the 1-62nd ADA for their unwavering support, enabling the success of the battalion.

### **4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, Renegades**

In January of 2017, the *Renegade Battalion* conducted a final field training exercise prior to their deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) which resulted in all crews in the battalion becoming Gunnery Table VIII certified. The next month, the *Renegades* finished all preparations for their transition to a new mission, to conduct theater air and missile defense operations and deter enemy attacks against all assigned assets across Kuwait. At the end of February, the *Renegade Battalion* conducted their colors casing ceremony, said farewell to their families, and departed from Robert Grey Army Airfield to their new home for the next nine months.

In March of 2017, the battalion arrived in the CENTCOM AOR and began their three week relief in place transition with 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery. Later that month, the *Renegades* completed the certification of all engagement control stations, battery command posts, and information coordination central crews, the transfer of authority and assumed the role of the *Knockdown Battalion*. The battalion immediately began re-evaluating all processes from their predecessors to ensure they were completing the mission as efficiently as possible.

While forward deployed, the *Renegade Battalion* was given three priorities by the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Karen Rutka, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Brazill. Priority No. 1: Warfighting readiness: Maintain the highest levels of crew proficiency, combat readiness and tactical proficiency. Priority No. 2 Maintenance/logistics readiness: Maintain over a 90 percent operational readiness rate, conduct a thorough preventative maintenance service plan and be good stewards of tax-payer dollars by executing strict Command Supply Discipline Programs. Priority No. 3 Soldier/family readiness: Encourage and empower all Soldiers to continue their professional military education (PME), conduct risk management/mitigation during all operations, and execute constant communication with the battalion rear detachment.

The *Renegade Battalion* was active in numerous joint, combined and multi-echelon exercises while deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The battalion's added emphasis on building relations with their Kuwaiti Air Defence Force partners proved to be invaluable. The *Renegades'* strong relationship with their KADF partners enabled a greater shared tactical understanding and paved the way for all future operations. In June, select leaders from the *Renegade Battalion* were chosen to participate in a war-gaming exercise to rehearse and validate the current battalion, brigade, and division operation plans.

Throughout the deployment, the *Renegades* have consistently had the highest Army Physical Fitness Test average in the brigade. Additionally, five noncommissioned officers graduated from the



Patriot Master Gunner Course, the battalion participated in four air and missile defense and joint air defense exercises, and implemented microwave line of site into the communications plan. With the final few months of the deployment nearing, the battalion began refocusing its mission toward redeployment and equipment reset. The battalion is transitioning from the mission module to the prepare module of the Army Sustainable Readiness Model in order to sustain combat power and remain prepared for all future operations.

## 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Spartans

The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Spartans*, Fort Bragg, N.C., deployed in January to serve as the *Top Notch* brigade in support of U.S. Army Forces, and U.S. Central Command operations in Southwest Asia. The brigade split operations between CENTCOM and Fort Bragg while conducting missile defense of five different countries in the area of operations.

While deployed, the brigade participated in a regional air and missile defense exercise, joint air defense exercise, and multiple transition to war exercises with its subordinate battalions. This tested preparedness and the units' capability to transition to an active warfighting state. The brigade conducted two Top Notch Best Warrior Competitions drawing from the forward battalions which highlighted the achievements of the deployed Soldiers. The brigade also hosted a Patriot Master Gunner Course at its forward facilities.

During this time the brigade oversaw the redeployment of 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and the deployment of the 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, to the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

The brigade redeployed in October after transferring authority to 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

108th ADA Brigade Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/108thADA/>

*Col. Joseph McCallion Jr. addresses the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, inside of a hanger on Pope Airfield, Fort Bragg, N.C. This was moments before they boarded a plane to begin their nine-month deployment to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Jan. 19, 2017. (Courtesy photo)*



## 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, began the year in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Southwest Asia.

The battalion completed their operational readiness exercise in May. In August, the battalion deployed to replace 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Currently the battalion is divided between three countries in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, where they are responsible for providing ballistic missile defense for critical U.S. and allied assets.

1-7th ADA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/17ADABN/>

## 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Skystrikers

Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, spent the majority of the year overseas in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The battalion was divided between three countries in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. They were responsible for providing ballistic missile defense support for critical U.S. and allied assets.

While deployed to CENTCOM, the battalion participated in Joint Air Defense Exercise 17-01, Air and Missile Defense Exercise 17-1, and two ballistic missile defense exercises. While deployed, each Patriot battery (B, C and D) and the two information coordination central Soldiers conducted and passed Table VIII certifications amidst numerous mission readiness exercises. During the deployment, 3-4th ADA achieved the highest evaluation scores among three other battalions.

The battalion redeployed to Fort Bragg, N.C., in September, where they are preparing for the next mission.

While the battalion was away, E Battery, 3-4th ADAR, the Army's only airborne air defense unit, carried on missions at Fort Bragg, conducting a Table VIII Avenger live-fire exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in January and a Table X live-fire with Avengers and Stinger missiles in June.

E Battery used its unique capabilities to provide support to multiple components throughout the year. One platoon supported

*A Soldier in 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conducts preventative maintenance checks and services on a vehicle during a deployment readiness exercise held at Fort Bragg, N.C., Jan. 22, 2017. (Staff Sgt. John Healy/ HHB 108th ADA BDE)*







*A paratrooper, 82nd Airborne Division, conducts a nighttime jump into Grant County International Airport, Wash., in support of Exercise Mobility Guardian Aug. 3, 2017. (Staff Sgt. Kyle Brasier/ U.S. Air Force)*

1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, during Raider Focus, a brigade field training exercise from April to May. Another platoon supported the 1st SBCT, 4th ID, during National Training Center Rotation 17-07.5 from June to July. A platoon supported 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, as part of Task Force Red Devil during Exercise Mobility Guardian held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. There they conducted planning with the battalion and a joint forcible entry operation to seize Grant County International Airport in Moses Lake, Wash., by parachute assault in August. A platoon deployed to Fort Polk, La., to support 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, during Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-01 in September. And a platoon deployed to Yuma, Ariz., to support the United States Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-18, integrating with B Battery, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion (USMC SHORAD) in September.

Notably, five Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from E/3-4th ADA, supported the Maneuver Fires Experiment 2017 at Fort Sill, Okla., in March to test emerging air defense weapons, including a high-energy laser.

3-4th ADAR Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/3rd-Battalion-Airborne-4th-Air-Defense-Artillery-Regiment-338507583970/>

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

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command 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 units' mission is to provide joint and combined theater air and missile defense in order to meet operations plans (OPLAN) requirements and support the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific area operation.

The 94th AAMDC is integral to joint and combined air and missile defense in the Pacific theater of operations. The year 2017 was productive and busy for the command. North Korea continued to prove itself as one of the greatest security threats in the Asia-Pacific region by testing nuclear weapons and launching multiple ballistic missiles, including the first successful launch from a submarine. In response to these provocations, the 94th AAMDC developed and executed an accelerated deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to the Republic of Korea, which became operational in May 2017. The operation spearheaded the command's efforts to update the Area Air Defense Plan for the Korean theater of operations.

The *Sea Dragons* continue to strengthen Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capabilities throughout the Pacific region by participating in multiple bilateral, trilateral and joint training exercises including: Keen Edge, Key Resolve, Pacific Sentry/Talisman Saber, Virtual Flag and Ulchi Freedom Guardian. During last year's Key Resolve exercise, Soldiers from the 94th AAMDC headquarters deployed to the Republic of Korea where the unit's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Sean Gainey, served as the deputy area air defense commander (DAADC). As the DAADC, Gainey is the primary advisor for the Pacific Air Force and the 7th Air Force



*Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command work on their equipment. (Courtesy photo)*

in support of the Area Air Defense Plan and facilitates coordination, communication and operations with all IAMD within the Pacific Region. The exercise allowed the command to work closely with their Korean partners refining their tactics, techniques and procedures.

The 94th AAMDC commander also serves as the senior air defense commander (SADC), and the theater Army air and missile defense coordinator (TAAMDC) for joint and combined operations.

In his role as the SADC, he provides mission command to all forward deployed Army AMD 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 also maintains mission command elements at Osan Air Base, Korea and Yokota Air Base, Japan. These small elements facilitate planning and execution of joint and combined air and missile defense operations with the 7th Air Force, Eighth Army, United States Forces Korea/Combined Forces Command and the Republic of Korea Air and Missile Defense 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, our forward stationed missile defense units in the Pacific theater continues to participate in regional and theater-level exercises, building partnership capacity with allies and partners in order to remain the *First Line of Defense* against an ever-increasing ballistic missile threat in the region. 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 our combat mission at any time.

Unit Webpage: [www.army.mil/94thAAMDC](http://www.army.mil/94thAAMDC)

Unit Facebook: [www.facebook.com/94thaamdc](https://www.facebook.com/94thaamdc)

Unit Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/94thaamdc/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/94thaamdc/)

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

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 2017, 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, Japan. On two separate occasions, the battalion mobilized and deployed a Patriot Missile System battery to the Korean theater of operation. The dedicated Soldiers of A and B Batteries, 1-1st ADA proved the battalion could successfully conduct an emergency deployment and serve as a U.S. Pacific Command flexible deterrent option. In addition to exercising our force projection capabilities, the battalion's alert batteries, C Battery, 1-1st ADA and D Battery, 1-1st ADA, 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 Missile Systems 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 1-1st ADA continues to strengthen combined and joint military relationships in Japan. The battalion maintains bi-lateral 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 the Type 3 Medium Range Surface to Air Missile or Chu-SAM weapons systems. Simultaneously, joint partnerships continue to build with the 18th Wing at Kadena Airbase. With the help of 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command'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-3rd 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 (SEABEES) to enhance protection and site improvements for 1-1st ADA's Patriot batteries. A joint effort between the United States Navy, Army and Marines for a new Patriot Missile System site has been initiated on Marine Corp Air Station Futenma that greatly improves the defense coverage of Okinawa. The unit was also aided by effort from 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, United States Army Reserve, who provided additional maintenance aid for services and equipment.

The *Snake Eyes Battalion* also supported the combined and joint

*Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conduct missile reload operations. (Courtesy photo)*





team in Okinawa by participating in several training exercises to demonstrate strength in the Pacific theater. Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) defense Soldiers from 1-1st ADA were able to partner with the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron and 18th Medical Group of the U.S. Air Force as well as the 15th Nuclear, Biological Chemical Unit of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force in a joint-bilateral CBRN exchange. First-1st ADA was also able to partner with the 5th ADMG and 15th AAR in a bilateral air-load exercise involving equipment from all three units being loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III.

*Snake Eyes* Soldiers also received recognition for their hard work and dedication to mission accomplishment. Spc. Christopher Turchio was recognized as the 94th AAMDC Soldier of the Year, and the battalion's best engagement control station, launcher and battery command post crews were recognized at the annual Missile Defender of the Year banquet hosted by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance.

As the *Snake Eyes Battalion* looks forward to 2018, it will remain focused on its strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense* continuing its mission as ambassadors to Japanese counterparts, and extending the battalion's expeditionary capabilities to new reaches in the Pacific.

Unit Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1.1AirDefenseArtillery/>

### **Task Force Talon**

Task Force Talon is located at Andersen Air Force Base in the United States territory of Guam. The task force is comprised of permanently stationed personnel from E Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment and rotational Soldiers from 307th Expeditionary Signal and 728th Military Police Battalions. Established in 2013, TF Talon is the U.S. Army's first, forward stationed, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit, with a mission to deter and neutralize ballistic missile threats to Guam in order to support U.S. Pacific Command regional homeland defense and strategic objectives.

In 2017, TF Talon remained trained and prepared to execute its wartime mission while playing a key role in the Pacific theater assurance and deterrence campaign. TF Talon conducted intensive crew drills, air defense gunnery table qualifications, multi-day air battles, typhoon preparedness march-order and emplacement drills, and force protection exercises to maintain a high level of readiness. Additional training focused on joint integration with the 36th Wing during its annual Operational Readiness Exercise on Andersen AFB. The task force facilitated joint training objectives by incorporating simulated ballistic missile threats, early warning, reporting procedures and chemical weapons attacks during simulated wartime scenarios. Finally, TF Talon supported the establishment of THAAD capability on the Korean peninsula by providing equipment and trained crews to expand the regional ballistic missile defense (BMD).

Throughout the year, readiness remained at the forefront for TF Talon. E/3rd ADAR sustained *Fight Tonight* readiness through participation in various battle readiness exercises with Pacific Fleet and 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC). These efforts culminated during a heightened posture that allowed the unit to synchronize and facilitate BMD efforts in support of Guam Homeland Defense. E Battery, 3rd ADAR THAAD will continue to demonstrate their ability to execute integrated air and missile defense operations with various services in order to maintain their high level of readiness.



*A Task Force Talon Soldier inspects the unit's equipment. (Courtesy photo)*

Informing national and partner-nation senior leaders regarding the strategic role of THAAD and the BMD system is a critical part of TF Talon's mission. Notable distinguished visitors over the past year included Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations and Environment) Lucian Niemeyer, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James McConville, Deputy Commanding General of Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Forces Command Gen. Kim Byung Joo, and several members of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees and their staff. These visits highlighted the strategic importance of Guam and set the conditions for permanency support, THAAD capabilities and the high degree of readiness demonstrated by the task force's team.

In August 2017, TF Talon initiated permanency planning in support of THAAD's enduring mission set on Guam. To shape this effort, TF Talon hosted the initial area development plan symposium with key stakeholders from 36th Wing, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Stations, 130th Engineer Brigade, 58th Military Police Company, THAAD Program Office, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, 94th AAMDC and other various agency representatives. This session allowed the task force command team and staff to introduce critical permanency requirements and synchronize future construction efforts. This will set the foundation for the upcoming site improvement process led by TF Talon and NAVFAC to identify a prioritized project list, site designs, overall cost estimates and future glide path to site permanency.

Despite a high operational tempo, TF Talon continues to build a strong relationship with communities on Guam through support to local schools, island celebrations and other projects. This year, TF Talon Soldiers partnered with Machananao Elementary School, to establish a physical education program which provided physical conditioning and nutrition training to students (kindergarten through fifth grade). This allowed students to interact with Soldiers and understand the importance of staying fit and healthy. TF Talon Soldiers proudly marched in the 2017 Guam Liberation Day Parade honoring the end of Japanese occupation during World War II. The unit contributed over 200 hours to local United Service Chapters, the Guam Island Beautification Program, and the Dededo Village Saint Barbara's Festival.

In the upcoming year, the task force will continue to hone its technical skills and maintain wartime readiness. THAAD advanced capabilities continue to play a pivotal role in strategic ef-



forts to protect national interests, assure coalition partners and deter adversaries within the USPACOM theater. The Soldiers of TF Talon remain ready to meet the threats of today and postured to prevail in the future for the defense of Guam.

*Stands Ready!*

Unit Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TaskForceTalon-94thAAMDC/>

Unit Website: <http://www.andersen.af.mil/TaskForceTalon/>

### **10th Missile Defense Battery, *Samurai***

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.

Soldiers of the 10th MDB conduct robust community relations operations in Shariki, Japan. In the past year, the battery has participated in over 50 local festivals and events. They 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 citizens.

On Sept. 14, the battery took another step forward in solidifying the United States relationship with the Japanese forces by conducting their first bi-lateral female mentorship event. Soldiers, contractors and family members of SCS gathered with Japanese Air Self Defense Force airmen and local police officers for an innovative program within the Japanese community. The women met for an icebreaker lunch, allowing everyone an opportunity to meet their counterparts before they attended an instructional course on the traditional wear of a yukata, the summer kimono.

*Soldiers from the 10th Missile Defense Battery stand in formation. (Courtesy photo)*



The following month the women of Shariki welcomed Col. Juanita Clarke, the U.S. Army Japan G4, as their guest for an official discussion on mentorship and career progression. Clarke was a phenomenal speaker and found ways to relate her message to each individual in the room, regardless of their profession, age or background. Her participation in the event made a huge impact on the small population of women in the Shariki area as the two cultures collided in shared experiences, and learned about new challenges that each face. The program includes personnel from both sides to coordinate and plan events that incorporate cultural lessons, defining discussions and influential guest speakers.

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/](http://www.facebook.com/10thMDBSharikiCommunicationsSite/)

### **14th Missile Defense Battery, *Hayabusa***

The 14th Missile Defense Battery provides long-range detection, tracking, classification and discrimination for the engagement of strategic and theater ballistic missile threats in support of the U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility and United States homeland defense. The unit was activated Oct. 22, 2014, and is located at the Kyogamisaki Communications Site in Kyogamisaki, Japan. It falls under the operational control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

Soldiers in 14th MDB successfully tracked and processed all ballistic missile launches originating in North Korea with aid through the sensor manager cell, based in Hawaii, feeding data to the 100th Missile Defense Brigade and cueing various radar sensors throughout U.S. Army Strategic Command and PACOM to provide early warning of theater and strategic missile threats to the Pacific area of operations and the United States homeland.

The Kyogamisaki Communications Site is leading the effort to update the Command and Control Battle Management and Communications architecture through the integration of Spiral 8.2 software to the system in this period.

Soldiers in 14th MDB hosted distinguished visitors from various U.S. and Japanese governments and military organizations throughout the year. Those visitors included Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy, Maj. Gen James Pasquerette, Maj. Gen Shigeki Nakahara, Adm. Satoshi Kikuchi, Brig. Gen Sean Gainey, Consulate Gen. Greenberg, Kinki-Chubu and Defense Bureau Director Gen. Makoto Fujishiro, among many others. The battery provided information about site operations and developments. The battery worked to develop a guard and protect plan for site defense in contingency operations with Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces in addition to moving range operations to a nearby Japanese facility.

Since 14th MDB's activation within the Kyoto Prefecture, winning the hearts and minds of the people has been the unit's secondary mission by integrating with the local populous. Developing relations on a remote location can be challenging. Building trust, overcoming language barriers and showing care for the people have been goals *Hayabusa Battery* has achieved. Community involvement has also helped earn the respect and build comradery between 14th MDB and the Japanese people. Activities included aiding in the cleanup of beaches; participating in monthly sporting events with the Japanese Air Self Defense Forces; and hosting seasonal events to celebrate American holidays with the aid of the city government, Kinki-Chubu Defense Bureau, Ministry of De-



*Soldiers from the 14th Missile Defense Battery run in formation during physical training. (Courtesy photo)*

fense and Government of Japan. Through humanitarian efforts and active involvement within the community and collaborating with various military and government agencies, 14th MDB has taken part in more than 150 community outreach events.

In 14th MDB's short history in Kyogamisaki, the unit has overcome many challenges and has grown a positive reputation in this region of Japan. By supporting the areas of responsibility and developing deep relationships with the local communities, more great things are to follow in the coming years. *Eyes to the Sky!*

Unit Facebook: [www.facebook.com/14MDB](http://www.facebook.com/14MDB)

## **30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Heart of the Branch**

Beginning in April 2017, the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade launched the Maneuver-Stinger Team training course in support of U.S. Army Forces Command requirements for the integration of Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems. Transformational change was undertaken in the 140E, Air and Missile Defense systems Tactician/Technician Course with the split to 140 K/L which will allow for a higher degree of specialization between tactical and technical functions.

Air defense strategic relationships between the U.S. and its' allies were strengthened and expanded this year, facilitated in large part by the brigade's foreign military training efforts. Training requirements were established for three new Patriot missile system partners: Poland, Romania and Sweden. This codification of training requirements opens the door for an increased level of partnership, and will ultimately provide increased coverage for NATO allies from airborne threats within European Command. Initial efforts to facilitate allied involvement in the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense program were undertaken this year with Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Japan paving the way for elevated partnership capacities.

The brigade continued to serve as a community leader with a variety of outreach efforts being undertaken this year, hosting both the Lawton/Fort Sill, Okla., Special Olympics and first annual Quarry Challenge in conjunction with a new co-op program partner, Dolese Bros. Co. Additionally, the brigade continued ongoing volunteer efforts with the Lawton/Fort Sill Veterans Center, Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Day Parade, and Army Partnership with Local Schools program.

## **35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Dragon Brigade**

The 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Dragon Brigade*, increased lethality and capability to outpace adversary threats on the Korean Peninsula throughout 2017. A year highlighted by transformation, the brigade executed the largest Patriot modernization project ever conducted outside the continental U.S., realigned the brigade's only Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) battery and integrated the first Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system into the layered ballistic missile defense structure in the Republic of Korea.

The first two of four THAAD launchers arrived on the Korean Peninsula in March, and Soldiers from D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, out of Fort Bliss, Texas, quickly achieved initial operating capability at a remote site near Camp Carroll, South Korea. Over the ensuing months, additional U.S. units, coupled with ROK forces, were collocated with D/2nd ADA in order to provide support and security of the launchers. The totality of the forces resulted in the creation of Combined Task Force Defender, the moniker to symbolize the sole THAAD battery and supporting elements in South Korea.

Both the *Guardian* and *Ironhorse Battalions* played a critical role in the reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSO&I) of the THAAD system, ultimately ensuring the success of the new capability in the Korean theater of operations. Since the arrival of the THAAD system, the brigade at large has supported three large-scale logistical movements. The first provided D/2nd ADA with the equipment needed for initial operating capability. The second provided the battery with equipment for full operating capability, and the third movement transported equipment to improve the site infrastructure, site defense and the overall quality of life for the Soldiers.

The *Dragon Brigade* now employs the most advanced technology within the branch after overhauling the entire Patriot fleet. Improvements include: Post Deployment Build 8.0 technology, software to operate new radar circuitry, upgrades to increase wide band search sensitivity, flat panel monitors with touch screen technology, built-in test equipment, and the replacement of many legacy hardware systems with smaller more capable units. The Patriot

*A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense launching station from the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade arrives at Osan Air Base, South Korea March 6, 2017 as part of an alliance decision to bolster ballistic missile defense throughout the peninsula. (Capt. Jonathon Daniell/U.S. Army)*





modernization cements the *Dragon Brigade* as the most advanced and lethal brigade within the ADA community.

The brigade implemented an internal Electronic Power Plant (EPP) rebuild program with U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command to refit the Patriot 150k generators located on the peninsula. The emphasis behind the partnership is to increase readiness by reducing unavailability time. The U.S. Army Central area of operation is the only other established remote EPP rebuild program for ADA outfits.

In addition to participating in two peninsula-wide training exercises annually, Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian, the brigade leveraged the Air Force-centric training exercise, Vigilant Ace, to validate multiple essential tasks. First, the brigade staff ran full operations to battle-track subordinate units as they occupied contingency locations and conducted certification tables. Second, from the battery to the brigade, the crews and staff tested the network architecture by linking into the joint kill chain both vertically and horizontally.

The brigade staff conducted site surveys of their wartime fighting locations around South Korea and created battle books to support contingency operations in the event additional forces are deployed to the region. The creation of the books, coupled with updating the brigade RSO&I plan, ensures 35th ADA Brigade stands prepared for any potential conflict.

The brigade headquarters hosted multiple troop qualification courses to ensure the most deserving candidates represented the brigade at their respected school or competition. The rigorous training events netted overwhelming results as Soldiers throughout the brigade earned the Expert Field Medical Badge, the Air Assault Badge and represented Eighth Army at the U.S. Army Pacific Command Best Warrior competition.

Finally, Col. Rick Wright assumed command of 35th ADA Brigade from Col. Mark Holler in a change of command ceremony June 9, and Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfredo Suarez assumed responsibility of the brigade from Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray Dec. 19, both at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

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

Throughout 2017, the *Ironhorse Battalion* continued to raise the collective bar in every aspect of their mission. They executed the realignment of the sole Avenger/Sentinel battery on peninsula, strengthened the alliance through joint training exercises, demonstrated the highest levels of Patriot readiness, sustained perishable Soldier skills, hosted countless VIP and media visits, and implemented a Korean immersion class to foster cultural understanding of South Korea.

After years of the brigade's only Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) unit being under the operational control of the 2nd Infantry Division, the *Ironhorse Battalion* welcomed E Battery back to their formation during a patching ceremony April 23 at Camp Carroll, South Korea. While the battery still maintains their SHORAD mission near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, they also integrated into Combined Task Force Defender and play a critical role in the brigade's Terminal High Altitude Area Defense mission. E Battery executed a flawless displacement from Camp Casey, South Korea, and relocation to Camp Carroll while simultaneously conducting an in-stride Avenger Table VIII certification exercise at Chulmae Range in order to certify for their security forces mission of the THAAD tactical site.

In an effort to enhance interoperability, E Battery partnered

with the Republic of Korea 516th Infantry Battalion for the first combined SHORAD training event on the Korean Peninsula. The field exercise allowed the Republic of Korea and U.S. troops to gain familiarity with each other's weapon systems and capabilities, and lay the foundation for an enduring relationship. The event culminated with oppositional forces conducting a simulated perimeter attack with ROK Special Forces and reconnaissance helicopters.

The *Ironhorse Battalion* conducted Patriot modernizations by upgrading to PDB8.0/PAC3+ while simultaneously maintaining *Fight Tonight* readiness. To support this effort, *Ironhorse* integrated B Battery, 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery from Okinawa, Japan, to maintain defended asset list coverage. While on peninsula, they were an added addition to the battalion and trained toward their Table XII goal.

Table VIII certifications remains the benchmark for achieving combat readiness for Patriot batteries, certifying beyond is rarely attempted due to the level of difficulty. However, for the first time since 2004, multiple Patriot batteries successfully completed Table XII certifications, demonstrating the units' dedication to their craft and rigorous training schedule. In order to achieve the coveted Table XII certification, batteries navigated a series of advanced air battles and conducted Patriot interceptor reload drills in a nuclear, biological, chemical environment.

Due to the high rate of personnel turnover in South Korea, the *Ironhorse Battalion* routinely works with combined and joint partners to preserve critical skills. Soldiers trained for a variety of missions, including joint air load training, sling load operations, aeromedical evacuation operations and noncombatant evacuation operations, all while maintaining Patriot crew excellence and weapon qualifications.

Ballistic missile defense remains paramount. Because of this, the current operational environment in the Pacific region continues to draw media interest from around the world. Throughout the course of the year, *Ironhorse* routinely welcomed media outlets from American news affiliates such as ABC, CBS and NBC, as well as international news outlets from Korea, France, Australia and Japan. They also served as the backdrop for a media press pool with the U.S. Pacific Command commander, U.S. Central Command commander, U.S. Forces Korea commander and deputy commander, U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Defense commander, and the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command commander, reinforcing the emphasis placed on ballistic missile defense on the Korean Peninsula.

Led by ROK Sgt. Maj. Byung-Joon Moon, *Ironhorse* Soldiers formed the Korean Language Group that cultivates cultural understanding through weekly immersion classes with ROK and U.S. Soldiers and local field trips. These events contribute to the selfless culture created by *Ironhorse*, which is often reflected in the large groups that participate in volunteer events that give back to the community.

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

The *Guardian Battalion* started 2017 with vigor, ready to dominate the mission at hand. The battalion moved forward and continued to maintain their *Fight Tonight* readiness through various means, to include the Post Deploy Build 8.0 upgrade and modernization of their entire Patriot inventory, crew certifications, field training exercises, and the implementation and integration of the first Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit on the Peninsula. The battalion also validated their noncombatant evacu-



1st Sgt. Learthur Williams, E Battery, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, removes the 2nd Infantry Division patch from Sgt. 1st Class Angel Cruz, Avenger platoon sergeant during a patching ceremony at Camp Carroll, Republic of Korea. (Staff Sgt. Monk M. Phan/ U.S. Army)

ation operations and devoted time to strengthening the Republic of Korea-U.S. partnership through combined training.

The *Guardian Battalion* became the first operational battalion in the U.S. Army to undergo the upgrade. In order to facilitate the Patriot modernization effort, the *Guardians* conducted a reception, staging, onward movement and integration of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, out of Okinawa, Japan. A/1-1st ADA supplemented the battalion's *Fight Tonight* mission by enabling the *Guardians'* Patriot equipment to undergo the modernization without reducing the battalion's capability. The battalion validated the upgrade by conducting multiple field training exercises and Air Defense Gunnery Table VIII certifications.

The *Guardians* capitalized on every opportunity to train Soldiers on additional mission essential tasks. This opportunity included managing and operating a landing zone within the battalion's consolidated motor pool, sling load training while delivering supplies to support the THAAD area of operation, concurrent low density training during live-fire ranges, and medical and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training in preparation for the Best Warrior and Missile Defender of the Year competitions.

The *Guardians* continue to lead the brigade's effort in supporting D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, the first THAAD unit in South Korea. They hosted the realignment ceremony for the battery on location, signifying the unit's hierarchical shift from

11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade to 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. The battalion also played a critical role in transforming the rolling hills of Seongju from manicured greens, to a remote tactical site capable of supporting military operations.

The *Guardian's* maintenance company demonstrated absolute pride in professionalism as they were recognized with the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence for all of U.S. Army Pacific. The distinction reinforces the *Guardian* way of absolute excellence in one's commodity area for the betterment of the organization.

As tensions continue to rise in the Pacific region, Eighth Army emphasized the need to conduct readiness exercises for family members and civilians that support the mission on the Peninsula. The *Guardians* participated in Courageous Channel, a peninsula-wide exercise that rehearses noncombatant evacuation operations for family members and Department of Defense civilians. The *Guardians* demonstrated their ability to successfully evacuate all family members during the week-long exercise as Soldiers from the battalion validated their roles in managing and tracking personnel throughout each phase of the operation.

Finally, Lt. Col. Geoffrey Cole assumed command of 2-1st ADA from Lt. Col. Tony Dedmond Jr. in a change of command ceremony June 23, and Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Wheeler assumed responsibility of the battalion from Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Woodley April 20, both at Camp Carroll, South Korea.





# US Army Active Duty Field Artillery

## First Army East, 188th Infantry Brigade

### 2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment

The 188th Infantry Brigade's, 2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment advises, assists, and trains Reserve Component units within the First Army East Southern Region of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. They conduct unified land operations during pre-mobilization training in order to provide ready forces to geographical combatant commanders.

Noncommissioned officers and officers of the 2-306th FAR from Fort Stewart, Ga., spent a week being instructed by the professionals of the 428th Field Artillery Brigade's Master Gunner Division. Field Artillery Automated Tactical Data Systems specialist-13Ds and the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) operations/fire direction specialists-13Ps received training designed to further their skills toward the merging of their military occupational specialties (MOS). In addition to refreshing their artillery skills in manual gunnery, the cannon crewmembers-13Bs received training on how to establish a battalion certification program, a maintenance block on all howitzer platforms, firing battery operations, and Gun Laying Positioning System or aiming circle hands-on training. The Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember-13M shadowed the master gunner instructors and covered how to establish a battalion certification program, firing battery operations, and the future of the MLRS platform. All MOSs received Digital Sustainment Training and were able to add topics to the training agenda as they identified a requirement due to atrophy of skills or lack of experience.

Personnel in 2-306th FAR kept busy supporting multiple individual drill training events, as well as annual training (AT) exercises, brigade warfighter exercises, and supported additional training events at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., by providing observer coach/trainers (OC/T). Some of the major training events supported were the ATs with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery during training at Camp Blanding, Fla., April 29 to May 13 where they conducted a live-fire exercise. The 3-116th FA is one of three HIMARS units that the 2-306th FAR provides general support training to. At the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team warfighter exercise July 22 to Aug. 2 at Fort Bragg, N.C., the 2-306th FAR not only supported 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery during the warfighter but also observed, coached and trained all fire support officers and NCOs throughout a planned 188th Infantry Brigade's maneuver battalions lanes operations.

Personnel from the 2nd Field Artillery Battalion, 306th Regiment, recently traveled to Fort Sill, Okla., to conduct a week-long training at the Master Gunners Course as part of the recertification process. The training ensured that all OC/T's were up to date on the latest tactics, techniques and procedures of core artillery skills with a sister active component (AC) unit, and to share knowledge gained from multiple trips observing our National Guard brethren. Upon returning from Fort Sill the OC/T recertification was further enhanced by conducting classroom training that covered after action reviews, lane building procedures, and safety opera-

tions which will be utilized during the upcoming December 2017 field exercises.

The *Red Dragon Battalion* will continue to remain relevant during the Fiscal Year 18 cycle by supporting all 12 assigned partner artillery battalions, nine of them being cannon battalions and three being HIMARS battalions. The *Red Dragon Battalion* is postured to maintain individual, collective training, equipment, and systems readiness. All members of the *Red Dragon Battalion* are trained and certified for their duties. The *Red Dragon Battalion* is postured in anticipation of a Fort Stewart Mobilization Force Generation Installation. Soldiers, civilians, and family members all enjoy a predictable and supportive battalion calendar.

## 1st Armored Division Artillery, Iron Steel

The 2017 year was an exceptionally busy one for 1st Armored Division Artillery, *Iron Steel*. *Redlegs* from the headquarters and all battalions executing Fires tasks during both training and contingency operations. In January the majority of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, *Gunner Battalion*, deployed to Afghanistan with 1st Brigade, 1st AD, *Ready First Brigade*, to provide direct support Fires and assume military advisory duties as a part of Train, Advise and Assist Command-East.

In February the DIVARTY staff participated in Warfighter Exercise 17-02 in preparation to assume Combined Joint Force Land Component Command Fires responsibilities in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). The *Defenders* from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery redeployed from U.S. Central Command in March, and completed individual and collective training through Table XII in preparation for their home station gated training, National Training Center (NTC) rotation, and U.S. Pacific Command deployment next year.

Col. Keith Jarolimek and Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Walls con-

*Maj. Gen. Pat White (left), 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Danny Day, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss senior enlisted advisor, case the division colors, June 14 at Fort Bliss, Texas. (Sgt. Von Marie Donato, 1st AD PAO)*



ducted a change of command and change of responsibility with Col. Andrew Rendon and Command Sgt. Maj. John Condliffe June 13, 2017. Immediately following the change of command, the DIVARTY headquarters deployed to Iraq as part of CJFLCC-OIR and provided Iraqi security forces joint Fires during their fight against Da'esh. The DIVARTY assumed modification table of organization and equipment responsibility for the division Sentinel platoon, and following a rapid certification process, the element deployed to conduct defense support to civil authorities operations in support of U.S. Northern Command from September to November.

Fourth Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, *Thunder Battalion*, completed a rigorous training strategy at Fort Bliss, Texas, in their first year back in U.S. Forces Command. Major training events included externally evaluated Table XVs for each battery, division artillery readiness tests, a Table XVIII, and brigade fire control exercise. Following NTC Rotation 17-08, the battalion deployed to Kuwait to provide joint Fires capability in support of CENTCOM.

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

The 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, *Hamilton's Own*, aggressively and professionally built readiness throughout 2017.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, *Team Destroyer* proudly served in both the 1st Infantry Division and the 2nd Infantry Division/Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division. Both divisions are in their 100th year of service to our nation. In October 2016 through June of 2017, the battalion sustained professional readiness during operations within the ROK/U.S. alliance and deterrence mission on the Korean Peninsula.

In January 2017, 1-5th FA along with the rest of the Devil Brigade Combat Team served as the first brigade-size element of the 1st Infantry Division to forward deploy and support operations in the Republic of Korea. The mission was to provide lethal, timely and accurate cannon Fires to deter aggression, and if deterrence failed, to *Fight and Win Tonight*. On the Peninsula, the Soldiers had many unique professional opportunities to develop and train with

the skilled ROK partners. This allowed 1-5th FA to focus on the fundamentals of Fires. The mission under the Counterfire Task Force of 210th Field Artillery Brigade provided unmatched training and leader development opportunities that shall last in the formation and Army for years to come.

While in Korea, 1-5th FA was commended for the target acquisition platoon's performance which set records for geographic reach across the Peninsula. Under 210th FAB, *Hamilton's Own* conducted three loading exercises (to include one no-notice exercise on New Year's Eve) and brigade-level rehearsals in which the unit was alerted and ordered to stand-to at their battle positions in the event of hostilities. First-5th FA stood ready to fight and win at a moment's notice had deterrence failed in the Republic of Korea.

During Operation Louisiana in March, 1-5th FA conducted Artillery Table XII certification, a first for rotational units in the Peninsula. This allowed the team to professionally develop in the toughest, most realistic training environment. Additionally Battery B conducted a partnership shoot with elements of a Republic of Korea field artillery battalion. In April, elements of the battalion participated in Operation Key Resolve, a multilateral exercise in which allied nations rehearsed a potential response to enemy aggression. Also, 1-5th FA supported the brigade's combined arms live-fire exercise in the vicinity of Pocheon, located just south of the demilitarized zone.

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!*

### **1st Cavalry Division Artillery, *Red Team***

Soldiers in 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, *Red Team*, successfully accomplished a broad range of operations in support of deploying brigades as well as joint and combined exercises in 2017. Collectively, these events provided excellent opportunities to build readiness across the force. With the division headquarters deployed

*A Romanian LAROM multiple rocket launcher fires in support of Saber Guardian 17 in Cincu, Romania, July, 2017. (Staff Sgt. Rachel M. Korzeniewski/South Dakota Army National Guard)*





in support of Operation Resolute Support, the *Red Team* focused its efforts directly on preparing brigades for global employment. At the start of the year, DIVARTY conducted Artillery Tables XV and XVIII and supported National Training Center Rotation 17-04 to prepare 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, *Black Jack*, to assume the Korea regionally aligned forces (RAF) mission. Shortly thereafter, DIVARTY shifted its focus to preparing the Fires team within the Air Cavalry Brigade for employment in support of the European RAF mission, conducting simultaneous evaluations in Fort Riley, Kan., Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Hood, Texas.

In the late summer through fall, DIVARTY again shifted its support to 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, *Iron Horse*, as they qualified the battalion and supported NTC 18-02 in anticipation of the brigade's European RAF deployment next year. The DIVARTY also deployed a fire support team to Fort Sill, in September to support 75th Field Artillery Brigade as they executed Artillery Table XVIII for their organic battalions. In October and November, DIVARTY supported 3rd Section, Field Artillery Squadron, *Steel Squadron*, 3rd Cavalry Regiment during Artillery Table XV with observer coach/trainers and tailored training to the squadron in preparation for their anticipated Operation Inherent Resolve mission.

While DIVARTY was an instrumental driver for the division's readiness, it also maintained an aggressive collective training strategy. The Soldiers participated in several joint and combined exercises to include multiple iterations at both Exercise Virtual Flag in support of United States Air Force air-ground integration at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., and Fleet Synthetic Training - Joint in partnership with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps out of San Diego, Calif., which focused on Fires integration in support of the maritime domain. These exercises provided an unparalleled opportunity to train and synchronize joint Fires, exercise mission command, and integrate targeting assets into joint operations in a constructive environment. They also prepared DIVARTY in advance of Exercise Saber Guardian 17, where the brigade deployed to Hungary and Romania as part of a 22-nation training exercise conducted across the Black Sea region. DIVARTY served as a force field artillery headquarters, massing combined elements from six separate artillery battalions. Working closely with the 8th LAROM Brigade (Romanian Army), they successfully integrated Romanian counterparts into a combined tactical operations center. Over the course of the fire control exercise and combined arms live-fire exercise, over 600 rockets and 1,100 155 mm rounds were fired and there were live engagements from both U.S. and Romanian fixed and rotary wing assets.

Overall, 2017 was a productive year for the DIVARTY, qualifying both the Fort Hood-based artillery battalions while participating in multiple CONUS and OCONUS combined exercises. In the year to come, *Red Team's* twofold focus will be on preparing for Warfighter Exercise 18-05 and a follow-on deployment.

1st Cavalry Division Artillery Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1stCavalryDivisionArtillery>

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

Upon returning from the Republic of Korea in fall 2016, the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Dragons*, initiated an accelerated training plan in order to meet key support gates for 1st



*Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, conduct battery fire missions during an Artillery Table XV exercise, July, 2017. (1st Lt Gabriel Jenko/U.S. Army)*

Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, *Ironhorse Brigade*. During the winter, Soldiers of the 1-82nd FAR conducted fire support and field artillery proficiency testing, small arms and crew served weapons ranges, and conducted Artillery Tables I-XII, and Fire Support Tables I-IV. During Artillery Table XII, the battalion successfully integrated rotary wing and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear resources. This facilitated a robust event at the platoon level prior to the execution of Artillery Table XV. The battalion successfully synchronized its training glide path to maximize support capacity for maneuver battalions over the course of multiple field exercises and simulated training events. The ability of the *Dragons* to successfully synchronize and resource training and ammunition during the first quarter resulted in the battalion firing over 5,500 rounds of 155 mm rounds over the course of the year.

In the spring, the *Dragons* completed Artillery Table XII and fired over 700 rounds for 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery; and 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, as they executed Gunnery Table XII. During the summer, the *Dragons* continued to support maneuver battalions through iterations of Gunnery Table XII while completing Artillery Table XV with observer controller-trainer oversight from 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. Summer concluded with the execution of Pegasus Forge. *Ironhorse* and the *Dragons* executed the 10-day combined training event that incorporated a command post exercise with dry/live phases and a 120-hour Artillery Table XVIII scenario. The battalion tested their ability to mass Fires, react to multiple enemy threats and conduct out-of-sector, emergency and degraded missions. The Soldiers expended over 900 rounds, providing timely and accurate Fires while maneuvering over the breadth and depth of the Fort Hood, Texas, training area.

In the fall, the 1-82nd FA deployed with 1-1st ABCT to the National Training Center as part of the 18-02 Rotation. The battalion executed a robust fire support plan with timely and accurate Fires, which fully tested its logistical support plan. The *Dragons* redeployed from NTC in mid-December and transitioned to opportunity leave in advance of their upcoming deployment in 2018.

1-82nd FAR Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1-82-Field-Artillery-134925853187218/>



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, execute a terrain-denial fire mission from their firing point in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq). (Courtesy photo)

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

Soldiers in 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Steel Dragons*, deployed into Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) combat operations in February 2017 in support of the anti-ISIS coalition offensive within Iraq. The *Steel Dragons* exercised distributed mission command with each battery deployed in separate firing locations throughout Iraq (seven Paladin sections, three fire direction centers, two Q53 Radar sections and one targeting cell) in support of Combined Joint Task Force-OIR. The battalion played an integral role in the success of the anti-ISIS coalition. They participated in Operation Nineva Falcon to liberate the cities of Mosul and Tall Afar from ISIS; Operation Valley Patriot which eliminated ISIS from the city of Hawija and surrounding villages; and Operation Desert Lion to provide Fires in support of Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Marines as they advanced along the Middle Euphrates River Valley. The battalion fired over 3,000 155 mm rounds in 923 fire missions in combat operations. These missions included approximately 200 Excalibur rounds and 300 Precision Guided Kit rounds. The battalion's Q-53 Radar section and counter-fire section processed over 2,100 enemy projectiles and enabled over 150 counter-fire missions.

The *Steel Dragons'* gated training strategy included Artillery Table V-VI certification exercises from March 26-30 in Kuwait, April 12-19 in Iraq, Aug. 5-6 in Kuwait, and Aug. 27 in Iraq. The battalion master gunner team validated OIR Paladin sections during combat operations in addition to Kuwait-based Paladin sections. The Soldiers executed over 15 separate live-fire events to support the maneuver battalions throughout the brigade combat team. They fired 3,000 rounds, which is more than twice what any previous Operation Spartan Shield direct support field artillery battalion previously fired. Platoons qualified prior to rotating to OIR and supported combat operations with realistic training to include chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive, small arms training and resiliency.

Second-82nd FA expertly conducted theater security cooperation focused on partnership with the Kuwaiti Land Field Artillery and the Kuwaiti Land Force Institute. The *Steel Dragons* demonstrated excellence with the deployment of the battalion commander and key FA leaders to Saudi Arabia during the KSA Fires Ex-

change to Southern Saudi Arabia to facilitate lessons learned and best practices for the Royal Saudi Land Forces Field Artillery units engaged in operations against the Houthi Rebels.

The *Steel Dragons* completed 2017 with the redeployment of the battalion to Fort Hood, Texas. The battalion is currently refitting and will begin its training cycle at the beginning of 2018 with Artillery Tables I-VI.

2-82nd FA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/282FA>

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

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, *Rolling Thunder*, completed Artillery Table XVIII and a brigade fire support coordination exercise in January 2017 and deployed with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to the National Training Center.

Following NTC, *Rolling Thunder* conducted Artillery Table VI and pre-deployment training in preparation for deployment to the Republic of Korea (ROK). In May and June, *Rolling Thunder* deployed to ROK with the *Black Jack Brigade* and joined 210th Field Artillery Brigade, *Thunder*, as part of the Counter Fire Task Force to support the armistice and deter North Korean aggression.

Following the relief in place/transfer of authority, *Rolling Thunder* continued to master the CFTF operational plan (OPLAN) and conducted leader reconnaissance of the terrain. Throughout the summer, 3-16th FA conducted small arms ranges and trained for Artillery Table I and the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test. The Soldiers also executed battalion and brigade-level load-out exercises to deploy howitzers, run fire direction centers and mission command nodes to go-to-war positions to simulate real-world deployment. In August, *Rolling Thunder* executed Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2017, a simulated execution of the CFTF OPLAN.

*Rolling Thunder* stayed busy in the fall, conducting battery-level Artillery Table VII-XI training, War Fighter Exercise 18-02 with *Black Jack Brigade*, a spur ride, and finished the fiscal year with Artillery Table XII. Soldiers in 3-16th FA executed a rigorous two-day evaluation lane for all six firing platoons, the medical platoon, the radar platoon and the distribution platoon from Forward Support Company.

While deployed, the *Rolling Thunder* Home Station Mission Command element continued to support the Fort Hood, Texas, Adopt-a-School program, ensured equipment readiness through the unit-maintained equipment program, processed individual replacements for deployment to ROK and worked with the battalion family readiness group to support *Rolling Thunder* families.

3-16th FA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/316FieldArtilleryRegiment/>

## 2nd Infantry Division Artillery

Soldiers from 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., tested their preparedness to rapidly deploy by executing an emergency deployment readiness exercise on JBLM, Oct. 16-18.

In the early hours of Oct. 16, Capt. Matthew Wagner, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DIVARTY commander, received an alert from his higher headquarters to prepare his unit to deploy. The unit mustered, conducted pre-deployment tasks and prepared key personnel and equipment for a deployment to a forward location.

The 2nd ID DIVARTY Soldiers were able to rapidly posture key personnel and equipment at McChord Airfield, with coordination





*Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, take part in the Joint Air Ground Integration Center training event Bold Quest, at Evans Air Field, Fort Stewart, Ga. (1st Lt Kelsey Cochran/HHB 3rd DIVARTY)*

and assistance from 7th Infantry Division Headquarters, and McChord Installation components. The JBLM Installation Transportation Division, Central Issuing Facility and Troop Holding Area, played an integral part, ensuring personnel and equipment were inspected and processed in a timely manner, which contributed to the success of the deployment exercise.

With assistance from the 62nd Airlift Wing, the 2nd ID DIVARTY team deployed to the Moses Lake Airfield located in Grant County, Wash. Once on ground, the DIVARTY team established its mission command systems and executed critical force field artillery tasks.

Col. Stephen Snelson, the 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander emphasized the importance of this joint training because it allows crews to conduct loading inspections and aerial maneuvers with a real combat load of personnel and their equipment.

This exercise marks the second time the DIVARTY conducted a no-notice deployment readiness exercise in the last 12 months and is a critical part of the unit's preparations to support operations in Korea as part of 2nd Infantry Division.

## 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, *Marne Thunder*

Over the past year, the *Redlegs* from 3rd Infantry Division Artillery continued to refine the Fires warfighting function within the division. In April, the DIVARTY dominated the battlespace of Warfighter Exercise 17-04 with a successful Fires effort.

Through October, DIVARTY facilitated Bold Quest, a joint/multinational digital demonstration with over 20 partner nations. DIVARTY interacted with the French, Norwegians, Australians, Canadians and British forces, connecting their digital systems with U.S. systems. The DIVARTY team built a joint air ground integration center with multinational partners and successfully improved air and ground clearance of fire.

Reprioritizing focus in the third and fourth quarters of 2017, DIVARTY certified/qualified 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery through Artillery Table XVIII in preparation for National Training Center rotations 17-05 and 18-01. DIVARTY leaders also assisted in the certification/qualification of Task Force 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Artillery battery through Artillery Tables XII and XV while

simultaneously assisting 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Georgia Army National Guard, and 1st Battalion, 112th Field Artillery during their eXploitable Combat Training Center rotation at Fort Stewart, Ga.

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

This year, *Redlegs* from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, *Battlekings*, marked the start of their conversion from a composite 105 mm/155 mm artillery battalion to a M109A6 155 mm self-propelled battalion in support of 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division conversion. Prior to the transfer of howitzers to 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, the batteries maintained section and platoon readiness by completing their final composite Table VI and XII's in March and April of 2017.

In April, the *Battleking Battalion* supported National Training Center Rotation 17-05 (in support of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and sister battalion 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery) with observer controller/trainer augmentees. B Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery and battalion fire support personnel served as the artillery and fire support team opposing force (OPFOR) for 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, allowing unique insight to the world of OPFOR in a decisive action training environment. Simultaneously, the *Battlekings* executed Warfighter Exercise 17-04 at Fort Hood, Texas, with over 50 personnel in support of 3rd ID and 3rd ID DIVARTY.

The *Battlekings* participated in eXportable Combat Training Capability 17-04 at Fort Stewart, Ga., with 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery, of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Georgia Army National Guard, in order to prepare their organization for an upcoming Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in the summer of 2018. This marked the first successful execution of the Associated Unit Program with 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team participating in brigade-level training led by an active-duty division.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BattlekingsFA>

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

Sounds of *Glory* continue to boom throughout the coastal empire of Georgia. The artillerymen and women of 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, consistently demonstrated their effectiveness in executing and maneuvering fire support elements for the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team in Fort Stewart, Ga. In February, the *Glory's Guns Battalion* certified crews and weapon system in preparation for a National Training Center rotation in April. During Rotation 17-05, 1-41st FA shot approximately 850 rounds in three days of live-fire training. Upon return, the Soldiers' summer vacation included maintenance, small arm ranges and forward observer certification. Momentum was the motivator; in August the battalion began Artillery Table certification. Artillery Table XVIII tested the battalion systems in mobilizing and directing batteries, executing fire missions, and communicating as a unified battalion.

In late August, combined arms live-fire exercises did not slow down the fight. During NTC Rotation 18-01, 1-41st FA exceeded the standard by shooting over 1,000 rounds during live-fire training. The *Glory's Guns Battalion* is retraining on skills tested at the NTC and building stronger relationships within 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team and preparing for the Pacific Command regionally aligned forces next year.

*Glory's Guns, Mission Accomplished!*

1-41st FA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Glorys-GunsBN/>





*Top: Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, fire an M119A2 during a unit field training exercise night live-fire. (1st Lt. Cristian Andrades, HHB 1-9th FA)*

*Bottom: Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery participate in Operation Glory Vulcan Inferno at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. (Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Goldstein/HHB, 1-41st FA)*







*Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, conduct a live-fire exercise with High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems at Yakima Training Center, Wash. The Soldiers fired their final qualifications before deploying in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. (Sgt. Jacob Kohrs/U.S. Army)*

## 17th Field Artillery Brigade, *Thunderbolt*

In 2017, the 17th Field Artillery Brigade continued to build sustainable readiness at echelon to deploy, fight and win decisively in any environment. With a “ready now” attitude, the *Thunderbolt Brigade* successfully accomplished many significant objectives. The brigade transitioned from the 7th Infantry Division and established a new mission command relationship attached to America’s I Corps. This was a time of transition as the brigade commander and two battalion commanders changed, as well as all the primary staff. Even so, *Thunderbolt* executed successful combined, joint training exercises while serving as both the I Corps’ Force Field Artillery Headquarters and Multi-Domain Task Force–Pilot Program Headquarters.

The brigade was focused in the beginning of the year on qualifying 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment in preparation for their deployment to the Central Command Region. Soldiers in 5-3rd FAR executed orders in April and redeployed at the end of December. While in the CENTCOM region, the firing batteries of 5-3rd FAR fired over 1,400 rounds in support of the fight against the Islamic State.

In June, the *Thunderbolt Brigade* said farewell to Col. Andrew Gainey and welcomed Col. Christopher Wendland as the new brigade commander. With the change of command, the brigade gained a new objective and received orders to serve as the lead

Pilot Program Headquarters to develop the Army’s futuristic multi-domain task force concept.

The 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment returned in July from Iraq and Afghanistan after completion of their mission to protect U.S. and allied forces from rocket and mortar attacks. In August, they cased their colors and finished their time on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. They moved to Fort Sill, Okla., in December and completed reintegration with their parent brigade.

Talisman Saber, a combined, joint exercise between the Australian Defense Forces and U.S. Forces across six locations throughout the Pacific, was conducted in July. The brigade sent a team to Hawaii to serve as the counter-fire headquarters in conjunction with 25th Infantry Division, who served as the force field artillery headquarters. During this time, the brigade started the validation process of the initial requirements for the multi domain task force-PP alongside Australian counterparts of Task Force Hamel.

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

During Warfighter Exercise 18-2, a routine exercise to enhance the interoperability between U.S. and ROK forces in October, the





*Marine Lance Cpl. Gregory Guseilarizo of 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division and Spc. Keia West of 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, watch together as a High-Mobility Rocket Artillery System fires during an exercise at Yakima Training Center, March 10, 2017. The 1-94th FA and 5-11th Marine Regiment conducted a long-range communication exercise to build a joint interoperability standard operational procedures for HIMARS units that fall under a joint force artillery headquarters. (Sgt. Jacob Kohrs/U.S. Army)*

brigade tested its ability to deploy as a headquarters. The brigade had not deployed as a whole since a 2011 deployment to Iraq. Over 180 personnel from the brigade supported the exercise in South Korea. The brigade met all training objectives and validated its ability to serve as a FFAH for I Corps.

The brigade closed the year supporting Yama Sakura 73, a U.S. Army Pacific joint, bilateral command-post exercise with partners in the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force. The brigade supported the exercise from both Japan and JBLM serving as both the I Corps Force FFAH and MDTF-PP headquarters. Yama Sakura 73 provided an opportunity for the brigade to integrate lethal and nonlethal enablers and served as a rehearsal for the planned live-fire exercise at Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2018 in Hawaii.

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

The *Deep Steel Battalion* became the standard bearer of High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) rapid infiltration (HIRAIN) excellence by conducting a myriad of exercises with 62nd Airlift Wing, based out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. This validated the battalion as well as 17th Field Artillery Brigade's ability to extend its operational reach with minimum signature in a dynamic and complex operational environment. This included a HIRAIN into Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., with live M28 Reduced

Range Practice Rockets loaded on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft during 62nd Airlift Wing's Rainier War Rapid Mobility Exercise. Launchers tactically unloaded the aircraft, moved to their firing points and delivered responsive Fires within minutes, testing several mission-critical systems interoperability, to include the Joint Precision Airdrop System and high frequency radio systems.

The *Deep Steel Redlegs* also conducted the HIMARS Leaders Course in May. This course was designed to inform the field artillery community and joint partners on HIMARS operations. The curriculum consists of battery/platoon operations, section certifications/qualifications, safety, as well as a division- and corps-level shaping operations overview. Field artillery Marines from 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, participated in this course and shared best practices and lessons learned from HIMARS operations. The battalion continued to train with 5-11th Marines by exercising long-range fire mission processing capabilities by transmitting high frequency fire missions from fire detection centers (FDCs) in Camp Pendleton, Calif., to FDCs deployed at Yakima Training Center, Wash.

Immediately following the HIMARS Leaders Course, the *Deep Steel Battalion* participated in 353rd Combat Training Squadron's Red Flag Alaska at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. This joint-level exercise provided realistic mission sets and promoted multi-service understanding of HIRAIN operations. Furthermore, the event



allowed 1-94th FAR to articulate unique capabilities and provide expertise to 353rd CTS' scenario design and development.

Keeping in line with the Army's sustainable readiness model, the *Deep Steel* team introduced a battalion-level training initiative referred to as the tactical readiness exercise (TRX). The TRX tested small unit leaders on hasty tactical leadership procedures, exercised their equipment use on short notice and enabled an expeditionary mindset across the force. A battery commander would receive a mission brief that required a small detachment of the formation to execute a short-notice mission. The detachment could be a light HIMARS package from a firing battery, the battalion fire direction center, or a radio retransmission team from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. Observer, coach-trainer coverage throughout facilitated a back brief/hot wash to the battalion commander at the end of the day, increasing the unit's mission essential task list proficiency.

Lastly, 1-94th FAR deployed to Camp Casey, Korea, in support of 17th Field Artillery Brigade as it served as I Corps Force Field Artillery Headquarters during Warfighter Exercise 18-02 in November. The exercise validated 1-94th FAR's mission command capability and prepared the battalion as a combat-ready organization, able to provide ready and lethal fire support in response to global contingencies.

1-94th FAR Facebook: [www.facebook.com/1stBattalion94thFieldArtilleryRegiment/](http://www.facebook.com/1stBattalion94thFieldArtilleryRegiment/)

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

In April 2017, the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, *First Round Battalion*, deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom-Spartan Shield (OEF-SS) and Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR).

Once deployed, the battalion assumed responsibility for four light High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) firing platoon firing unit locations in Syria and Iraq, and eight liaison team locations to facilitate sustainment operations. Additionally, *First Round* assumed theater security cooperation (TSC) responsibilities with Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. The battalion's overall area of operations spanned five countries and over 2,927 kilometers (1,818 miles) from the 5-3rd FA tactical operation center to the most distant position area for artillery. In total, the *First Round Battalion* managed these complex distributed operations with 344 Soldiers deployed throughout five countries.

*Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, fire High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a time on target exercise. (Courtesy photo)*

As the HIMARS artillery unit responsible for shaping the CJTF-OIR deep fight, the battalion coordinated and processed HIMARS Fires with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force and Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command strike cells. Likewise, the battalion conducted fire planning, provided weaponizing solution support and assisted in planning future light HIMARS package moves to support numerous transitions in operations against ISIS. Fifth-3rd FA elements supported CJTF-OIR from eight firing unit locations throughout the Syrian and Iraqi theaters of operation, collectively providing over 1,500 precision-guided munitions.

In support of OEF-SS, the battalion seamlessly integrated HIMARS and nested operations with multiple TSC major training events. Throughout this process, the *First Round Battalion* planned and participated in six multinational and bilateral TSC training exercises with their Emirati and Jordanian partners, exploring all facets of interoperability. Multi-national exercises included: Eager Lion (May 2017), Air and Missile Defense Exercise (June 2017), Desert Thunder (July 2017), Spartan Thunder (August 2017), Saif Strike (September 2017), Black Oryx (October 2017), and Golden Falcon (November 2017). The *First Round Battalion* also participated in multiple readiness exercises.

Fifth-3rd FA will redeploy from OIR/OEF-SS to Joint-Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., reintegrate and prepare for eventual transition to the Pacific Theater of Operations. The *First Round Battalion* will provide lethal strike Fires in support of 17th Field Artillery Brigade and I Corps.

5-3rd FA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/5thBN3rdFA/>

### **308th Brigade Support Battalion, Steel**

In 2017 the 308th Brigade Support Battalion continued to plan, coordinate, synchronize and facilitate sustainment to enable 17th Field Artillery Brigade to execute operations across the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility. The unit conducted numerous missions across two states, three countries and is ready now to fight and win in a complex environment.

In April, 308th BSB conducted a 96-hour platoon evaluation against a dynamic and complex hybrid threat that ended with the familiarization of Combat Escort Team Gunnery at the Yakima Training Center, Wash. The battalion then held their Sixth Annual Gunga-Din Challenge where Soldiers competed in physically demanding obstacles over the course of six hours.

In September, the battalion conducted a week-long tactical combat casualty care training event to certify teams on complex convoy





*Soldiers of the 308th Brigade Support Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Brigade lay down suppressive fire during a platoon training evaluation at Yakima Training Center, Wash., April 8, 2017. The battalion conducted evaluations on how well the Soldiers are being trained on their combat operation tasks. (Courtesy photo)*

scenario lanes against an opposing threat. Finally in October, the battalion staff conducted a two-week long tactical operation center exercise at the Mission Command Training Center that evaluated the staff's ability to conduct the military decision making process, develop brigade logistics synchronization and operations, and track operations across the battlespace.

In addition to routine training and operations, the *Steel Battalion* played a significant role in numerous operations across the brigade. The Soldiers supported 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery's redeployment from Operation Inherent Resolve and their property movement to Fort Sill, Okla. The unit also supported 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery's mission at Bayonet Focus in Yakima Training Center, Wash., and National Training Center Rotation 17-09 in Fort Irwin, Calif.

In December, The *Steel* supported 5-3rd FA's redeployment from Operation Inherent Resolve. Finally, the *Steel* supported the deployment and sustainment of personnel and equipment during combined joint training exercises Talisman Saber 17 in Hawaii, Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Warfighter Exercise 18-02 in South Korea, and Yama Sakura 73 in Japan.

*Pride in Performance!*

308th BSB Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/308bsb/>

## **18th Field Artillery Brigade, *Steel***

The 18th Field Artillery Brigade continued to provide lethal Fires in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inher-

ent Resolve while improving mission readiness levels as XVIII Airborne Corps' Force Field Artillery Headquarters and as an element of the global response force. This year marked significant changes in leadership at the brigade and battalion level. However, organizational, joint and coalition training continued without fail.

The *Steel Brigade* started the year with the *Thunderbolts* of 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment deployed in support of OSS and OIR. The battalion fired over 2,500 rockets in support of coalition forces setting conditions for the defeat of ISIS in both Mosul and Raqqa. Additionally, the battalion conducted theater security cooperation missions with Jordan and United Arab Emirates. In April, Soldiers of 3-321st FAR returned home from the unit's first deployment as a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion and quickly integrated into the brigade training glide-path.

While the *Thunderbolts* were deployed, the remainder of the brigade tackled an aggressive training strategy designed to increase overall readiness. In January, *Steel Eagles* of 188th Brigade Support Battalion conducted a defensive live-fire exercise, and *Red Lions* Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment challenged their Soldiers with a battalion-level Best of the Best Competition. Subsequently in March, 3-27th FAR completed their Table XVIII qualification. Following their post-deployment reintegration, 3-321st FAR's officers joined the rest of *Steel* leadership in Operation Omega Gold, a challenging leader professional development





*Soldiers from A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Field Artillery Brigade, launch rockets during a joint training exercise with the Jordanians on Oct. 24, 2016. The exercise was part of 3-321st FAR's mission while deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. (Sgt. Benjamin Parsons/18th Field Artillery Brigade)*

field training exercise (FTX) that involved Chinook insertion for platoon-level tactics, waterborne zodiac operations and culminated with a 10 kilometer road march. In July, both HIMARS battalions conducted battalion FTXs and Table XII live-fire qualifications with the support of 188th BSB. In August 188th BSB conducted convoy and defensive live-fire exercises and the brigade conducted a Best of the Best Competition identifying the top launcher, fire direction center, and ammunition and radar sections. The brigade returned to the field in October for battery external evaluations and Table XV qualifications.

Alongside numerous local training exercises throughout the year, 18th FA Brigade provided support across the globe to joint and coalition partners. In January, Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery participated as the FFAHQ for U.S. Army Europe during the Austere Challenge in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Third-27th FAR deployed a platoon (-) twice to Fort Polk, La., to support 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division for Joint Readiness Training Center rotations 17-03 and 18-01. Additionally, Soldiers of 3-27th FAR provided HIMARS rapid infiltration capabilities in support of Weapons School Integration at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Soldiers from HHB supported numerous warfighter exercises in Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and South Korea fulfilling various FFAHQ roles. In September, 3-27th FAR conducted an emergency deployment readiness exercise of one GRF platoon (-) to Daechon, South Korea, in 96 hours, validating HIMARS moving base alignments capability with guided Multiple

Launch Rocket System. *Steel Soldiers* traveled to Savannah, Ga., in October to participate in Operation Bold Quest, a joint staff-led exercise focused on Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System interoperability.

Regardless of personnel changes or new training venues, the Soldiers of the *Steel Brigade* remain tough, proud and disciplined; ready to answer our nation's call.

18th Field Artillery Brigade Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/18thfires>

### **3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Lions Rain**

The *Red Lions Battalion* spent the past year honing their field artillery skills, focusing on their core competency mission, and supporting multiple off-post training events. The battalion maintained a corps prepare to deploy order and global response force (GRF) mission sets. Headquarters, Headquarters Battery executed six off-post training exercises and supported multiple Joint Readiness Training Center rotations with liaison officers. Throughout the rigorous training schedule, the battalion maintained deployment readiness with a GRF platoon on 96-hour deployment notice.

In January, A Battery supported JRTC Rotation 17-03 by sending a platoon (-) to support 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. This provided the battery opportunities to integrate with maneuver brigades and operate in a general support role task organized under a division artillery headquarters. Throughout the



*Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, launch rockets from an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System at Daechon, Republic of Korea, Sept. 21, 2017. (Sgt. Ashley Marble/U.S. Army)*

remainder of second quarter, the battalion focused on individual warrior tasks and section level collective tasks to set the foundations for success with trained and disciplined Soldiers.

In March, the battalion completed Table XVIII qualifications with a battalion external evaluation to validate battalion mission essential tasks.

Throughout the summer, the battalion supported several off-post training events. B Battery supported Weapons School Integration 17A at Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nev. by integrating High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Fires with Air Force undergraduate joint terminal attack controller (JTACs) qualifications vulnerability exercises. A Battery participated in Operation Mobility Guardian, a joint multi-national exercise to rapidly deploy assets from across the globe in support of a joint forcible entry and airfield seizure by the 82nd Airborne. A Battery again deployed a platoon (-) to Fort Polk, La., to support 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division for JRTC Rotation 18-01, providing long-range rocket Fires in support of a maneuver brigade.

In September, B Battery displayed its readiness capabilities as it was alerted for a GRF mission. Within 96 hours, B Battery was alerted and conducted a no-notice deployment of one platoon (-) to Daechon, South Korea, providing South Korean and U.S. forces the ability to launch M31 GMLRS rockets and conduct successful moving base alignments.

October ended with another brigade field training exercise, focusing on Table XII qualifications and battery external evaluations. This training event showed the battalion's ability to control multi-echelon independent field artillery operations while providing seamless Fires capability.

In December, A Battery again supported the Weapons School Integration 17B, by conducting a moving base alignment and live-fire in support of Air Force JTAC undergraduates. This culminated a busy year of operations across the globe for the *Red Lions Battalion*.

3-27th FAR Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/327FAR/>

### **3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, Thunderbolts**

The 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment remained deployed to start 2017 and returned to immediately begin preparations to assume the global response force (GRF) mission. While deployed, the *Thunderbolts* provided over 2,500 precision Fires for

Operation Inherent Resolve in Syria and Iraq in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR). Additionally, the battalion supported Operation Spartan Shield in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Jordan through Theater Security Cooperation and multiple joint live-fire exercises with host nations. After conducting a relief in place and transfer of authority in April, the *Thunderbolts* redeployed to Fort Bragg, N.C. Since their return they focused efforts on reestablishing capabilities to rapidly deploy and sustain scalable High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) packages to support any contingency with precision Fires.

Third-321st FAR's headquarters; 583rd Forward Support Company; and B Battery, 3-321st FAR were postured at Camp Redleg, United Arab Emirates, supporting Operation Spartan Shield through theater security cooperation execution with Emirati forces. With the establishment of the Subject Matter Exchange Program in January, Emirati liaisons were embedded with B/3-321st FAR to exchange HIMARS tactics, techniques and procedures. In February a HIMARS crew from B/3-321st represented 18th Field Artillery Brigade at the International Defense Exposition, the largest military exhibition in the Middle East, in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The HIMARS section was one of only two U.S. Army units on display. B/3-321st FA also executed Operation Saif Strike in March, which included a joint live-fire exercise with the Emiratis. Soldiers in 583rd FSC maintained a liaison team at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to facilitate and coordinate movement of all equipment and personnel through the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR).

A Battery, 3-321st was headquartered at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, Jordan, supporting Operation Spartan Shield through theater security cooperation events with the Jordanian Army. During the deployment, A/3-321st executed Operation Desert Thunder II, an Artillery Table XII joint live-fire exercise with the Jordanian Field Artillery in March, and a joint marksmanship range.

The battalion also built and positioned multiple Light HIMARS Packages (LHPs) and liaison teams throughout the CENTCOM AOR to provide precision strike Fires for CJTF-OIR in Iraq and Syria. After demonstrating the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System M30A1 Alternative Warhead Rocket capabilities in the first

*U.S. and Emirati Soldiers conduct a joint M2 .50cal zero and qualification range in United Arab Emirates. This was the first M2 range that the U.S. and Emiratis conducted together as part of theater security cooperation efforts. (1st Lt. Jana Watson/U.S. Army)*







A CH-47 Chinook pilot conducts air assault operations with the 25th Infantry Division Artillery. (Courtesy photo)

OCONUS live-fire exercise in December 2016, the *Thunderbolt Battalion* was one of the first units to employ the round extensively in combat. By the end of the deployment, *Thunderbolt* LHPs were responsible for firing over 2,500 rockets against ISIS.

Upon return from deployment, the battalion immediately began to balance reset operations with preparations for its next mission. The battalion reestablished readiness through section then platoon certifications and live-fire exercises within 120 days after redeployment. Both launcher batteries qualified through Artillery Table XV in October. The battalion also sent a HIMARS section to represent the field artillery at the United States Military Academy's Branch Week in order to recruit future *Redlegs*. The *Thunderbolts* of the 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment stand ready for GRF assumption and future missions in 2018. *Thunderbolts*!

3-321 FAR Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ThunderboltBN/>

## 25th Division Artillery, *Tropic Thunder*

Over the last year, *Redlegs* from the *Tropic Thunder* 25th Division Artillery refined their gunnery skills while simultaneously training with partner nations to increase unit readiness and advance theatre security cooperation initiatives across the Pacific. The *Tropic Thunder* community began the year with a division fire support

(FiST) certification that prepared Soldiers and leaders for upcoming rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center and training exercises abroad. Following a successful FiST certification, the 25th DIVARTY quickly focused efforts toward 25th Infantry Division Warfighter. This afforded the *Tropic Thunder* an opportunity to attain the highest levels of training readiness, while also serving as a vehicle for junior leader development. The 25th DIVARTY's success at Warfighter 17-04 resulted from an aggressive training glide path that witnessed seamless integration of the 25th Combat Aviation, the DIVARTY Lethal Fires section, the Division Joint Air-Ground Integration Cell, and multiple sensor and collection assets in support of the division deep fight.

The 25th DIVARTY introduced the Precision Guidance Kit to its C batteries through a new equipment fielding which greatly increased the level of precision and effects afforded to the 25th Infantry Division. After a successful fielding, the 25th DIVARTY executed an emergency deployment readiness exercise (EDRE) in support of Operation Talisman Saber 17. Talisman Saber, a bilateral training exercise in Australia, saw the 25th DIVARTY serve as a force Fires headquarters (FFHQ) in support of the combined joint task force commander. This opportunity allowed the *Tropic Thunder* team to successfully alert, marshal and deploy aboard a C-17, exercising the integration of Fires into the Australian Defense





Soldiers from the 75th Field Artillery Brigade participate in a training exercise with United Arab Emirates artillery units. (Courtesy photo)

Force, and assisting United States Army Pacific with developing concepts for its Multi-Domain Battle Task Force pilot program.

The 25th DIVARTY quickly transitioned to Table XV battery and Table XVIII battalion external evaluations for the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery. The *Never Broken Battalion* deployed to the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawaii, both exercising its own EDRE programs and certifying its leaders from the section to battalion level.

The 25th DIVARTY served as the 25th Infantry Division's FFHQ during Ulchi Freedom Guardian 17 by deploying its tactical command post to the Republic of Korea (ROK). During UFG 17, the *Tropic Thunder* team integrated joint Fires in combined operations with U.S. and ROK forces, enhancing interoperability and building relationships. The 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery received gunners from the New Zealand Defense Forces in September to conduct a bilateral field artillery exercise. Operation Lightning Whaitiri allowed U.S. and Kiwi artillerists to conduct Table VI section and Table XII platoon gunnery qualifications. The *On Time Battalion* capitalized on this opportunity by extending its readiness and advancing partnerships. The *Tropic Thunder* team closed out a successful year of exercises and combined arms live Fires by establishing the Fires Control Element for 3rd Brigade Combat Team's home station culminating training exercise. Operation Lightning Forge allowed the 25th DIVARTY to control and mentor the Fires enterprise in preparation for JRTC Rotation 18-04.

The *Tropic Thunder* team reflects on the year having exercised expeditionary deployment at all levels, while refining its ability to shape for the *Tropic Lightning Division*. The 25th DIVARTY remains the "force of choice" to execute regional engagement in the Pacific and project Fires combat power anywhere in the world.

## 75th Field Artillery Brigade, Tough as Diamonds

Seventy-fifth Field Artillery Brigade, *Tough as Diamonds*, is operational on three continents and 11 countries around the world. The Soldiers are III Corps' all-weather, surface-to-surface, destruction weapon of choice between 30 and 330 kilometers. This cohesive team is highly skilled at providing accurate and timely strike, counter-fire and suppression of enemy air defense Fires in support of *America's Hammer* and various combatant commands. In August, approximately 65 percent of the brigade headquarters deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to provide Fires and enhance theater security cooperation in support of operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield.

75th FAB Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/75FABrigade/>

75th FAB Twitter: <https://twitter.com/75firesbrigade>

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

Morale remains high in 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery as *Deep Attack* continues to conduct missions in support of 210th Field Artillery Brigade at Camp Casey, in the Republic of Korea (ROK). *Deep Attack* hails from Fort Sill, Okla., where they are organic to 75th Field Artillery Brigade, and III Corps. Starting in March 2017, 2-4th FA executed an operational deployment to the ROK.

To prepare for the rotation, 2-4th FA certified on Artillery Tables I-XII at Fort Sill. *Deep Attack* was given two weeks to prepare for the external evaluation which included conducting recovery operations, receipt of the brigade operation order, completing the military decision making process and staging equipment for deployment.

*Deep Attack* began its evaluation April 24 by establishing a firing platoon 17 kilometers from the battalion command post, and conducting tactical fire direction utilizing high frequency radio communication. This replicated a combined, flexible firepower mission





*Leaders from 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery watch as their Soldiers qualify during a live-fire exercise. (Courtesy photo)*

currently ongoing in South Korea. After completing a full alert and deployment process, *Deep Attack* proceeded to maneuver all 278 Soldiers over 40 kilometers for the next 12 days. They conducted 24-hour operations which included deliberate Fires plans, hasty Fires plans, counter-fire operations, refuel on move operations, and field maintenance in mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) ready, MOPP 2 and MOPP 4. The battalion was graded utilizing the Department of the Army approved objective mission essential task list. They deployed with a T rating.

In September, the *Deep Attack Battalion* deployed to the field in support of the ground component commander's (GCC) Counter-Fire Task Force (CFTF) for two weeks. During this time the Soldiers simultaneously completed Artillery Table VI. The *Deep Attack Battalion* also qualified 16 M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System crews in less than five hours.

During the field exercise, *Deep Attack* conducted decontamination lanes, and convoy react to improvised explosive device lanes. Second-4th FA also trained with ROK Army counterparts on forward passage of lines with support from Blackhawk Troop, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment.

During the GCC CFTF Exercise, *Deep Attack* was the first to operate the Raven unmanned aircraft system (UAS) in "Rocket Valley." The training simulated conditions consistent with the confined terrain the battalion would face in the event of North Korean hostilities. *Deep Attack's* UAS operators refined tactics, techniques and procedures for operations and aircraft recovery for employment in the valleys that dominate much of the Korean Peninsula. This enabled the unit's only organic intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform to exercise its force protection and early warning role in the same terrain and conditions the battalion conducts its mission.

The *Deep Attack Battalion* participated in numerous high profile missions and training events while assigned to 210th Field Artil-

lery Brigade. The most grueling was the Flexible Deterrent Option Mission. Each of the firing batteries, with enablers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and 696th Forward Support Company, deployed to Combat Outpost Thunder for a total of four and a half months of an eight-month deployment. The battalion's mission was to work closely with ROK forces as a deterrent option to North Korean aggression.

Although the conditions proved austere, the *Deep Attack Battalion* endured and excelled raising the bar for the rest of the brigade. While on the assignment, the battalion maintained an operational readiness rate of above 95 percent, established a fire mission data collection system, which enabled informed decision making, and hardened the COP Thunder site against enemy exploitation.

*Deep Attack*, also won the 2nd Infantry Division, 8th Army, and U.S. Army Pacific Army Award for Maintenance Excellence in Fiscal Year 2017.

The Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, *Deep Attack* take pride in maintaining one of the highest operational tempos and being ready to excel at any challenge. The Soldiers of *Deep Attack* have proven they are capable of overcoming the challenges of time and terrain, and stand ready to take on whatever mission comes next.

### **3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, Red Dragons**

Pending the 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery's return from its latest deployment to the Republic of Korea, 3-13th FA entered 2017, the battalion's centennial year, with preparations for a live-fire exercise (LFX) in February at Fort Riley, Kan., at Operation Danger Focus. To ensure a successful division-level live-fire, the unit conducted a battalion-level LFX at Fort Sill, Okla., in January. This exercise trained all subordinate units, and recertified the firing batteries prior to the division-level exercise. B Battery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and 66th Forward Support Company





*Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery provide reinforcing fire for 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. (Courtesy photo)*

participated in Operation Danger Focus, which supported 1st Infantry Division and 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division with reinforcing Fires to strengthen unit cohesion before a National Training Center rotation. Upon completion of the mission, 3-13th FA trained personnel and deployed HHB, 66th FSC and elements of its firing batteries to NTC Rotation 17-06 to offer reinforcing Fires in support of 2-1st ABCT. These training opportunities also fostered the relationship with 2-1st ABCT as a corps-level asset that provides general support as well as reinforcing support. In September, the battalion performed an LFX to recertify launcher crews, ammo platoons and field feeding systems within its support company.

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

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, *Steel Warriors*, conducted a year of intensive mission-focused training with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colo. The training began with a visit by Col. Curtis Taylor, commander of the 1/4th SBCT. Taylor oriented the command teams and staff with the purpose of the reconnaissance and security (R & S) excursion which consisted of three Stryker battalions, a mobile strike force with heavy armor attachments, an airborne cavalry attachment, engineer and military police support, and a large attachment of dedicated unmanned aerial surveillance assets. The

*The Steel Warriors from 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, arrive in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. (Courtesy photo)*



mission aimed to test the effectiveness of an over strength brigade and manned-unmanned teaming. This utilized the sensors on the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) and Apache UH-64s to spot and engage targets with the organic 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery 155 mm M777s howitzers as well as the 1-14th FA High Mobility Artillery Rocket System battalion. This increased the brigade's light armored vehicles maneuver speed, while maintaining the ability to identify targets and engage with lethal Fires from a safe distance. This concept proved effective in not only maneuvering to find the enemy, but effectively engaging those targets. The *Steel Warriors* HIMARS battalion led the brigade in suppression of enemy air defense and the engagement of enemy long-range rocket/missile fire; often before the enemy entered the battle space. The culmination of a year of command post exercise training, a warfighter exercise, a Pinyon Canyon field training exercise, and a National Training Center rotation led to the *Steel Warrior Battalion* becoming a close knit part of the high tech, lethal, and maneuverable brigade. The R & S excursion proved to be a successful test of a military concept that paves the way forward in the age of UAS and long range fire-power integration.

The *Steel Warrior Battalion* is assigned to the Central Command's area of responsibility in order to support Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). The unit is task organized into HIMARS packages (LHP) across four countries, supported by the remainder of the battalion through Soldier attachments, liaisons and the headquarters battery. OSS involves partnered exercises with the 29th Royal Jordanian HIMARS Battalion and the Emirates 79th Heavy Rocket Regiment in order to build force interoperability through HIMARS live Fires, medical training, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense training, communications training and more. Additionally, 1-14th FA's LHPs stand ready to provide lethal rocket/missile Fires in support of OIR and the campaign to defeat ISIS.

1-14th FA website: [http://sill-www.army.mil/75th\\_Field\\_Artillery\\_Brigade/units/1\\_14th.html](http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/units/1_14th.html)

1-14th FA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/114steelwarriors/>

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

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, *Mission Ready*, redeployed to Fort Sill, Okla., in July 2017, following a nine-month rotational mission to the Republic of Korea. While deployed, 2-18th FA helped establish the flexible response option with 2nd Infantry Division and Eighth Army to offer national command authorities an additional option toward deterrence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The overall experience of serving as a rotational unit in the Republic of Korea greatly enhanced the organization's warfighting capabilities in a combat-focused environment. In addition to the professional development, the Soldiers of the *Mission Ready Battalion* benefited from the culturally broadening experience with the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army counterparts, partnered ROK Army units and the local community through volunteer programs. Following redeployment, *Mission Ready* immediately sprang back into action providing Soldiers and equipment to assist with defense support of civil authorities operations in Texas after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. To date, the battalion continues training and developing combat-ready platoons and resilient families ready to support missions world-wide in support of III Corps, *Phantom Warriors*.



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

The 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, *Deep Strike*, conducted numerous simulated and live-fire training exercises over 2017 to prepare *Deep Strike* Soldiers for its upcoming rotational unit deployment to the Republic of Korea. This training has taken the battalion to Fort Bliss, Texas, where the Soldiers provided timely, accurate and lethal rocket and missile Fires in support of 1st Armored Division during Iron Focus 17. Second-20th FA also provided a robust Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion response cell in support of Warfighter 17-04 at Fort Hood, Texas. The battalion executed two National Training Center rotations at Fort Irwin, Calif. While there, they provided reinforcing Fires in support of 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, at NTC 17-04 and to 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, during NTC 17-08. Upon completion of NTC 17-08, 2-20th FA trained up for its rotation to the Republic of Korea, scheduled for early 2018, with a battalion-internal field training exercise (FTX). The battalion qualified its fire direction, launcher and ammunition crews through Artillery Table XII. This FTX enabled 2-20th FA to successfully execute a battalion-level external evaluation, facilitated by 75th Field Artillery Brigade. The battalion qualified up to Table XVIII during the two-week FTX at Fort Sill, Okla. The training operations tempo was high over the course of 2017, but the battalion remained committed to fostering positive relationships with the local Lawton/Fort Sill community. This was evidenced by its commitment to the Lawton Veterans Center where the battalion executed several Wall of Heroes ceremonies, honoring the contributions of local veterans. Second-20th FA also remained committed to establishing positive role models to Cache Elementary and Middle School children by volunteering in their reading programs, serving and sharing lunch with the children and participating in and facilitating local sporting events. The battalion stands ready to deliver overwhelming surface-to-surface rocket and missile Fires in support of any contingency.

## 100th Brigade Support Battalion, *Century*

The *Century Battalion* provides continuous multi-functional sustainment support to the 75th Field Artillery Brigade and its ongoing missions around the world. The Soldiers of 100th Brigade Support Battalion stand ready to deploy and support contingency operations anywhere. Within 72 hours of returning from an off-post training exercise at Fort Riley, Kan., 100th BSB provided a sustainment package in support of Hurricane Harvey disaster relief efforts. The support element travelled over 1,500 miles in two weeks. It consisted of 165 personnel and 83 pieces of rolling stock; most notably 46 palletized load systems used to move supplies to affected areas. Recently, the *Century Battalion* focused on leveraging identified shortfalls in capabilities in conjunction with fellow field artillery brigade support battalions to develop a force design update (FDU). The FDU ensures all BSBs have the correct capabilities to fully support field artillery brigades when not supported by garrison resources, as our modification table of organization and equipment is unique across the Army.

100th BSB Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Century-Battalion-100th-BSB-125854177476895/>

100th BSB Twitter: <https://twitter.com/100thBSB>

## 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, *Mass the Fire*

During 2017, the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery Brigade remained poised to support the 82nd Airborne Division as the na-

tion's global response force (GRF). The DIVARTY began the year by deploying the entire tactical operations center (TOC) package in support of Operation Dynamic Front in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The DIVARTY deployed their TOC package twice more, supporting two warfighter exercises, the first at Fort Bragg, N.C., in June and the next at Fort Drum, N.Y. in September. Both exercises challenged the DIVARTY leaders and staff to integrate Fires assets in support of maneuvers in dynamic operational scenarios, and were major successes for the DIVARTY as a whole. Throughout the year the tempo remained high as the DIVARTY supported four division artillery readiness training exercises and a battalion artillery readiness training exercise (BART), while also sending personnel to provide observer controller trainer support for a BART in the 101st Airborne Division as well as a BART for the 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment in Grafenwoehr.

The 82nd Airborne Division Artillery spent the year of 2017 operating out of multiple countries, supporting multiple strategically vital missions, all while maintaining its core capabilities as the fire support element of the nation's global response force. The brigade will train to provide Fires in 2018 as it continues to maintain a high level of focused readiness and is prepared to deploy to support national requirements.

82nd DIVARTY Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/82ndABNDIVARTY/>

## 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *Loyalty*

During 2017, the *Loyalty Battalion* remained poised to support 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and the nation's global response force (GRF). After assuming responsibility for the GRF in December 2016, Paratroopers continued an intensive training cycle that included progression from individual certifications through a Battalion Artillery Readiness Test Table XVIII qualification, all while maintaining airborne proficiency and conducting multiple deployment readiness exercises.

Of note this year, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment conducted the first tactical drop zone mission with an AN/TPQ-50 on Salerno Drop Zone, Fort Bragg, N.C. This was a day time, combat equipment, tactical airborne operation and a drop zone live-fire exercise. A Battery fired 20 high explosive rounds as

*A Paratrooper from 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, prepares to deploy an AN/TPQ-50 Counterfire Radar System following the first tactical heavy drop of the radar system on March 27, 2017. (Courtesy photo)*



the AN/TPQ-50 successfully tracked all 20 rounds fired with an average target location error of 9 m.

First-319th AFAR also supported numerous training events in 2017, both internal and external to 3rd BCT and 82nd Airborne Division. In March, C Battery, 1-319th AFAR supported Operation Jaded Thunder in Salina, Kan., which demonstrated the battalion's ability to provide Fires in support of the joint force. In July, the battalion conducted a joint forcible entry airborne assault with 3rd BCT during a joint operational access exercise and provided Fires for the subsequent field training exercise. Additionally, the battalion supported 3rd BCT's maneuver companies and troops during a combined arms live-fire exercise in May, and all three of the brigade's maneuver battalions during a brigade live-fire exercise in October.

*Loyalty* finished out the year by conducting Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-01 at Fort Polk, La. The battalion utilized its' second combat training center rotation in as many years to continue to improve the unit's lethality and ability to provide timely, accurate, and continuous Fires. The battalion will train to provide Fires in 2018 as it continues to maintain a high level of focused readiness and is prepared to deploy to support national requirements.

1-319th AFAR Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1st319th/>

## **2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *Black Falcons***

In December of 2016, Task Force Black Falcon, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (-) deployed to northern Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve as part of Task Force Falcon, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division. TF Black Falcon, consists of the battalion tactical command post, target acquisition platoon, C Battery, and portions of F Battery, Forward Support Company. They provided field artillery Fires enabling the Iraqi Security Forces' (ISF) liberation of the cities of Mosul and Tal Afar from the ISIS. TF *Black Falcons* fired over 6,900 rounds, including Precision Guided Kits and Excalibur, as part of combined joint operations enabling its Iraqi partners. The TF's employment of integrated Fires, on behalf of TF Falcon, decimated ISIS's indirect fire capability in the battle for Mosul. TF Black Falcon fire supporters

*Paratroopers from C Battery, 2nd Battalion of the 319 Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, deliver Fires in support of the liberation of Mosul. The Black Falcons delivered timely and accurate precision Fires around the clock in a carefully coordinated effort supporting the Soldiers of the Iraqi Army as they fought, street by street, to push the terrorists of the Islamic State out of Mosul. (Courtesy photo)*



operated as part of strike cells providing the ISF critical overmatch through employment of joint Fires. TF Black Falcon was reinforced by M109A6 Paladin platoons from B Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery and C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery as well as French Caesar batteries from the French 11th Marine Artillery Regiment and the 93rd Mountain Artillery Regiment.

Simultaneously, B Battery, 2-319th AFAR deployed to northeast Afghanistan, in Jalalabad. There they supported Operation Freedom's Sentinel in an out-of-design mission as a Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) battery providing counter indirect fire protection to a coalition base.

The remainder of the 2-319th AFAR at Fort Bragg, N.C., including Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, A Battery, and F/FSC, continued to maintain airborne proficiency and build readiness in support of 82nd Airborne Division. A Battery served as the opposing force battery for Joint Readiness Training Exercise Rotation 18-01. This challenged their skills in field craft and executing in an austere environment in Fort Polk, La. The fire supporters from HHB participated in Operation Allied Torch, successfully sending an over-the-horizon digital call for fire from Fort Bragg to Fort Campbell, Ky. Meanwhile, F/FSC continued to build the battalion's readiness through focused maintenance support.

The *Black Falcons* concluded the year by conducting redeployment operations and reset in preparation to support the division's focused readiness efforts to rebuild the battalion.

## **3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *Gun Devils***

The Paratroopers of 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *Gun Devils*, continued support of 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, through both field artillery core competencies and non-standard mission requirements in 2017. The battalion focused on the enhancement of readiness posture by executing Artillery Qualification Tables up to Table XV, as well as numerous drop zone fire missions to hone field artillery proficiencies. Of note, A Battery provided incredible fire support to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment during Operation Jade Helm at Fort Bliss, Texas, and C Battery completed a division artillery readiness test at Fort Bragg, N.C., during this time period.

Following an intensive training cycle, the battalion transitioned to support various mission requirements in both the U.S. Central Command and U.S. European Command areas of responsibility. A Battery traveled to Fort Sill, Okla., and received training to assume

*Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, fire a howitzer. (Courtesy photo)*







A CH-47 Chinook pilot conducts air assault operations with the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery. (Courtesy photo)

a Counter-Mortar and Rocket mission in Afghanistan. Following this training, the unit deployed in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel and is currently providing critical force protection capabilities to forces on the ground. C Battery, along with radar sections within the battalion, deployed in support of the brigade's mission at Train, Advise and Assist Command-South in Afghanistan. The unit provides accurate and timely fire support for paratroopers in the brigade and our Afghan partners. Additionally, all fire support elements deployed to support the brigade's mission and are currently executing critical operational and advising efforts throughout the country.

The battalion headquarters, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, B Battery and an attached maneuver company from within the brigade (D Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment) prepared for and deployed in support of Joint Guardian Kosovo Force (KFOR) 23. The battalion completed a rotation to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, to validate the unit's ability to respond to crowd riot control events prior to arriving in Kosovo. The unit currently serves as the forward command post for Multinational Battle Group-East and is charged with providing a safe and secure environment throughout the country. The battalion recently supported municipal elections that were held throughout Kosovo, resulting in a successful elec-

tion process and numerous accolades from KFOR senior leaders to include the commander of the Kosovo Force.

## 101st Airborne Division Artillery 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment *Proud Americans*

2nd Platoon, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment *Proud Americans*, 101st Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) deployed to Creech Air Force Base, Nev., in support of the 66th Weapons Squadron (United States Air Force Weapons School) and 10th Special Forces Group.

During the exercise, 2nd Platoon, *Joker Platoon*, supported USAF Weapons School students and 10th Special Forces Group joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs). Through this supporting effort, 2-32nd FAR fire support officers (FSOs), C Battery, *Carnage Battery*, fire direction officer and fire direction non-commissioned officer and *Joker Platoon* leadership were able to take part in pre-mission and post-mission briefs and work hand-in-hand with 10th SFG.

Fire missions on pre-planned targets were called in by a combination of 2-32nd FAR FSOs, 10th SFG JTACs, and USAF Weapons School students from the air. Also, through extensive coordination between 101st DIVARTY and Creech AFB, this exercise was the first time DIVARTY moved a platoon of M777 A2s, the associated vehicles and equipment via air.

This was also the first time 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division CH-47 pilots were able to sling load M777 A2s. Overall, *Joker Platoon* and 2-32nd FAR gained invaluable experience with the air movement of equipment, working in a joint environment for the first time, and integrating air assault operations into field artillery missions.

## 210th Field Artillery Brigade, *Thunder*

The 210th Field Artillery Brigade, *Thunder*, the only permanently forward deployed field artillery brigade in the United States Army, stands ready to *Fight Tonight* in the Republic of Korea. The *Thunder Brigade* consists of a rotational M109A6 self-propelled howitzer battalion, one rotational and two organic M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System battalions, a brigade support battalion and the United Nations Command Security Battalion. The *Thunder Soldiers*, emboldened by the 2nd Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division warrior spirit, performed exceptionally in 2017 as provocations increased and tensions escalated within the Korean theater of operations.

In support of the enduring ROK-U.S. alliance, the *Thunder Brigade*, as part of the Third Republic of Korea Army Counterfire Task Force, maintained its cutting edge and exercised warfighting functions in support of Ground Component Command and Combined Forces Command. The brigade's subordinate field artillery battalions consistently executed field training exercises and field artillery live-fire qualifications maintaining certified and qualified crews while the brigade support battalion provided uninterrupted logistical and sustainment support. Posturing for contingency operations throughout the last year, the *Thunder Brigade* participated in four major command post exercises (CPX): Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, Warfighter 18-02, and the TROKA CFTF CPX. Additionally, the brigade executed Loaded Thunder, a quarterly loadout and deployment exercises geared to facilitate the deployment of combat power to fighting positions within South Korea.

Ready to *Fight Tonight*, the brigade under the direction of the

Combined Forces Command assumed a Flexible Response Option and executed combined ROK-U.S. counter provocation Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMs) fire missions in support of the ROK-U.S. alliance; the first employment of ATACMs in the Pacific Theater.

In the “Land of the Morning Calm,” the *Thunder Brigade* stands side-by-side with the ROK. The *Thunder Brigade* remains trained, postured and prepared to defend our interests and that of the alliance.

*Katchi Kapshi Da! Controlling the Best!*

210th FA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/210.FA.BDE>

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

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment stand ready in their mission to both deter North Korean aggression and defend the Republic of Korea alongside its ROK Army partners.

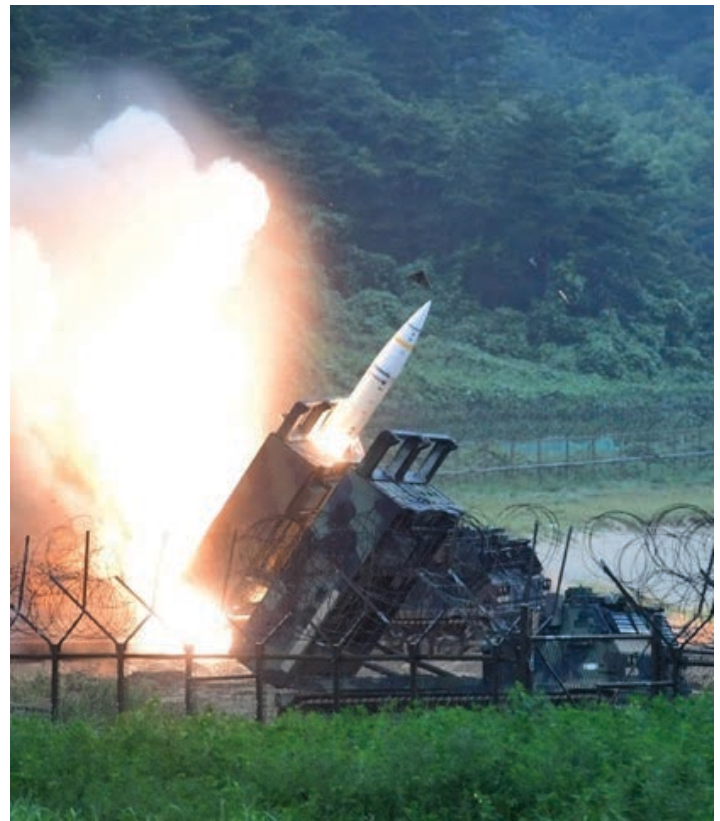
The *Steel Battalion* set a precedent across the Korean theater of operations by executing battery road marches to its go-to-war positions through Operation Stalwart. This movement validated primary, alternate and tertiary routes to the positions; the capability of the batteries to alert, upload and deploy to their positions; and how to execute a hasty decontamination prior to executing a night movement of over 50 km.

The battalion also validated its long-range, high frequency communication systems and prosecuted fire missions sent to launchers from the battalion headquarters at Camp Casey, South Korea, both in hip-shoots and from their final firing positions. This operation also encompassed the use of a platoon from 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, which provided route and area reconnaissance, and our link to the ROK security force, 118th Mechanized Infantry. Second Infantry Division also took advantage of this exercise to practice its ability to battle-track a unit’s actual movement during what would be a wartime situation.

*Steel Behind the Rock’s* training enhanced its ability to execute key missions such as counter-fire operations, suppression of enemy air defense, and prosecution of time sensitive targets. These critical missions enable the battalion to effectively support the Air Component Command, the Ground Component Command Counter-Fire Task Force (GCC CFTF), and the Combined Forces Command. Additionally, 1-38th FA supported the CFC during multiple exercises to include the Third ROK Army combined counterfire exercise, Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, the GCC CFTF, and Warfighter Exercise 18-01; instilling confidence in the ROK higher headquarters of 1-38th FA’s ability to thrive in war.

The battalion worked hand-in-hand with brother battalions, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, to support 210th Field Artillery Brigade in its combined mission of providing the CFC commander a flexible response option to North Korean aggression. The battalion completed four, month-long rotations of this combined mission which culminated in a combined live-fire, strategic show of force with the ROK 1800 Battalion, by firing two Army Tactical Missile System missiles.

Outside of these events, the battalion executed a wide range of missions to include four live-fire exercises that qualified 32 launcher crews and 12 fire direction sections. The battalion’s two target acquisition platoons supported over 10 dry and live-fire exercises for units across the 210th Field Artillery Brigade including 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, which is the brigade’s rotational Paladin battalion. Leaders of the unit provided observer



*Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery, executes Army Tactical Missile System Fires during a Republic of Korea/U.S. show of force, July 29, 2017. This was in response to a North Korean inter-continental ballistic missile launch earlier that morning. (Courtesy photo)*

controller/trainer support for the ROK Chunmu certification and a HIMARS rapid infiltration mission, which arrived on the peninsula from Fort Lewis, Wash. The battalion also executed multiple static displays to highlight the battalion’s capabilities for the ROK foreign minister of affairs, USFK/CFC commander, and multiple major news outlets/reporters. The battalion and battalion commander were featured on CNN with Brooke Baldwin’s Newsroom, representing all units, Soldiers and families stationed in Korea.

First-38th FA supported its surrounding community by sponsoring and working with Dongducheon’s Orphanage through charitable donations, teaching English classes and doing several different activities with the children.

Next year, this battalion will mark its 100th anniversary, and with it a proud tradition of professionalism and answering our nation’s call at a movement’s notice.

*Steel!*

1-38th FA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SteelBehindTheRock/>

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

The 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment is one of two forward-deployed, permanently stationed field artillery battalions on the Korean Peninsula. The *Deep Strike Battalion* continues to serve as one of the counterfire artillery forces supporting 2nd Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Division and Ground Component commander. In 2017, the battalion focused on maintaining a high state of readiness to deter North Korean aggression.

The Soldiers of the *On the Minute Battalion* trained tirelessly, participating in four digital command and control exercises, part-





Soldiers in A Battery, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, fire an Army Tactical Missile System Missile from a Multiple Launch Rocket System. The live-fire was part of a combined live-fire exercise with the Republic of Korea Army Missile Command in 2017. (Courtesy photo)

nering with ROK allies in the Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Key Resolve exercises. The battalion maintained readiness through three emergency deployment readiness exercises, three battalion live-fire exercises, and two battery-level field training exercises. The Soldiers demonstrated their ability to rapidly deploy and deliver Fires in support of the GCC and the Counterfire Task Force.

A key highlight for the year was when 6-37th FAR participated in a combined live-fire with the Republic of Korea Air Missile Command and made history by firing the first Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) on the Korean Peninsula. For the past year, both *Assassin* and *Barbarian* batteries partnered with ROK Army counterparts, conducting mission command and digital rehearsals during multiple training rotations throughout the year. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, *Hammer Battery*, provided the command and control for these exercises, maintaining long range communications and fire direction with both the Eighth Army Headquarters and United States Forces Korea's Combined Joint Fires Element. 579th Forward Support Company, Pillar Company, sustained these training rotations by executing long-distance logistical resupply missions on a weekly basis.

As the battalion looks to 2018, the *On the Minute Battalion* will remain trained and ready to *Fight Tonight* and continue to fight until we win with our allies here in the Republic of Korea.

6-37th FAR Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rocketbattalion/>

## 70th Brigade Support Battalion, *Blacksmiths*

The 70th Brigade Support Battalion, *Blacksmiths*, provided uninterrupted sustainment support for 210th Field Artillery Brigade, *Thunder Brigade*. The *Blacksmiths* executed a Class V Proof of Principle in August that validated their ability to execute and support critical munitions re-supply and meet their *Fight Tonight* requirements in support of Task Force 210, part of the Counter-fire Task Force.

The *Blacksmiths* continued relationships across the peninsula by planning, hosting and executing the first-ever Task Force 210 Sustainment Conference in October, which brought in commanders and planners from the 19th Expeditionary Support Command; Ma-

teriel Support Command-Korea; 65th Medical Brigade; 2nd Sustainment Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division C4; Army Field Support Battalion-Korea; and the 5th Republic of Korea Division Supply and Transportation Battalion. The conference ensured the *Thunder Brigade's* go-to-war logistics and medical requirements were clearly defined and nested with critical enablers across the peninsula.

The Headquarters Support Company and 579th Signal Company provided critical sustainment and network and tactical signal support to four *Thunder* loading exercises, two major theater exercises, the ground component exercise and multiple brigade and battalion level exercises.

This year, the 70th BSB made tremendous strides to ensure *Thunder Brigade's* support requirements were nested with the operational plans and that mitigation strategies were enhanced and continuously evaluated for uninterrupted sustainment support. The *Blacksmiths* remained ready to *Fight Tonight* and enabled all *Thunder* command team's freedom of action unconstrained by logistics. *Strength through Support!*

70th BSB Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/70th-BSB-Official-146805835404387/about/>

## 434th Field Artillery Brigade, *Destroyers*

Throughout 2017, the *Destroyer Brigade* executed their mission of conducting reception operations and Basic Combat Training (BCT) at the Fires Center of Excellence by integrating and transforming civilian volunteers into Soldiers who are prepared to complete initial military training and contribute to their first unit of assignment. The brigade graduated 17,320 Soldiers in 2017; just under 20 percent of the Army's BCT mission. During the summer, 134 drill sergeants from 1st Brigade, 95th Division (Institutional Training) joined the ranks to successfully train the summer surge of high school students joining the Army.

The brigade welcomed four new battalion commanders and battalion command sergeants major throughout the year and participated in numerous community events. Soldiers in 434th FAB hosted Leadership Oklahoma and Leadership Lawton delegations; hosted the FCoE African American History Month Observance Luncheon; provided a color guard for civic events across Southwest Oklahoma; supported local and regional U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet challenges and drill competitions; and partnered with local schools so cadre could fulfill vol-

Soldiers from the 434th Field Artillery Brigade participate in the unvailing ceremony for Vessey Hall, Fort Sill, Okla. (Courtesy photo)





A Soldier from 2nd Battalion 19th Field Artillery, sets up a table for an upcoming veterans forum. (Courtesy photo)

unteer opportunities in education. Drill sergeants also completed rigorous annual certification of 16 Skill-Level 10 tasks randomly selected from the 27 tasks that drill sergeants teach trainees.

The brigade started and ended the calendar year by enabling every trainee an opportunity to enjoy holiday block leave. This is a complex brigade-level operation that involves sending over 2,500 trainees to locations both in the continental United States and outside the continental U.S.

In April, *Destroyer* cadre conducted Operation Hellcat Mungadai, an overnight gut check that included swimming, a 5-mile run, a stress shoot, a one-mile humvee push, and culminated with *Destroyers* climbing Mount Sherman, the highest point on Fort Sill, Okla.

In May the 95th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) complex was dedicated in honor of Gen. John Vessey Jr., the 10th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. To increase outreach to new Army families of BCT graduates unable to travel to Fort Sill, 434th FAB began to live-stream broadcast graduations. In four months, over 14,000 families viewed a BCT graduation live or on demand. View a *Destroyer* BCT graduation at [www.FiresCenterLiveEvents.com](http://www.FiresCenterLiveEvents.com).

434th FAB website: <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/>

## 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery, War Eagles

The drill sergeants and cadre of the 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery conduct Basic Combat Training to transform the nation's civilian volunteers into well trained, disciplined and physically fit Soldiers prepared to complete Advanced Individual Training and contribute to their first unit of assignment.

Over the last year, the *War Eagles Battalion* successfully executed 18 Basic Combat Training cycles resulting in over 4,000 trained Soldiers ready to serve in the Army. The batteries worked tirelessly in order to accomplish this task and the graduating Soldiers are a testament to those efforts. The professionalism of the drill sergeants and cadre is unmatched and they are the an example of what a loyal, reliable and hard-working Soldier looks like. In order to support the summer surge, the *War Eagles* perform the Echo Mission in which an additional fifth battery is activated. Echo Battery integrates reserve cadre as well as active duty to seamlessly execute Basic Combat Training.

In addition to Basic Combat Training, the *War Eagle Battalion* is continually active in the Lawton/Fort Sill, Okla., community. First-19th Field Artillery is heavily involved in both veterans outreach

and volunteering at local area schools. Each of the batteries held a veterans panel as way to connect past generations of service with the current. In November, the *War Eagles* hosted a Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony that included a battalion run and a Basic Combat Training demonstration. The battalion also participated in Veterans Day activities at three local Lawton area schools.

First-19th FA will continue to train the Army's newest Soldiers so they can demonstrate proficiency and expertise in rifle marksmanship, physical fitness and discipline. The battalion takes pride in building the foundation of the future Army.

*Per Scintillam Flamma!*

## 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery Regiment, Proud Americans

The drill sergeants and cadre of 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, transform civilians into trained, disciplined and motivated Soldiers. Our Soldiers are ready to execute basic Soldier skills in any assignment throughout the Army while maintaining a positive work environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

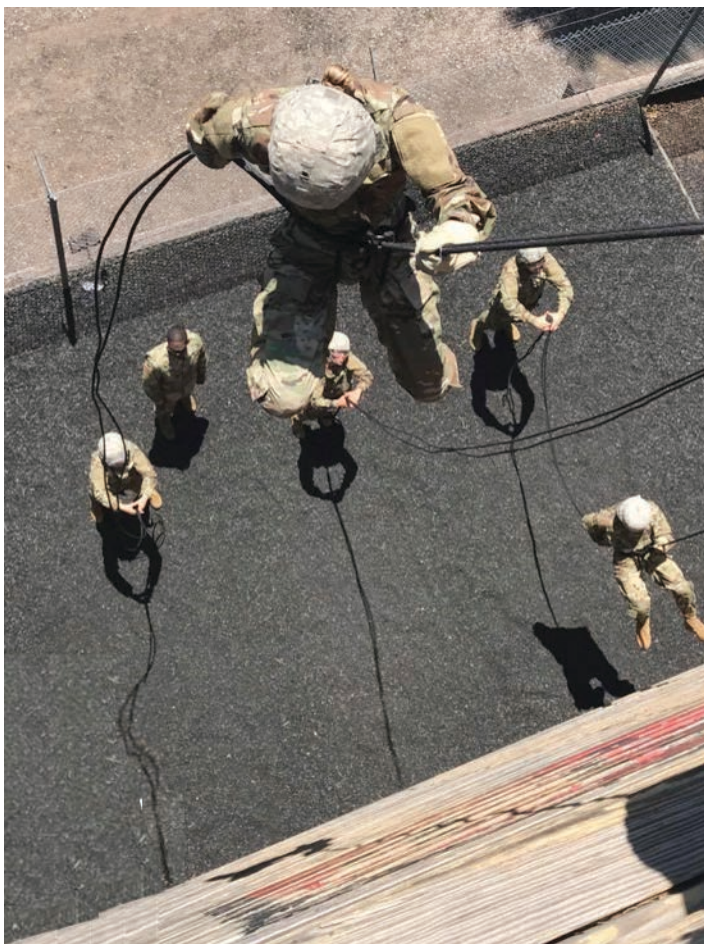
This year the *Proud American Battalion* completed 21 successful Basic Combat Training graduations, resulting in over 4,200 newly trained Soldiers moving on to Advanced Individual Training. As 1-31st FA has done for years, the battalion stood up an additional battery to manage the influx of trainees during the summer surge. The Echo Mission integrated reserve cadre from the 108th Reserve Training Command at all levels of leadership, to man the additional battery.

The tireless efforts of 1-31st FA cadre to produce tomorrows' Soldiers occurs in three phases. The training in red phase, which focuses on developing "character and enhanced performance" through the introduction to military customs and discipline, Army ethics, values, physical readiness training and resiliency. During this phase, trainees are tackling Treadwell Tower, the Team Development Course and the Combat Conditioning Course to help enhance the Phase I development and earn the Army Patch. White phase training is focused on individual Soldier tasks such as the ability to shoot, move, communicate and survive. At the end of this phase trainees earn their rifle qualification badge. Blue phase builds upon what trainees have learned over the past two phases and reinforces the basic combat skills with a focus on teamwork and discipline. Blue phase trainees earn the right to wear a beret, the right to be called a Soldier and the right to graduate.

The battalion's success would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of cadre, families and the local community. The battalion is proud of its active role in building and maintaining relationships with the local community. During blue phase, along with mandatory training, Soldiers participate in outreach projects within the Lawton/Fort Sill, Okla., community. They visited the local Veteran's Center where incoming Soldiers met and socialized with retired military men and women. Along with outreach projects, the battalion hosted this years' Leadership Oklahoma Class 31. Drill sergeants had the opportunity to teach the civilians basic Soldier skills and discipline. The participants experienced a taste of Soldier life by eating chow at the dining facility, sleeping in the bays, learning about basic marksmanship and completing the buddy tactical team dry run.

The battalion is also proud to be a part of the Army Partnership with Local Area Schools program. The *Proud American Battalion* eagerly hosted the teachers and students for family day events and





*Trainees from 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery Battalion descend Treadwell Tower, Fort Sill, Okla. The future Soldiers completed the obstacle by performing a proper L-shape position and bounding down the 40-foot wall. (Courtesy photo)*

helped in an annual back-to-school drive. In turn, the students and teacher honored them at a Veterans Day salute.

*Always First!*

### **1st Battalion 40th Field Artillery, Gauntlets**

Soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, *Gauntlets*, led the way in 2017. Instructors instilled the Army values and taught warrior tasks and battle drills to over 3,000 Soldiers for 434th Field Artillery Brigade.

In January, the *Gauntlets* returned from a successful holiday block leave operation and set the conditions to continue rigorous Basic Combat Training (BCT) for the year. In addition to the baseline program of instruction (POI), the battalion implemented a number of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of Soldier after basic training. Initiatives include the implementation of a stress shoot to reinforce marksmanship fundamentals with trainees, focused physical readiness training to improve overall trainee conditioning, and held town hall meetings with the thousands of families that visit Lawton/Fort Sill, Okla., to attend BCT graduations. In addition to conducting BCT POI, the *All for One Battalion* supported the Fort Sill retirement ceremony and Brigade Mungadai in March. They continued the Veteran's Outreach Program with local vets, and acted as the Fort Sill Color Guard for numerous events throughout the year. Lastly, the battalion sent representation to the 1-40th Vietnam Veterans Association reunion to set the stage for the regiment's 100-year anniversary next summer. The *Gauntlets*



*Drill Sgt. Scott Allen, E Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, tests a trainee on how to correct a malfunction during Basic Combat Training. (Courtesy photo)*

continue to set the standard for training excellence in 434th FA Brigade.

### **1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, Peace Through Victory!**

The 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery conducts Basic Combat Training (BCT) transforming civilian volunteers into Soldiers each year. These Soldiers 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 five batteries conducted the planning, preparation and training execution of 20 graduating classes, led by their outstanding drill sergeants and cadre. The program of instruction focused heavily on the warrior tasks and battle drills and ensured each Soldier who graduated was proficient in rifle marksmanship, hand grenades, physical fitness, drill and ceremony and land navigation. The battalion conducted over 240 live-fire ranges, threw approximately 8,000 hand grenades and fired more than 3 million 5.56 mm rounds. 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 MOSs 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, 1-79th FA welcomed a new battalion executive officer, three new battery commanders, four new first sergeants and five new battery executive officers. The battalion continues to train the newest generation of defenders of the United States. *Peace Through Victory!*

### **95th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception)**

Soldiers and civilians from the 95th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception), 434th Field Artillery Brigade, conducted reception operations for 14,648 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, 616 English as Second Language Soldiers, in-processed five prior-service Soldiers, re-conditioned 196 Soldiers to return to complete BCT or to continue on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT), and separated 1,268 Soldiers.

In June, the battalion conducted a change of command to bid farewell to Lt. Col. Miles Gengler and welcome Lt. Col. John Schimming. The battalion also held one battery-level change of command this year.

In addition to normal battle rhythm events, A Battery conducted the English Comprehensive Language Test (ECLT) for Soldiers who were close to passing the previous test taken at their Military Entrance Processing Station. Testing ECLT candidates in reception saves \$1,200 per Soldier in travel costs alone. B Battery spearheaded an initiative of physically, mentally and spiritually rehabilitating Soldiers who were injured during field artillery and air defense artillery AIT. C Battery has teamed up with the Soldier for Life and Army Community Services personnel to give Soldiers who are being separated from the Army valuable skills including resume building, financial planning and resiliency training to prepare them to be productive citizens. C Battery also welcomed Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (MAVNI) Soldiers to their formation. MAVNI Soldiers in C Battery are afforded the opportunity to receive on-the-job training within their mission occupation specialty prior to traveling to AIT. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery began an ala carte meal initiative for personnel arriving from MEPS. The initiative produces annual savings of over \$38,000.

The battalion is in the final stages of the branding of Vessey Hall Reception Complex. With the assistance from the Marketing Engagement Brigade from Fort Knox, Ky., the branding project will assist in transforming the mindset of newly arrived civilians to embody the Army values and warrior ethos prior to BCT. Vessey Hall is slated to be fully branded by February 2018.

## **2nd Battalion, 305th Field Artillery Regiment, 1-77th Combined Arms Training Brigade, Red Team**

During 2017, the 2nd Battalion, 305th Field Artillery Regiment, *Red Team*, supported the Army Total Force Policy objectives while

conducting advise, assist and train operations across six states. Thirty *Red Team* members collectively traveled over 6,500 miles building readiness for our total Army.

From March to June 2017, *Red Team* conducted the first Army Emergency Response Force evaluations by all First Army Units with 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery from Arkansas, quickly followed by Army early response force missions with 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery and 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery. Concurrently, the other half of the battalion worked diligently at the eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) with 278th Field Artillery from Tenn., a force of about 400 Soldiers. Delta Team, 305th FAR further helped prepare 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation for deployment by conducting a staff exercise and injecting master scenario events list into their operations for recreating live events into their training plan.

Following XCTC at Fort Hood the *Red Team* arrived back to Camp Shelby, Miss., to conduct a change of command. On July 10, Lt. Col. Kirk Junker assumed command of *Red Team* from Lt. Col. Frank Leija. Weeks later, *Red Team* drove to Camp Grayling Mich., to support Operation Northern Strike and collaborated with 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery from Ohio. Over the course of 13 days, *Red Team* and 1-134th FA built strong bonds through training and operations to include the first air assault raid in three years.

*Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 305th Field Artillery Regiment, participate in an air assault operation. (Courtesy photo)*



*Trainees prepare to take the first English Comprehensive Language Test administered at Fort Sill, Okla.. The first group is shown here along with their drill sergeant and civilian test administrator. (Capt. Linda McBride/U.S. Army)*





From mid-August to November, *Red Team* conducted multiple team missions to include evaluating 142nd FA at War Fighter Exercise 18-1 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., collaborating with 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery at Camp Blanding, Fla., and evaluating 2nd Battalion, 142nd FA radar sections at Fort Chaffee, Ark.

Focusing efforts for the upcoming year, *Red Team* conducted their annual summit at the end of August to discuss the way ahead for the battalion and identify strengths and areas of improvements to prepare for upcoming operations.

*Red Team* worked tirelessly throughout the year to systematically engage partnered units and improve relations and build training readiness. Dedicated to the Army Total Force Policy, *Red Team* continues to plan operations in the upcoming year to enable deploying units tough and realistic training at all levels and prepare them for any and all challenges.

#### **4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, *Wolfpack***

The 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, *Wolfpack*, at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., is assigned to the U.S. Army Central Command 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 is to conduct liaison, integration, and coordination between the combined forces land component commander and the combined forces air component commander in support of land power requirements and focused on synchronizing air and ground operations within the USCENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR) and established combined joint operating areas.

Fourth BCD facilitated and coordinated close integration of air, space, and land forces in 2017, across the USCENTCOM AOR as the only split-based continuously deployed BCD in the Army. *Wolfpack* Soldiers operated in all divisions of the CAOC located in AUAB. In addition, 4th BCD continued to provide forward deployed ground liaison detachments (GLDs) to support air expeditionary squadrons, composite squadrons, airlift squadrons, and carrier air wings throughout the CENTCOM AOR. The BCD's deployed GLDs provided support for air expeditionary squadrons in Turkey, Qatar, Jordan, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and for carrier air wings aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, U.S.S. Nimitz and U.S.S. Theodore R. Roosevelt.

Operationally, 4th BCD continued to support distributed operations in Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Resolute Support (ORS) to include other NATO missions. For the past year, 4th BCD synchronized air and ground power for Combine Joint Task Force-OIR, resulting in over 8,900 close air support (CAS) requests, 18,000 CAS sorties, 31,000 flight hours, 17,500 airstrikes, and the employment of over 36,500 weapons in support of OIR and ORS.

Fourth BCD prepared their Soldiers for deployment by conducting a rigorous deployment certification program. They also simultaneously provided support to multiple exercises: 3rd Infantry Division's Mission Ready Exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga., four air missile defense exercises (AUAB), Eager Lion (Jordan), Lucky Warrior (Shaw Air Force Base), two joint air defense exercises (AUAB), multiple Warfighters (Hurlburt Air Force Base, Fla.; Fort Stewart; Quantico, Va.; Twentynine Palms, Calif.; and Fort Bliss, Texas) and other training events. The BCD continued a strong partnership with 505th Command and Control Wing (Hurlburt Field) to ensure all personnel received proper training and schooling to integrate air power in the CENTCOM AOR. The BCD partnered with the newly formed 560th BCD, Georgia National Guard in order to fa-

cilitate training opportunities, support integrated training events, and leverage multi-component capabilities. In addition and as part of the joint team, the Soldiers participated in Joint Air Operations Senior Staff Courses as members of the symposium panels. They discussed the role of component liaison elements across functions of the CAOC enterprise; worked with various U.S. and international Navy carrier air wings to prepare them for deployment into the CENTCOM AOR; and supported the Navy Operational Level Warfighter Preparation to help their staffs to better develop support for unified land operations as well as understand Army capabilities.

Fourth BCD continued to deploy a balanced force generation model in order to prepare CONUS-based ground based liaison officers (GLOs) for deployments across the CENTCOM AOR. This included the refinement and execution of the GLD certification program, designed to establish a baseline GLO competency for all personnel. As the only BCD with a preponderance of GLOs both in CONUS and forward deployed in the CENTCOM AOR, we conducted our annual Ground Liaison Officers Qualification Course (Shaw Air Force Base) to train, certify and prepare personnel for deployment to the AOR. The BCD's CONUS GLDs provided support to multiple Joint Readiness Training Center rotations, Green Flag exercises, and pre-deployment CAS training events. In total, the BCD supported seven Green Flag East rotations (Barksdale Air Force Base, La.), eight Green Flag West rotations (Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.), nine airlift missions in support of JRTC (Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.), over 30 close air support exercises and pre-deployment training missions, and multiple partnered exercises to include Exercise Limber Strike (Canada Air Force) and Exercise Prairie Storm (British Air Force). Fourth BCD GLDs began pre-deployment operations with Air National Guard units, a new partnership initiative that proved vital to building relations and increasing exercise training value for the flying units. GLDs supported over 430 sorties of relief efforts after hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. GLDs provided routine classroom instruction focused on Army operations to pilots of the 96th Test Wing (Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.) and 96th Test Group (Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.).

In 2018, the 4th BCD will continue to support operations both 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!*

#### **Fires Test Directorate**

Since 1902, Fires Test Directorate, the longest standing test directorate of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command, has prided itself in being a part of the Army's only independent operational testers. FTD tests current and future Army, joint, and multi-service warfighting systems in realistic operational environments, using representative Soldiers and Marines to determine whether a system is effective, suitable, and survivable. Throughout 2017, FTD personnel continued that mission to provide world-class, trusted, and independent operational testing as they planned, conducted, and reported on tests of fire support, field artillery and air defense artillery systems.

In January and February, FTD conducted a Combined Mission Command Systems customer test (CT) of new versions of the Joint Automated Deep Operations Coordination System, Pocket-sized Forward Entry Device Increment II (PFED Inc II), Profiler Virtual Mode Software, and Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System

(AFATDS) at Fort Sill, Okla. The testing exercised the capabilities of the systems to conduct a broad range of fire support activities. The test was composed of two separate, but mutually supporting efforts: an Army divisional thread and a Marine regimental thread, with a slice of live organic fire support assets and representative Soldiers and Marines. The test also provided live forward observers (FOs) with an operational look at the design updates to the PFED Inc II now called Precision Fires Dismounted. This system gives a dismounted observer the ability to provide Category 1 target location error coordinates derived from imagery, enabling precise aiming point solutions vital for conducting precision targeting in urban areas and when collateral damage is a major concern. Concurrent with the CT, a Cooperative Vulnerability Penetration Assessment was conducted to assess systems cybersecurity.

In July and August, FTD conducted a limited user test (LUT) of the Joint Effects Targeting System - Target Laser Designation System (JETS-TLDS) at the Cold Regions Test Center located at Fort Greely, Alaska. Soldiers from D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment possessing military occupational specialty 13F (fire support specialist) were selected to participate. The JETS-TLDS is a modular advanced sensor suite consisting of three components, the Hand-Held Target Location Module, Precision Azimuth and Vertical Angle Module, and Laser Marker Module. The system collectively offers the FO capabilities not possessed in any currently fielded targeting system. The LUT event gathered operational data to verify whether a Soldier using this system could accurately detect, recognize, and identify targets at various extended ranges.

In September, FTD participated in the Laser Target Locator Module II (LTLM II) Developmental Test/Operational Test with Soldiers at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., to obtain Soldiers' input on system design updates based on previous testing. During dismounted operations, Soldiers conducted on-call and targets-of-opportunity missions in a field environment. The LTLM II is designed to provide a maneuver Soldier the ability to call in accurate reports, conduct day/night reconnaissance, and for a non-fire support Soldier to accurately call in organic Fires. The LTLM II is a lightweight, handheld laser target locator used to determine range, azimuth, and vertical angle to tactical targets at varied ranges. It employs an uncooled internal thermal sight, direct view day optics and day camera, digital magnetic compass, and internal GPS receiver. This test event also provided testers with reliability, availability, and maintainability data on system components.

Throughout 2017, FTD conducted the initial operational test for the Patriot Post Deployment Build 8 with Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery. This test took place in multiple locations to include White Sands Missile Range; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands. The operational test of the Patriot Missile System assessed a new design built to engage and intercept threat aircraft or tactical ballistic missile under all weather conditions.

"At the end of the yearlong test, the 3-43rd ADA Battalion will be amongst the best-trained and capable Patriot battalions in the Army. They have clearly taken advantage of this test, leveraging it as a training opportunity," said Col. Dennis Smith, FTD director.

In 2018, FTD is scheduled to continue testing improvements in the M109 Family of Vehicles, Army Tactical Missile System, AFATDS, JETS-TLDS, and Electronic Warfare Planning and Management Tool. These tests will ensure the future Soldier is equipped



*A Czech Republic artillery battery fires rounds from Dana 152 mm self-propelled howitzers in support of Dynamic Front II. Dynamic Front II is a joint exercise that tests the interoperability of allied artillery systems at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Grafenwöhr, Germany. (Courtesy photo)*

with systems that meet their needs and have been validated by rigorous testing prior to fielding. As of Nov. 1, 2017, FTD's Air Defense Artillery Test Division was realigned under the U.S. Army Operational Test Command's Integrated Test and Evaluation Directorate, which was redesignated as the Air Defense Artillery Test Directorate at Fort Bliss, Texas.

#### **Joint Multinational Readiness Center, *Vampire Team***

Throughout 2017, the *Vampire* fire support observer coach trainer team of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels, Germany, continuously worked to strengthen the NATO alliance and their partners for peace by working at the forefront of field artillery multinational interoperability. In total, they trained over 16,000 U.S. Soldiers and 9,500 multinational Soldiers over the course of 12 exercises in Hohenfels and throughout Europe. Key among these exercises was Dynamic Front II, the premier Fires oriented live-fire exercise in Europe. It involved over 1,400 artillerymen from nine NATO nations, executing multi-echelon Fires and testing tactical interoperability with the Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities members and non-member allies.

Additionally, members of the *Vampire Team* worked to proliferate lessons learned by conducting instructional courses throughout Europe and spearheading numerous revisions to NATO Standardization Agreements. The *Vampire Team* continues to share and incorporate tactics, techniques and procedures and observations with the National Training Center, Joint Readiness Training Center, and Mission Command Training Program to ensure the field artillery force is receiving the best training experience in preparation for worldwide contingency operations. The team began a series of video teleconferences with the Field Artillery Schoolhouse to share trends and keys to success for the Senior Leader Course, FA Officer Basic Course, FA Captains Career Course and Warrant Officer Advance Course students as they prepare to enter future positions in the operational force.

*Vampires* continue to strengthen the alliance through world-class coaching and mentoring by a team comprised of the Army's finest field artillery professionals.

JMRC Website: <http://www.eur.army.mil/7atc/JMRC.html>

JMRC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JMRCTrainToWin/>





# US Marine Corps and Marine Forces Reserve Artillery



*Marines from F Battery fire an M777 during their deployment with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit in support of combat operations for Operation Inherent Resolve. (Courtesy photo)*

## 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division

In 2017, Marines and Sailors of 10th Marine Regiment maintained a high operational tempo and deployment cycles while simultaneously retaining the ability to provide Fires in support of 2nd Marine Division. During this period the regiment conducted one regimental, four battalion and numerous battery-level firing exercises. Notably, in July Battery C supported exercise Iron Wolf and in September, 2nd Battalion supported the multi-national exercise Bold Alligator 17.

During this period, 10th Marines continued to generate and deploy forces in support of combatant commanders. Battery I and Battery E deployed as a part of the Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa, Japan. Further, Battery F deployed with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and fired in support of combat operations for Operation Inherent Resolve. Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 10th Marines and Battery A deployed and relieved Battery F supporting combat operations to defeat ISIS in Syria. These 10th Marines units fired more than 3,200 missions and more than 31,000 rounds combined with devastating effects leading to the successful recapturing of Raqqa. According to Maj. Gen. John Love, 2nd Marine Division commander, the 10th Marines' batteries have killed more ISIS than

anybody else out there right now, including special operations forces.

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

Located aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., the 11th Marine Regiment continues to provide accurate and timely fire support to the 1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force across the globe while supporting the full range of military operations.

Employing the M777A2 towed 155 mm howitzer, the M142A2 High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the M327 rifled, towed 120 mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System, the *Cannon Cockers* of 11th Marine Regiment are ready to provide tailored fire support to the maneuver commander in any clime or place.

True to its expeditionary nature, 11th Marines provides forces to almost every aspect of Marine Corps operations. Eleventh Marines continues to deploy artillery batteries in support of Western Pacific Marine Expeditionary Unit operations, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments, and the Unit Deployment Program. Additionally, the regiment provides fire supporters to every maneuver regiment and separate battalion in the 1stMarDiv.



Over the past year, the *Cannon Cockers* have supported 1st Marine Division exercises Steel Knight and Desert Scimitar with general support artillery Fires. Eleventh Marines continues to support units organic and adjacent to 1stMarDiv, including Training and Education Command, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific, and Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One. The *Cannon Cockers* continue to meet all enduring and emerging requirements as the regiment trains to its core task of providing lethal fire support to the maneuver commander.

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

1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment remained heavily engaged in sustaining proficiency as a cannon battalion throughout 2017. First Battalion conducted numerous live-fire training exercises in support of 1st Marine Regiment and 1st Marine Division and also provided fire support teams and mission-ready batteries in support of Marine Expeditionary Units.

First Battalion provided cannon and mortar Fires in the conduct of Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 3-17, ITX 1-18, and multiple tactical air control party certifications and infantry battalion Marine Corps combat readiness evaluations (MCCREs). First Battalion successfully completed a battalion-level MCCRE and also participated in Desert Firing Exercise and Steel Knight.

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

Over the course of 2017, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment conducted a multitude of exercises across Southern California and



*Marines fire a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System from the flight deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS Anchorage (LPD 23) during Dawn Blitz 2017 over the Pacific Ocean, Oct. 22. (Courtesy photo)*

Arizona, while providing batteries and fire supporters to III Marine Expeditionary Force's operations in the Pacific. Second Battalion continued to reinforce its habitual supporting relationship with 5th Marine Regiment, providing fire support teams to infantry units in addition to supporting their live-fire and maneuver training exercises.

During 2017, 2nd Battalion and subordinate units participated in Integrated Training Exercise 5-17, Weapons and Tactics Instruc-

*Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit fire an M777 howitzer during a fire mission in northern Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, March 24. (Cpl. Zachery C. Laning/U.S. Marine Corps)*





tor Course 1-18, tactical air control party certifications, infantry battalion Marine Corps combat readiness evaluations (MCCREs), Mountain Warfare Training Center training in Bridgeport, Calif., and battery and battalion-level firing exercises. Second battalion also successfully completed a battalion-level MCCRE.

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

Third Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, continues to train and support numerous units with 155 mm artillery Fires aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. The battalion is committed to reinforcing its habitual supporting relationship with 7th Marines through ongoing staff planning, integration and training; while consistently pursuing refinement of battalion tactics, techniques and procedures.

The battalion trained to its core mission by firing in support of 7th Marines, Marine Corps combat readiness evaluations, tactical air control party certifications and battalion through division-level field exercises. Third Battalion also provided forces and Fires in support of integrated training exercises 2-17 and 1-18. The host of training opportunities provided vital preparation for the Marines and the battalion.

### **5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, *Red Lions***

Fifth Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment continued to refine the U.S. Marine Corps doctrine of precision long-range Fires as the general support rocket artillery battalion to 1st Marine Division. Battalion training included multiple joint and service exercises. Fifth Battalion focused on the conduct of rocket artillery raids when deployed by landing craft, air cushion, and Marine Corps and joint fixed wing transport aircraft.

Throughout the year, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines supported regiment, division and Marine Expeditionary Force-level exercises including Large Scale Exercise-17, Northern Edge, Dawn Blitz, Desert Firing Exercise and Steel Knight. The battalion continues to focus on long-range command and control and combined arms operations across the range of military operations.

### **12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, *Thunder Regiment***

Located aboard Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, 12th Marine Regiment provides mortar, cannon, and rocket fire support to 3rd Marine Division and III Marine Expeditionary Force across the Pacific Region.

Third Battalion, 12th Marines is co-located with the regimental headquarters on Camp Hansen. Its firing batteries are deployed through the Unit Deployment Program (UDP) which provides three rotationally assigned cannon/mortar batteries and a single rotationally assigned rocket battery. First Battalion, 12th Marines is located aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay and with three cannon/mortar batteries permanently assigned to it. One of those three batteries is rotationally forward deployed to Okinawa under 3/12th Marines. The other rotationally forward deployed cannon/rocket batteries are provided from the continental United States by 10th and 11th Marine regiments.

Throughout 2017, Marines and Sailors from 12th Marines conducted over 20 mission rehearsals in four 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). The quantity, diversity and quality of these mission rehearsals demon-

strates 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.

Immediately at the start of the New Year, the division fire support coordination center, regimental fire direction center and target acquisition platoon conducted a Fire Support Rehearsal Exercise in Okinawa to refresh and maintain digital fire support coordination skills.

During the months of January and February, 3/12th Marines provided live artillery Fires in support of 1st Marine Infantry Regiment's combined arms breaching, air assault, and mechanized maneuver at Integrated Training Exercise 2-17 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. From Jan. 12 to Feb. 18, Headquarters Battery, 3/12th Marines deployed from Camp Hansen, Okinawa, to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, where it was joined by Battery B/12th Marines from Marine Corps Base-Hawaii in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, as well as Battery I/11th Marines from Twentynine Palms, Calif.

The 12th Marine Regimental Headquarters verified its combat standard operating procedures during a field training exercise in the Central Training Area of Okinawa, Japan, in February which prepared the regimental headquarters for a busy spring and summer exercise schedule.

Forward deployed batteries from 3rd Battalion conducted exercises across the western Pacific in February, with Battery A/12th Marines conducting live-fire in the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Kyushu, Japan, as part of the Artillery Relocation Training Program (ARTP). The ARTP is a routine training event where forward deployed U.S. Marine Corps 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. Also in February, Battery M/11th Marines conducted live-fire training in Republic of Korea as a part of Korea Marine Exchange Program (KMEP) 17.3, firing in support of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. KMEP is a series of exercises between the U.S. Marine Corps and Republic of Korea Marine Corps (ROKMC) which helps to develop the ROKMC across a range of warfighting capabilities, while increasing the interoperability between the USMC and ROKMC in support of the mutual defense of the Republic of Korea. Battery S/11th Marines conducted dry fire HIMARS reconnaissance, selection, and occupation of position at Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan, throughout the month of February. Rotation of the east coast battery completed a busy month for 3rd Battalion, with Battery C/10th Marines being replaced with Battery I/10th Marines.

In March, A/12th Marines deployed from Okinawa to the Hijudai Maneuver Area, on the Japanese island of Kyushu, in order to conduct ARTP 16-4, a battery-level ARTP live-fire exercise. First Battalion began its series of exercises with Spartan Fury (SF) 17-1, conducting live-fire training with both Battery B/12th Marines and Battery C/12th Marines at Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii in March. The forward combat operations center (COC) of both the 12th Marines Headquarters and the 3rd Battalion Headquarters deployed from Okinawa, Japan, to Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, joining 1st Battalion to conduct Dragon Firing Exercise (DF) 17-1. Additionally, significant portions of the regimental target acquisition platoon deployed to PTA as part of SF 17-1 and DF 17-1. This marked the second time in seven months the regiment massed the Fires of its normally geographically separated battalions. At the same time as this exercise in Hawaii, Battery

S/11th Marines (the HIMARS battery assigned to 3rd Battalion) fired reduced range practice rockets at Rocket Valley and Saint Barbara Range, in the Republic of Korea as part of KMEP 17-6.

Additionally, M/11th Marines, part of the UDP rotation, participated in Fuji Viper 17.3 supporting 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment in their maneuver exercise aboard Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan. The division fire support coordination centers (FSCC) supported Key Resolve 17 along with III Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd Marine Division in deliberate and dynamic targeting in March.

The rotation of batteries continued in April, with Battery M/11th Marines returning to Twentynine Palms, Calif. and Battery K/11th Marines arriving joining 3/12th Marines on Okinawa. Battery K/11th Marines quickly established itself and conducted ARTP training at the Ojoihara Maneuver Training Area at the end of the month. Battery S/11th Marines also returned to Camp Pendleton, Calif., being replaced by Battery Q/11th Marines. The regimental headquarters and division FSCC participated in the MEF Exercise 2017 simulation, supporting the exercise by providing the division with counter fire, deliberate and dynamic targeting.

In June, the regimental headquarters, 3/12th Headquarters and Battery I/10th Marines deployed to the Republic of Korea for KMEP 17-10 at Sanseo-Ri and Suseong-Ri in the vicinity of Pohang, ROK. Twelfth Marines Headquarters conducted bi-lateral training with the ROKMC 1st Artillery Regiment, while 3/12th Marines conducted bi-lateral training with 2nd Battalion, 1st ROK Artillery Regiment. Battery I/10th Marines partnered with ROKMC 6th Battery for dry fire and live-fire training. During the exchange, Battery Q/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 A/12th Marines returning to Hawaii and Battery B/12th Marines joining the forward deployed force in Okinawa. In Hawaii, Battery C/12th Marines supported the 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment at PTA during Exercise Lava Viper.

July continued the rapid pace of exercises and deployments. Battery B/12th Marines deployed from Camp Hansen, Okinawa, to the Mount Bunday Training Area in Australia for Exercise Talisman Saber 2017. Battery B/12th Marines deployed with a platoon of 120 mm EFSS mortars, conducting live-fire after an air assault in support of 4th Marines. At Camp Hansen, the regimental headquarters conducted a command post exercise for the upcoming regimental exercise. Battery 3/11th Marines also went to CATC Fuji to support 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines for their maneuver training. In Hawaii, 1/12th Marines conducted SF 17.2, a battalion-level exercise across the island of Oahu, simulating an amphibious air and surface assault from MCBH Kaneohe Bay to Marine Corps Training Area Bellows. The battalion subsequently maneuvered to Schofield Barracks to conduct battalion-level live-fire.

In August, the regiment deployed to Hokkaido, Japan, in support of Northern Viper 17.2 with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force's 11th Field Artillery Unit of the Northern Army. The Regimental Forward and Main COCs deployed from Okinawa to the Yasubetsu Maneuver Area, while 1/12th Marines deployed to YMA from MCBH Kaneohe Bay. Firing units include M777A2 equipped Battery B/12th Marines and Battery K/11th Marines and HIMARS equipped Q/11th Marines, all deploying from Okinawa to YMA. During exercise Northern Viper 17.2, the regiment conducted unilateral and bi-lateral artillery training, firing the first U.S. HIMARS rockets in Japan. NV 17.2 also increased interoperability by estab-



*Marines with B Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, operate an M777A2 lightweight towed howitzer during Spartan Fury at the Pohakuloa Training Area, on the big island of Hawaii, March 21. (Cpl. Alex Kouns/U.S. Marine Corps)*

lishing the first live-fire bi-lateral fire support coordination center between the USMC and JGSDF. Finally in the month of August, 3/12th Marines returned Battery I/10th Marines to Camp Lejeune, N.C., and received K/10th Marines in Okinawa.

In September and October, 3/12th Marines deployed to CATC Camp Fuji to conduct a battalion-level ARTP firing exercise, ARTP 17-2, deploying from Okinawa with Batteries K/10th Marines and K/11th Marines. This exercise incorporated an amphibious assault scenario, with the battalion simulating phasing its combat power and control ashore from amphibious shipping. In early October, 1/12th Marines deployed to PTA, conducting a Spartan IV exercise where it demonstrated proficiency in a training and readiness evaluation conducted by the regimental headquarters.

In late October, B/12th Marines participated in 4th Marines' Exercise Blue Chromite 18 with a platoon of 120 mm EFSS mortars. During this exercise, the battery conducted a live surface ship-to-shore movement from the USS Green Bay to Okinawa.

November started with Battery E/10th Marines deploying to CATC Camp Fuji to support Second Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment at Fuji Viper 18-1. Battery I/11th Marines deployed to YMA in Hokkaido for ARTP 17-3, conducting a battery live-fire in snow and freezing temperatures. Finally, the UDP HIMARS Battery rotated, with Battery Q/11th Marines returning to Camp Pendleton and Battery T/11th Marines arriving in Okinawa.

In December, Battery T/11th Marines continued the habitual relationship with the 353rd Special Operations Group, rehearsing HIMARS employment aboard MC-130 for raid missions. The regiment closed the year with the Hawaii UDP rotation; Battery B/12th Marines returned to MCBH Kaneohe Bay and Battery C/12th Marines arrived on Okinawa.

As the *Thunder Regiment* looks forward in 2018, opportunities abound for increased capabilities, partnerships and readiness in support of 3rd Marine Division and III MEF.





# US Army National Guard Field Artillery



*Soldiers from D Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, hold formation to board the plane at Roland R. Wright Air Base, Utah, as they deploy on Oct. 1. (1st. Lt. Jeffrey Dallin Belnap/U.S. Army National Guard)*

## 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, *America's Thunder*

In 2017, The 65th Field Artillery Brigade continued its reputation as *America's Thunder* as it participated in multiple training events to include the Fleet Synthetic Joint Training Exercise, Yama Sakura 71 (YS-71), and culminated with Warfighter 17-05 (WFX 17-05). The 65th FAB also supported 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery in Operation Skull Valley and Operation Devils Breath and supported 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery at the Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho. Members of 1-145th FA also deployed this year, with more to deploy in 2018.

Soldiers from 65th FAB augmented 2-222nd FA to participate in YS-71 with 17th Field Artillery Brigade at Joint Base Fort Lewis-McChord, Wash. There, they served as the counterfire headquarters for I Corps during the training event.

WFX 17-05 took place at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in June. During the three-week exercise, 65th FAB's mission was to perform the

function as the field artillery headquarters for 40th Infantry Division.

Soldiers in 1-145th FA, participated in Operation Skull Valley in Dugway, Utah, in order to certify their live-fire exercise capabilities. The 1-145th FA also participated as part of Homeland Response Force during Operation Devils Breath. The event simulated a tornado event that triggered requirements for decontamination, wide area search, security and command and control operations.

In 2017, B Battery, 1-145th FA, was recognized as the best National Guard field artillery battery in the nation as it received the Hamilton Award. The award recognizes mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

In October, approximately 100 Soldiers from D Battery, 1-145th FA, were deployed to the United Arab Emirates in support of ongoing operations. They are providing security support and conducting other artillery missions. This will be the first of two rotations of Soldiers, the second is scheduled for mid 2018.

The 2-222nd FA conducted annual training at Orchard Combat Training Center. The operations section coordinated with a team of joint terminal attack controller's from 19th Special Forces Group, the 190th A-10 Squadron from Gowen Field, and HH-60 assets



from the Navy. The 65th FAB provided high command for 2-222nd FA during this training.

65th FAB's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/65FAB/>

## **130th Field Artillery Brigade, Kansas Army National Guard, Kansas Redlegs**

The 130th Field Artillery Brigade, Kansas Army National Guard, *Kansas Redlegs*, completed its 2017 collective training event with a 72-hour counter-fire exercise in conjunction with its active duty partner, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. First ID DIVARTY and the 130th FAB collaborated for months, establishing a training framework in which 1st ID DIVARTY was the force field artillery headquarters and the 130th FAB was the counter-fire headquarters. Both organizations leveraged Mission Training Center facilities, training and mentors to ensure all 130th FAB systems and sections were trained and integrated. The exercise sets the stage for 1st ID's Warfighter Exercise 18-3 where the partnership will continue and reverse training audiences.

## **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, section-level training and platoon-level training. They executed platoon-level, dry fire safety certification and validation, section evaluation and section qualification. The training was mission essential task list-focused, platoon-to-battery training, which builds the platoon up to a safe, collective and tactical unit. All Soldiers focused on key tasks in order to achieve the desired end state.

*Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, receive a briefing covering rules of engagement, tactics, techniques and procedures during their rotation to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. (1st Sgt. Wesley Poell/U.S. Army)*

Annual training was conducted at Fort Riley, Kan., June 3-17. The M109 A6 Paladin, howitzer crew members of the two super batteries completed 213 fire missions, safely firing 1,216 155 mm high-explosive projectiles. Super Battery One completed 153 missions, safely firing 862 155 mm high-explosive projectiles in preparation for evaluations during a rotation at the National Training Center. At NTC, Super Battery One safely performed all its evaluated tasks at or above the standard.

Super Battery Two completed 60 missions, safely firing 354 155 mm high-explosive projectiles. The battalion qualified at full Table XII. During annual training, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery safely controlled artillery Fires for 1,216 rounds. They maintained command and control of two, three-platoon firing batteries, and processed 213 fire missions. In addition, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery supported a 75 mm pack howitzer shoot for River Fest, and provided stranded motorist assistance recovery teams in response to Operation Jupiter.

This year, Task Force Broncbuster supported area recruiting by providing a cannon for 11 college and high school football games, resulting in nine enlistments and a number of leads. TFB also assisted in manning six recruiting booths in the Garden City area as well as provided logistical support for a Blackhawk helicopter event at Garden City Community College. The TFB training program acknowledges that these Soldiers should have 60-plus civilian education promotion points when they graduate from Garden City Community College and the program. TFB unit graduated its first Soldier from the program with an associate's degree. That Soldier is now enrolled in Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Pittsburg State University.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1-161-Field-Artillery-Battalion-Kansas-Army-National-Guard-13817327955954/>





## 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard

### Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard, *Kentucky Thunder*

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 138th Field Artillery Brigade's year started off with the execution of Warfighter Exercise (WFX) 17-2 in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., where the brigade commander and staff integrated with the 28th Division's Fires cell to serve as division fire support coordinator and provide division artillery and force field artillery services.

After completion of the WFX, the brigade headquarters turned focus to redevelopment of the brigade command post to meet mission requirements for a lighter, faster and more mobile command post that retains the ability to conduct mission command and execute division and corps Fires. The lion's share of this effort was focused on the utilization and retrofitting of the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles expanding vans to provide the mobile method for the command post.

Selected to participate in Dynamic Front 2018 in Germany, the 138th Field Artillery Brigade closed out 2017 with staff preparations to provide the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and five NATO supporting countries with corps-level Fires and force field artillery headquarters services. Altogether 20 plus countries are scheduled to participate in the event. The training is valuable training as the brigade works to develop functional technical procedures to provide effective-responsive Fires in this multi-national environment.

### 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Kentucky Army National Guard, *Long Rifles*

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, *Long Rifles*, successfully completed a very busy training year in 2017. The battalion laid a solid foundation in its core mission essential task list and devised a framework to achieve the training goals. The battalion started the year concentrating on Army Warrior Tasks to include qualification with the M4, M249, M240, M2 .50cal, and Mk-19 40 mm. The battalion did crew served qualifications mounted on Field Artillery Ammunition Support Vehicles at Cedar Creek.

The Soldiers moved to Fort Knox, Ky. and began certifying key leaders on the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test for their required military occupational specialty. 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. They moved to the field and finished certifying the howitzer sections. In addition to safely shooting over 900 rounds, the battalion conducted National Guard reactionary force training lanes, vehicle ambush lanes, mounted gunnery lanes and base defense lanes. They implemented new Joint Capabilities Release systems into training and used them to assist with battle tracking.

The *Long Rifles* partnered with 101st Division Artillery to assist with conducting live-fire exercises. The resources 101st DIVARTY provided (13F, 13A, 13R) enabled and enhanced training for the live-fire exercises. It gave 2-138th FA the ability to verify the accuracy of fire missions and shoot late into the night with the equipment they provided. It also enabled the *Long Rifles* to accomplish tasks in a multiple unit training assembly that previously would have taken much longer.

The battalion is currently at 100 percent strength. They qualified up through Table XXII this fiscal year and shot over 1,200 rounds.

Morale is high, and the Soldiers are gaining valuable experience with each and every inactive duty training period. There is no reason to think *Long Rifles* will not continue trending upward as they look forward to Fiscal Year 18.

### 103rd Brigade Support Battalion, Kentucky Army National Guard, *Thunder Support*

During Training Year 2017, the 103rd Brigade Support Battalion executed three annual training events: two for their attached palletized load system (PLS) companies (2123rd Transportation Company and 2112th Transportation Company) and the Headquarters Service Company, 103rd BSB. The battalion staff was challenged with a full command post exercise at Camp Dodge, Iowa, exercising the military decision making process, and demonstrating their ability to effectively conduct mission command through simulation. In addition, Soldiers of 103rd BSB received valuable military occupational specialty training, to include challenging vehicle recovery missions, slingload training, allied trades and the completion of 21 logistic packages of Class I and III (B) covering 740 miles. The 2123rd Transportation Company fully implemented the Associated Unit Pilot Program with the 101st Sustainment Brigade, completing the exchange of Soldiers (E6) with the 74th Transportation Company and conducting their first annual training event at Fort Campbell, Ky., with training assistance from 129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The 2112th TC conducted line haul missions for Bluegrass Army Depot, Ky., transporting 199,921 pounds of scrap metal from Richmond, Ky., to Bedford, Ind., covering 30,579 miles. In addition, 2112th TC received valuable forklift training by loading and transporting 960 ammo cans to various storage facilities on Bluegrass Army Depot. For the 10th year in a row, the 103rd BSB completed 100 percent of the brigade's services, totaling 69 pieces of equipment, and 85 services complete between the two PLS companies. In addition to the before mentioned training events during Training Year 2017, the 103rd BSB assisted the local community by participating in seven state active duty events.

### 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, Kentucky Army National Guard, *Morgan's Men*

First Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) spent the past year focusing on field artillery core competencies to provide accurate, timely and decisive rocket and missile Fires in support of unified land operations. This training included fire mission processing at all levels through the Harris AN/PRC – 150(C) at extended ranges. The 1-623rd FA also had the new Joint Capabilities Release (JCR) and the Profiler Meteorological System fielded in the battalion and was used extensively during training, improving their operational readiness.

The battalion conducted training with their active duty counterparts, 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery HIMARS at Fort Bragg, N.C., in March of 2017. An observer-controller, trainer team from 1-623rd FA was requested and sent during a weeklong field training exercise and live-fire exercise (LFX) at Fort Bragg. The 1-623rd FA was able to help their counterparts achieve effective Objective-T ratings with outside evaluations. This partnership enabled a sharing of ideas and best practices from both units in order to improve training for real-world scenarios. Both of these opportunities allowed *Morgan's Men* to demonstrate their abilities, while also learning valuable lessons.

Annual training (AT) was the high point of the year. The battalion fully utilized and put the Harris radio to the test of long-range communications conducting AT at three different training

sites in Kentucky: Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. Fort Campbell was a new training area for the battalion, which created learning opportunities, especially during reconnaissance selection and occupation of position and unit movement. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery was centrally located at WHFRTC with A Battery road marching to Fort Campbell and B Battery road marching to Fort Knox. Utilizing JCR and Harris radio, HHB 1-163rd FA was able to control field artillery movements and a capstone live-fire was executed utilizing Harris LRC for the fire missions through Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System. The battalion was externally evaluated by 2nd Battalion, 305th Field Artillery from 1st Army. The 101st DIVARTY also participated in the training events using a Q36 Radar and 13F Soldiers to monitor the LFX. This reinforced the active duty – National Guard relationship.

In addition to focusing on field artillery tasks, *Morgan's Men* continued to excel in providing outstanding support to local communities and the Commonwealth of Kentucky through the performance of a wide range of state active duty missions, which included providing security at the 2017 Kentucky Derby. The battalion was awarded the Kentucky Adjutant General's Award for Physical Security 2017 for the second year in a row, while the 203rd Forward Support Company won the Philip A. Connelly Regional Award in 2017 and will compete nationally in 2018. Individually, Sgt. James Barnett from B Battery, 1-623rd FA was selected as the Kentucky Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the year after a competitive selection process. *Morgan's Men* achieved all established goals for Training Year 2017 and is positioned for continued success as it moves into Training Year 2018.

## 169th Field Artillery Brigade, Colorado Army National Guard, *Liberators*

In September 2017, the *Liberators* of the 169th Field Artillery Brigade returned from a historic nine-month deployment serving as the U.S. Army Central Command force field artillery headquarters. Providing effective command and control to 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment; 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment; B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment and A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery. The 169th FAB executed distributed mission command across a vast operational area and within a wide-ranging mission set.

While supporting both Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve, the *Liberators* significantly contributed to the defeat of ISIS by delivering over 3,000 precision strikes during the liberation of Mosul, Iraq, and during other crucial combat operations. Concurrently, the 169th FAB conducted a robust theater security cooperation program with key field artillery partners across the CENTCOM area of responsibility. In addition to dozens of other events, in August the 169th FAB's Spartan Thunder Exercise achieved bilateral fire mission processing and airspace coordination objectives with partner-nation rocket artillery forces in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. The *Liberators* made significant advancements in field artillery readiness. The Soldiers contributed to the defense of the Arabian Gulf and promoted peace and stability throughout the region.

The *Liberators* accomplished various degrees of training while supporting mission sets across the globe. The brigade gained valuable insight into the necessity of partnering with host nations to



*Soldiers conduct bi-lateral training while serving under the 169th Field Artillery Brigade. (Courtesy photo)*

accomplish a common goal while simultaneously refining standard operating procedures. This arduous training ensured all units learned valuable lessons throughout 2017. It also underscores the capabilities that National Guard Soldiers bring to the total force as they fight in the nations conflicts.

## 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, *Lightning*

*Redlegs* from 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, *Lightning*, demonstrated their flexibility and lethality by providing accurate and responsive Fires around the globe in 2017. Three of the four firing platoons deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) to provide Fires in support of combat operations. The last firing platoon mobilized to U.S. European Command to support NATO exercises. In total the battalion mobilized 14 of 16 launchers, supported two combatant commands and provided rocket Fires and capabilities in six separate countries throughout the year. During annual training within the U.S., the battalion S6 and fire direction center sections used advance communication

*Soldiers from B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, strike the enemy from an undisclosed location in U.S. Central Command's area of operations. (Courtesy photo)*





systems to process fire missions that originated from 169th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters located in the U.S. Central Command AOR. The battalion conducted three separate High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) airlift operations while partnering with 29th Weapons Squadron and 41st Airlift Squadron, United States Air Force.

B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, deployed to the Middle East in support of Operations Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Spartan Shield (OSS). The mission required a general support field artillery battery (+) ready to destroy, neutralize and suppress the enemy that partnered with joint and multi-national forces. Without a manning document, the first challenge began by manning the 120 authorized positions. The unit reorganized its doctrinal structure by combining paragraphs and line numbers from across the battalion in order to create a battalion tactical command post, a battery headquarters and four self-sustaining platoons or Light HIMARS Packages (LHPs). LHPs enabled decentralized operations at multiple firing points across two combatant commands and three different countries. B Battery was also the first battery to fire the M30A1 Alternate Warhead in combat. Overall, the battery shot over 70 strikes and 300 rockets in support of OIR.

First Platoon, A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS). They launched over 800 precision rockets, the highest rate of any HIMARS unit since the beginning of the war in Afghanistan. The platoon engaged numerous targets with devastating Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System and Army Tactical Missile System rocket fires. Their support significantly impacted the ongoing war and the efforts of OFS.

While sustaining operations in support of OSS, OIR and OFS, the battalion maintained a high level of readiness at home. Second Platoon, A Battery, 3-157th, the only firing platoon not to deploy to combat operations, mobilized to Latvia in support of U.S. Army Europe's NATO exercise, Saber Strike. The platoon coordinated across Department of Defense (U.S. Army Europe, U.S. Marine Corps, active duty and four separate National Guard states) and NATO (15 total countries) to facilitate HIMARS expeditionary operations, combine efforts and share tactical experiences while executing fires. Their training culminated with a combined arms force-on-force exercise intermixed with the local populace. This new concept differed from previous exercises and pushed the entire unit to test their standard operating procedures and react to circumstances not previously encountered. The platoon demonstrated tremendous versatility. They integrated with maneuver forces and received various firing missions in support of the exercise. Second Platoon, A Battery fired multiple standard and non-standard missions allowing the *Redlegs* to reinforce core competencies while simultaneously exposing leaders and Soldiers to complex scenarios. Second Platoon also made history by firing the first HIMARS rockets in Latvia. The success of these joint operations strengthened the professional relationship between the U.S. and NATO allies in Eastern Europe.

### **147th Brigade Support Battalion, 169th Field Artillery Brigade**

The 147th Brigade Support Battalion had a unique dual mission set during 2017. The 147th BSB served as the brigade support battalion as well as the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) enhanced force package (CERFP) for Region VIII under the National Guard Bureau CBRNE Response Enterprise. The 147th

BSB has completed two previous National Training Center rotations and three CERFP external evaluations (EXEVAL) since 2012.

The 147th BSB is positioned to conduct a CERFP EXEVAL in 2018 after a highly successful NTC 17-08 rotation. During that rotation, the BSB served as a combat sustainment support battalion (CSSB) for 2nd Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Bliss, Texas. During that time, 147th BSB Headquarters and seven additional companies across all three components were able to sustain the fight by delivering over 165,000 gallons of bulk fuel and over 96,000 gallons of bulk water. Additionally 147th CSSB delivered 979 pallets of Class I rations, 40 pallets of Class IV, 30 flat racks of Class IX, and recovered 78 pieces of armor from the battlefield. They did this in 72 tactical convoy operations which totaled more than 64,800 miles driven.

It a total team effort from all units assigned to 147th CSSB which included reserve component forces from 850th Transportation Company out of Mississippi; 257th Transportation Company out of Nevada; 475th Quartermaster Company from Pennsylvania, 103 Quartermaster Company from Texas; 826th Ordnance Company from Wisconsin; 771st Support Maintenance Company, Tennessee National Guard; and 40th Expeditionary Signal Brigade, active component from Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Additionally, 147th CSSB included the 480th Military Police attachment from Puerto Rico National Guard; 67th Forward Support Company (2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery) from Fort Sill, Okla.; and five medics from active component.

With 500 Soldiers to train in a six-month window (equivalent to 12 training days), it was no small feat to overcome. However, with determination, motivation and the back-bone of the Army, the noncommissioned officer corps, 147th BSB stepped up when it counted. The unit is comprised of quality professionals ready to answer the call at a moment's notice.

## **115th Field Artillery Brigade, Wyoming National Guard, *Cowboy Thunder***

The roll of *Cowboy Thunder* continues to reverberate as *Redlegs* from the 115th Field Artillery Brigade advance their proficiencies and readiness by taking part in relevant training events throughout the year.

In June, 115th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, 148th Signal Company, and the 960th Brigade Support Battalion conducted a mission command systems integration exercise intended to stress the equipment to achieve overall communication throughout the battle space. The brigade was able to communicate to its units over different systems and operate as a field artillery brigade, to include sending simulated firing missions.

In September, *Redlegs* from 2-300th FA executed a night live-fire exercise, successfully qualifying Table VI shooting their High Mobility Rocket Systems.

### **1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Wisconsin Army National Guard, *Red Fox***

*Redlegs* from 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, *Red Fox*, worked diligently to provide accurate fires for 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Red Arrow*, and stand ready to provide support for hurricane relief efforts.

The firing season for the *Red Fox Battalion* began in June with a live-fire exercise, certifying on tables and preparing for annual



*Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Wisconsin Army National Guard, fire the M119 during a live-fire exercise. (Courtesy photo)*

training. In July, A and B batteries attended new equipment fielding for the M119A3's suspension lockout system. This system was subsequently tested during annual training, at which another live-fire exercise was conducted to include Rocket Assisted Projectile familiarization.

The *Red Fox Battalion's* observers spent their field time with the infantry and cavalry units of *Red Arrow*, calling both artillery and mortar missions. The observers are also becoming joint Fires observer (JFO)-qualified, attending both JFO qualification and recertification courses at Fort McCoy, Wis.

The training season continued into August, where the battalion staff took part in the *Red Arrow Brigade's* warfighter exercise (WFX). Accompanied by 1st Army evaluators, the staff improved both procedures and products in preparation for the upcoming exportable combat training capability rotation.

At the end of the brigade WFX, Hurricane Harvey made landfall. The Wisconsin Army National Guard, eager to provide assistance, planned and prepared for domestic operations. While not being utilized in Texas, the Soldiers of the Badger State were again called to stand ready as Hurricane Irma was set to hit Florida. Within days of receiving the notification, nearly 300 *Red Fox* Soldiers conveyed to Florida. Luckily, the damage from Irma was less severe than anticipated and the majority of the battalion returned to home station. One detachment of 13Fs flew to Florida, and assisted local agencies with disaster relief. While fortunate that the people in these areas didn't require additional aid, the ability of the Soldiers in the *Red Fox Battalion* to rapidly prepare and deploy in support of others truly exemplifies the battalion's motto, *Eager to Assist*.

### **1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment, Missouri Army National Guard, *Thunder***

During the 2017 training year, the 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment, *Thunder*, focused on achieving all objectives while elevating its proficiency in delivering accurate and timely Fires.

In June, the battalion conducted annual training at Fort Ripley, Minn. The Soldiers fired 1,134 rounds to include high explosive, smoke and illumination missions with tremendous effects while conducting numerous battery occupations.

The 1-129th FAR also conducted a live-fire exercise and Precision Guided Kit Net Fielding at Fort Riley, Kan., becoming the third National Guard field artillery battalion to qualify on precision guided munitions. The 1-129th FAR also conducted 10 additional net fieldings, modernizing the battalion's equipment and facilitating training focused on near-peer and peer threats.

This year was a success for the 1-129th FAR. The Soldiers of the battalion were awarded four Meritorious Service Medals, 12 Army

Commendation Medals, 41 Army Achievement Medals and 91 Missouri Commendation Medals. The 1-129th FAR also had seven Soldiers complete Air Assault School and two Soldiers successfully complete the rigorous Pathfinder School. The 1-129th FAR's Truman Chapter of the Field Artillery Association was awarded the best chapter in the nation for the second time in three years. The battalion had numerous accomplishments in 2017, and looks to continue the trend in 2018.

### **2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard, *Knights of Fire***

The focus of 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery in 2017 was to mobilize two elements while maintaining proficiency of Soldiers that did not mobilize. A Battery, from Holton and Marysville, Kan., with Soldiers from across the battalion and state mobilized in April to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield. B Battery from Paola and Lenexa, Kan., mobilized in August to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel.

The road-to-war for A Battery was well on its way by October after the battery completed individual weapons qualification and artillery skills proficiency testing at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina, Kan. This training built on what was completed in Training Year 2016 and laid the foundation for mobilization preparation.

In February, both A Battery and B Battery conducted equipment issue, the Administrative Soldier Readiness Process, the Medical Soldier Readiness Process, and Yellow Ribbon training requirements. This process went extremely well and ensured all Soldiers on the deployment manning documents, and their families, were medically and administratively ready for their respective mobilization.

In March, A Battery began their pre-mobilization training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center where they completed all individual Soldier skills training that was required for mobilization. Following Salina, A Battery moved to Fort Riley, Kan., to complete the field artillery portion of their training. The battery completed Field Artillery Table VI and 13 total section qualifications. B Battery took artillery skills proficiency tests and did individual Soldier training requirements in preparation for their pre-mobilization training that began July.

In April, A Battery held their departure ceremony at Holton High School where Soldiers, families, employers and community members came to send off the unit. A Battery later reported to Fort Bliss, Texas, for post-mobilization training and certification.

May and June proposed a great training opportunity for B Battery that the battalion had never accomplished before. The battalion partnered with the 139th Airlift Wing of the Missouri Air National Guard to conduct Field Artillery Table III training. This training consisted of air-load and transport operations of the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). Two HIMARS sections were flown by C-130 from Rosecrans Air Base, Mo., to Fort Riley and were able to land and assume an operational posture. This training is key for the mission set that the Soldiers may fill in future operations.

During Annual Training 2017, Soldiers who were not mobilizing, consolidated in Hiawatha, Kan., to train on Army warrior tasks and engage in local community and recruiting events. A priority of any formation is to grow the force. The battalion devoted time and resources this annual training to make strides to do just that. The battalion completed all training goals and conducted 15 separate





*Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, conduct Field Artillery Table VI, section qualification and live-fire exercise during pre-mobilization training at Fort Riley, Kan. (Capt. Zane Curtis/1st Battalion, 130th Field Artillery)*

recruiting or community support events. This resulted in 21 potential recruits for the battalion and Kansas Army National Guard.

In July, B Battery began their pre-mobilization training at the Great Plains Joint Training Center in Salina where they completed all individual Soldier skills training required for their mobilization. B Battery then moved to Fort Riley to complete the field artillery portion of their training. The unit trained to and completed Field Artillery Table V section certification for five total sections.

In August, B Battery held their departure ceremony at Saint James Academy in Lenexa, Kan., where Soldiers, families, employers and community members came to send off the unit. B Battery later reported to Fort Bliss for post-mobilization training and certification.

More training objectives were accomplished in Training Year 2017 than ever before. Readiness metrics were higher than previous years, and 2-130th FA set the bar high within the Kansas Army National Guard. Moving forward the battalion will focus on maintaining field artillery skill proficiency with the *Fight Tonight* mentality. The Soldiers reintegrate deployed elements upon release from active duty and drive forward as one of the most combat proven, highly lethal forces in the nation.

*Semper Parvo Meliores, Always a little better.*

2-130th FA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/2ndBattalion130thFieldArtillery/>

2-130th FA Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe-9Voyi6MACusGGS4yTZEJA>

## **1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, Michigan National Guard, *Sudden Death***

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Sudden Death*, spent 2017 in reset after completing their mission in the United Arab Emirates, the kingdom of Jordan and Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.

While in reset, the battalion spent the year focused on individual and equipment readiness in addition to reintegration with families and friends. A new battalion commander also brought a focus to survivability contrary to recent deployment experience. Soldiers embraced this focus and leaders incorporated it into training plans as they analyzed deployment lessons learned and how to integrate the two.

In addition to reset activities and the evolution of mission focus, in March 2017 the *Sudden Death Battalion* augmented the Latvian National Armed Forces Combat Brigade with fire direction specialists at Hohenfels, Germany, in support of Exercise Allied Spirit. Their mission was to participate in the integration of coalition Fires during the exercise as part of the Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities program. The battalion also supported additional security cooperation activities in Latvia surrounding Latvian artillery capability improvement as part of the 25-year Security and Prosperity Partnership between the Michigan National Guard and the Latvian National Armed Forces.

In July 2017 the *Sudden Death Battalion* went back to the field





*Soldiers of the Georgia Army National Guard's 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade stand with Soldiers of the Romanian Land Forces during exercise Saber Guardian Valcea, Romania. Exercise Saber Guardian is a multi-national exercise involving more than 25,000 service members representing more than 20 nations. (Capt. William Carraway /Georgia Army National Guard)*

during annual training 2017 to test and measure the renewed focus on field craft and survivability at the Army warrior task and battle drill level. Soldiers who had not spent the night in the field in years remembered what it was like and enjoyed the opportunity to get back to basics.

The *Sudden Death Battalion* is well on its way to being mission ready for any contingency, under any circumstance, anywhere in the world. *Might if Right – Sudden Death!*

### **1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard, *Hydra***

*Redlegs* from the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, *Hydra*, participated in Saber Guardian Exercise in Valcea, Romania, as part of a wet gap crossing which has not been conducted since the Cold War Era. The fire support and air defense and airspace management cells (ADAM) coordinated with 2nd Cavalry Regiment and multinational units to provide fire support during the crossing. Integration of surface-to-surface and surface-to-air assets was an invaluable opportunity for the *Hydra* Fires and ADAM cell to execute their military occupational skills during the exercise. *Hydra* Fires members played a vital role in the planning and mission accomplishment in this multinational exercise.

### **1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, New York Army National Guard, *Washington Greys***

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, *Washington Greys*, executed a rigorous training year. The battalion focused on platoon and above collective tasks and honed the skills developed during the previous year's Joint Readiness Training Center rota-

tion. Soldiers remained vigilant, motivated and capable, proving that the battalion remains Ready and Faithful.

The battalion used its time wisely, maximizing training opportunities throughout the year. The firing batteries, located in New Windsor and Bronx, N.Y., conducted field artillery tables throughout the year to ensure howitzer sections were certified and ready to progress through platoon tables prior to annual training. During annual training, the batteries executed repetitive day/night occupations and multiple platoon-level air assault artillery raids in conjunction with the New York Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment. Training culminated with a brigade-level fire support coordination exercise resulting in the massing of Fires across the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Headquarters Battery, based in the Jamaica area of Queens, N.Y., improved proficiency in establishing and executing mission command while certifying its meteorological, radar, fire direction and survey sections. The biggest challenge came in the form of ensuring the battalion and brigade were synchronized in support of the fire support coordination exercise. The complex nature of integrating air/ground clearance, radar, artillery, mortars and fire support elements from different battalions and different states presented many opportunities for Soldiers to expand on leadership capabilities.

G Battery, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, also based in Jamaica, N.Y., provided exceptional support. They sustained all batteries to ensure they remained mission ready. The weather and mud at Fort Drum, N.Y., offered many opportunities for equipment recovery and challenging logistical resupply missions. These Soldiers worked tireless hours and played a crucial role in the battalion and brigade's successes.



# In the next issue of Fires

March-April 2018, **Fires strong**. How is the Fires force staying fit for undetermined warfare? This issue will discuss the role of the joint forward observer in cross domain Fires; rapid capabilities; the redesign of FA/ADA military occupational specialties; changes in doctrine; equipment upgrades; and lessons learned from combat training centers.

The deadline for submissions is Dec. 1, 2017. Submissions should capture significant events, such as deployments, training, etc., for the past year. Send your submissions to [usarmy.sill.fcoe.mbx.fires-bulletin-mailbox@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.sill.fcoe.mbx.fires-bulletin-mailbox@mail.mil) or call (580)442-5121 for more information.

*A Soldier with 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment reloads her Avenger Air Defense System during field operations, June 17, 2017, at Camp Atterbury, Ind. (1st Lt. Aaron Smith/Ohio Army National Guard)*

