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RED LEG Update

The United States Army Field Artillery Branch's Newsletter

2014 Knox, Hamilton and Gruber Winners

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FROM THE
DESK
of the
CSM

Purpose: Founded in 2011, the *Redleg Update* provides past and present Field Artillery leaders with a monthly update of informational highlights to assist in their individual, collective and professional training efforts, as well as report on activities occurring throughout the Field Artillery community.

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Dan Moriarty

CSM Dan Moriarty

Command Sergeant Major of the Field Artillery

RFIs, Notes, and Notices: To submit a Request for Information (RFI), please email the POC listed below.

Points of Contact:

We appreciate those who have provided announcements, notices, articles and lessons learned.

Additionally, if you have a story of interest or wish to initiate a discussion on any topic or issue facing the Field Artillery community, contact Mr. John Folland, (580) 558-0831, or the editor of the *Redleg Update*, Ms. Sharon McBride, Field Artillery STRATCOM officer, (580) 558-0836.

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ON THE COVER:
The 2014 Henry A. Knox Award Winner

B Battery, 4th Battalion,
27th Field Artillery (Fort Bliss,
Texas)



FROM THE DESK of the CSM

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great holiday break! I was able to start 2015 off on an awesome note by traveling to Fort Bliss earlier this month for the presentation of the 2014 Henry A. Knox Award. The Award was given to B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery. This award-winning battery postured themselves as a maneuver commander's double threat by providing fires with both PALADINS and M777A2s, not an easy feat to accomplish in any scenario. To read more about what this unit accomplished in 2014, go to [{Page 6}](#).

On Jan. 6, the battery was presented the award by the commander and command sergeant major of the 1st Armored Division, Major General Stephen M. Twitty and CSM Lance P. Lehr.

While there I had the opportunity to not only congratulate them, but to speak about one of my favorite Artillery NCOs, SGT Joseph White, and his connection to the first Chief of the Field Artillery, Colonel Henry Knox, for whom this award was named after.

I wrote about SGT Joseph White for the July 2014 Redleg Update. During the Revolutionary War, only captains led howitzer crews. However, during the Battle of Princeton, there weren't enough captains to command the cannons, so Colonel Knox chose

SGT Joseph White as the first ever Sergeant to command a howitzer crew. Almost 240 years ago Colonel Knox set the standard for recognizing excellence and significant contributions to the Artillery.

For those of you who do not know, quite a bit of consideration goes into selecting the recipients of not only the Knox award, but the Alexander Hamilton and Edmund L. Gruber awards as well.

It's not Dan Moriarty making the selections, but a panel of highly respected brigade commanders and command sergeants major who make the decisions every year. This panel is given specific guidance as they go about evaluation of each of the nomination packets, ensuring that only the best of the best are selected.

Bravo battery was one of six final active units throughout the Army to be put through the painstakingly detailed board process and was found by four Brigade Commanders and four Brigade Command Sergeant Majors as the best battery in the Artillery. Bravo Battery 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery without a doubt represented the Field Artillery with distinction, professionalism, and a "Be, Know, Do" attitude.

I'll present the Hamilton Award (A Battery, 1st Battalion, 181st) on the 19th of February dur-

ing the ARNG Fires Conference and the Gruber Award (SFC Daniel King, "TOP GUNS") on the 20th of February at Fort Campbell.

All are highly prestigious honors, but let me put it in perspective for you. There are 96 active duty battery's, 84 ARNG battery's, and more than 50,000 individuals across the Army and National Guard who serve in the Field Artillery. Out of all those units and Artillerymen they are considered the best of the best.

Be proud of your accomplishments! Your hard work, dedication, and exacting standards are a model for all to emulate. Please join me in congratulating these outstanding Field Artillerymen.

The 2014 Field Artillery Henry A. Knox Award has been awarded to: B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery (Fort Bliss, Texas) [{see Page 6}](#).

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

The 2014 Field Artillery Alexander Hamilton Award has been awarded to: A Battery, 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery Regiment (Tennessee Army National Guard) [{see Page 7}](#).

Continued on Page 4, see From the CSM

From the Desk of the CSM...continued from Page 3

This award recognizes the outstanding U.S. Army National Guard Field Artillery Battery of the Year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

The winner of the 2014 Field Artillery Edmund L. Gruber Award is: SFC Daniel King, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment (Fort Campbell, KY) {see Page 8}.

This award recognizes an outstanding Field Artillery Soldier for superb individual thought, innovation and overall excellence that results in significant contributions to or the enhancement of the Field Artillery's

war fighting capabilities.

I would like to thank all of the unit leaders who took the opportunity to nominate their Soldiers and units, highlighting how they lead the way within our branch.

Units interested in being considered for the 2015 Knox, Hamilton and Gruber Awards can find information for submissions on the Field Artillery tab of the Fires Knowledge Network, or contact the Field Artillery Proponent Office at 580-442-3031. Units should submit their recommendations for the 2015 Knox, Hamilton and Gruber Awards no later than Oct. 1,

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I am 1LT Carolyn Leister

Bravo Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery

The story behind the first female OIC of a DIVARTY Salute Battery

I have been active duty for a year and eight months now and have been stationed at Fort Bliss for a year. I decided to compete for Field Artillery because my grandfather was FA during WWII, and I really wanted to challenge myself. Before I joined ROTC at West Virginia University I was enlisted in the West Virginia National Guard for a few years. The Army has always been somewhat of a challenge for me being a female but it always pushed me to prove to myself that I could do whatever I put my mind to.

Once I graduated and commissioned I headed to Fort Sill, OK to tackle Field Artillery BOLC. The females were

extremely outnumbered, there were 8 of us in a class of over 140 LTs and 2 ended up not passing the course. The course itself was very challenging, trying to learn how to be a Fire Direction Officer, Fire Support Officer, and Platoon Leader simultaneously. To be successful and graduate at the top of your class you had to be dedicated to your classes, focusing on really grasping each position. Going through Basic training, being in my National Guard unit, and in ROTC I saw how females were being treated differently, but BOLC was the first time I was told by someone higher ranking that when I arrive at my unit I WILL be treated differently and I would have to work harder to prove myself.

After graduating BOLC I arrived at Fort Bliss, Texas with 4-27 FA, 2/1. I was the first female FA LT within the Division so they had no idea where to place me. After a few meetings they decided to make me the Radar PL, something I knew nothing about and it was a Warrant Officer slot. Working in this position was an

uphill battle for me because I was getting used to the unit, being active duty, and trying to learn how to do my job. After about 7 months I was moved to Bravo Battery to be a Fire Direction Officer, something I had been waiting so long to do. I was extremely nervous at first, but in time I realized that I had proved to the unit that I was worthy of being there and that I fit in. I would strive to push myself and be the best physically and mentally, I worked towards always improving my physical fitness and I shadowed the NCO's to learn

as much as I could. When it came time for our testing (manual safety, gunner's test, aiming circle test, and leader's test) I was able to score highest

on most of them in the Battalion. I truly realized how important NCO's were to the success of the mission and I had earned their respect.

Being a female in Field Artillery, a combat arms branch is tough, but if you picked it for the right reasons and you are willing to work at being the best you can be, it can be extremely rewarding. Field Artillery means you will be in the field A LOT, so do not expect to be treated any differently. It is important to come into your unit with the attitude that you are wearing the same uniform as everyone else, do not separate yourself as a female. Another thing I learned quickly is never be afraid to ask for help, it is better to learn from someone than to stress yourself out trying to teach yourself. When you go to the field for your certifications or gunnery be prepared to be completely focused. When shooting live rounds it is vital to have the materials you will need (map, protractors, map markers, manuals, etc) because if you drop the ball, all operations are at a stand still.

“Being a female in Field Artillery, a combat arms branch is tough, but if you picked it for the right reasons and you are willing to work at being the best you can be, it can be extremely rewarding.”



2014 Henry A. Knox Award

B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery (Fort Bliss, Texas)



Commander's Summary: Bravo Battery is postured as a maneuver commander's double threat through the versatility to provide lethal fires with both self-propelled PALADIN's and towed M777A2's. Bravo Battery's superior performance is highlighted by the ground-breaking work testing SUE's during NIE; building a foundation for joint and combined operations and shaping the force for all branches not just Army; showing a commitment to Family and community outreach amidst a grueling OPTEMPO; spearheading the Army's shift to DIVARTY; integrating females into the Field Artillery and unparalleled SHARP and EO programs; and finally showing their commitment to Artillery Values by having the highest performance of basic artillery tasks in accordance with TC 3-09.8. Battery without a doubt represented the Field Artillery with distinction, professionalism, and a "Be, Know, Do" attitude. Bravo's significant contributions shaping artillery TIP's will define the Field Artillery of tomorrow. -- CPT Leland Labbe

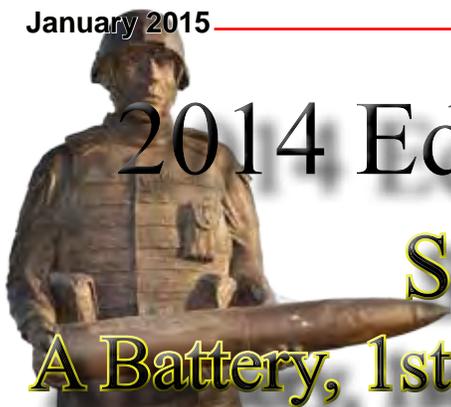


2014 Alexander Hamilton Award

A Battery, 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery Regiment (Tennessee Army National Guard)



Commander's Summary: Alpha Battery, 1-181FA Battalion embarked on and executed one of the most important and relevant missions that the unit has been challenged to accomplish from August 2013 to June 2014. They did so with Excellency in every aspect of their duties. Alpha Battery was the first HIMARS unit in the TN Army National Guard to successfully deploy into theater and perform their METL tasks, which they did with tremendous professionalism, zeal and efficiency. Their superior performance reflects very positively upon the Battalion, Brigade, the TN Army National Guard and the United States Army. I whole-heartedly endorse the award of the Alexander Hamilton Award to Alpha Battery, 1-181FA Battalion in Lawrenceburg, TN for their outstanding achievements during FY14 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. -- LTC A. Jason Fleming



2014 Edmund L. Gruber Award

SFC Daniel King, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment (Fort Campbell, KY)



Commander's Summary: Over the past twelve months, SFC King has proved to be an invaluable leader within the brigade and set unprecedented standards throughout the battalion's fielding, training, and deployment of the M119A3 and M777A2 howitzer systems, while advising the 201st Corps Artillery leaders throughout Regional Command-East in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. His dedication to ensuring the Afghan National Army 201st Corps' proficiency and ability to develop a self-sustainable sensor to shooter certification process enabled mission success for Task Force STRIKE's train, advise, and assist mission. His efforts ensured that the 201st Corps established critical overmatch capabilities during the 1393 Afghan fighting season and during a key transition time for the country of Afghanistan that involved two Afghan Presidential Elections. His involvement in developing tactical standard operating procedures for two newly fielded howitzer systems was critical in setting a higher standard for artillery fire base operations while deployed.

-- LTC Mark B. Sherkey

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY “JANUARY”

1 January 1957, The Department of the Army re-designated The Artillery and Guided Missile School as The U.S. Army Artillery and Guided Missile School.

1 January 1969, The U.S. Army Artillery and Missile School was officially redesignated as the U.S. Army Field Artillery School.

4 January 1993, The Fort Sill stood up Training Command as part of a major reorganization. The reorganization abolished the Target Acquisition Department, made it a division in the Fire Support and Combined Arms Department, eliminated the Communications and

Electronics Department because the Army moved field artillery signal MOS training to Fort Gordon, and merged the Directorate of Training and Doctrine and Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization to create the Directorate of Training and Evaluation. This reorganization gave the School two teaching departments: Gunnery and Fire Support and Combined Arms Operations in Training Command.

8 January 1869, The site of Fort Sill was staked out by MG Philip H. Sheridan who led a campaign into Indian Territory to stop hostile Native American tribes from raiding white settlements in Texas and Kansas.

16 January 1953, The Department of the Army established the Army Aviation School at Fort Sill to train Army aviators. The school moved to Fort Rucker in 1954 because the Army Aviation School grew so rapidly that it required additional facilities that could not be provided on Fort Sill.

22 January 1947, War Department General Order Number 11, dated 22 January 1947, officially redesignated the Coast Artillery School as the Seacoast Artillery School as a branch of The Artillery School, the Antiaircraft Artillery School as a branch of The Artillery School, and Field Artillery School as The Artillery School.

Army Looking at New MOS-Specific PT Tests

By *Matthew Cox, Military.Com News*

The U.S. Army wants to create specific physical fitness tests aimed at ensuring that soldiers can meet the physical challenges of their jobs in wartime.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno is waiting on a recommendation that would create PFTs that are designed around the physical requirements of military occupational specialties such as infantry, cavalry, armor and others.

“I expect that the in the next several months Training and Doctrine Command will come forward with a recommendation,” Odierno said during a Jan. 6 virtual Town Hall meeting with soldiers across the Army.

“This is maybe how I see it. I think there might still be a general PT test similar to [the current] pushups, sit-ups, two-mile run. But then there will be a functional test per by MOS that really focuses on what strengths should need to be in a certain MOS.”

Odierno said he saw a recommendation for a new PFT when he first became chief, but it was “inadequate.”

So he directed training officials to begin looking at qualifications for every MOS. The data collected from the effort will “help us to understand physiologically when we go to war, what are the requirements that we have to have for somebody to be able to do their job under stressful conditions.”

Sgt. Major of the Army Raymond Chandler III said the effort will help the Army be sure it has the right people in the right jobs.

“Can you do the physical tasks associated with your MOS?” Chandler said. “If not, let’s see if there is another place where we can help you continue to serve but maybe not in the same MOS.”

The Army is also looking at standards female soldiers will have to meet if they want to serve in combat-arms units. All of the services have until 2016 to come up

with a plan to meet the Pentagon directive.

A high-profile part of that effort will soon take place when female soldiers are allowed to attend Ranger School for the first time. Male students who attend the grueling two-month course average only a 50-percent graduation rate.

The pilot program is an attempt to assess how females to in the demanding course, Odierno said.

“We are just going to kind of let the statistics speak for themselves,” he said. “The main thing that I am focused on is that the standards will remain the same.”

Once the pilot is complete, senior leaders will then decide if Ranger School will remain open to women.

“We are going to take a look at the data, and we will move forward one way or another. There are no preconceived notions of what the outcome will be.”