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RED LEG

Update

The United States Army Field Artillery Branch's Newsletter

**New Year, New Opportunities
to Train**

AIT Update

BOLC-B CTE

**BOLC-B students
conduct**

Fire Support Coordination Exercise

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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.

Official Distribution: The *Redleg Update* is distributed by the Commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery to key members of the Field Artillery chain of command across the U.S. Army. The current edition can be found @

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Stephen G. Smith
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commandant,
United States Army Field Artillery School

Stephen G. Smith

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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 Ms. Sharon McBride, Field Artillery Public Affairs Officer, at (580) 558-0836 or sharon.g.mcbride4.civ@mail.mil

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From the FA Commandant's desk

New Year, New Opportunities to Train

In the last edition of the Redleg Update, I highlighted what we will focus on as 2019 unfolds.

In this edition, you will see an update on two of these initiatives, the Danger Close Fire Support Coordination Exercise in BOLC-B and an update on our first 13M CTE.

We also have an update from CSM Kevin King, the USAFAS CSM and CSM of the Field Artillery, about the refinements that are happening throughout all five Field Artillery Military Occupational Specialties (13B, 13F, 13J, 13M, 13R).

In future editions, we will provide ongoing updates on our 2019 initiatives and publish articles from our Division Artillery (DIVARTYs), our Field Artillery Brigades (FABs), and Combat Training Centers (CTCs).

There's a lot of great training going on and we will enforce the field's successes and as we prepare for large scale ground combat operations (LSGCO).

**Keep up the Fire!
King of Battle!**



BG Stephen G. Smith



From the Desk of the FA CSM: AIT Update

We are known as “The Most Professional Army in the World” and it all starts right here. FY19 is shaping up to be a year of change. As our force changes its culture and focuses on LSGCO (Large Scale Ground Combat Operations), our nation and our Army are counting on us to do the same. As our Army Recruiters provide the best our nation has to offer, it is with that same level of importance we must continue to train and develop our future force.

In 2019, the USAFAS (United States Army Field Artillery School) will continue to conduct AIT (Advanced Individual Training) POI (Program of Instruction) refinement ensuring that our transformation strategy continues to move forward throughout all five Field Artillery Military Occupational Specialties (13B, 13F, 13J, 13M, 13R).

Our capacity to deliver and sustain a high level training program is directly tied to our ability to maintain and build on the physical rigor and repetitions a Soldier has endured throughout their BCT (Basic Combat Training) experience with exercises like Hammer, Anvil, and Forge. As we graduate Soldiers from basic combat training and start to hone their skills with advanced individual training we will continue to request and resource new requirements throughout FY19.

Additions to the schools POI will include tasks that encompass and support skills in the areas of Shoot, Move, Communicate, Survive, and Rigor. Foot marches, Combat Conditioning Course, Combatives, and CTEs (Culminating Training Exercises) will be introduced to ensure every Soldier will have the opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency before



U.S. Army photo released

leaving Fort Sill. The highest priority is assuring that each Soldier trained gets the chance to conduct a live mission based on their occupational specialty.

As the Field Artillery branch continues to grow, so will the team here at Fort Sill. Our Drill Sergeants and Instructors are ready for the challenge, and will keep pushing the level at which we train our Red Legs.

CSM Kevin M. King

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13M CTE

Field Artillery Soldiers benefit from a CTE and LFX prior to graduation

To ensure graduating Field Artillery Soldiers understand how their Soldier Skills and MOS are applied in an operational environment, our 13M Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS/HIMARS) Crewmembers now participate in a Culminating Training Event (CTE) and Live Fire Exercise (LFX) prior to graduation.



U.S. Army photo released

Alpha 1-78 FA BN established a new standard for their CTE. These students trained on M270A1, M142, HEMTT, and RSV MOS tasks, as well as weapons immersion. Additional rigor was added with day and night operations culminating in a LFX. Students also were required to react to Near/Far Ambush, conduct SALUTE Report, Evaluate a Casualty, Request MEDEVAC (9-Line), conduct Land Navigation, and Cold Weather Training. All 13CMF AITs have now initiated 72 hour CTEs.



U.S. Army photo released

BOLC-B CTE

BOLC-B students conduct Fire Support Coordination Exercise during CTE

By MAJ Michael J. Koller,
Battalion S-3, 428 Field
Artillery Brigade

The BOLC-B culminating training event (CTE) for all classes focuses on what the students have studied and learned while here at Fort Sill. It enables them to apply TTPs to realistic scenarios to build confidence and reinforce their abilities as junior field artillery officers. Traditionally, it has been a dynamic and challenging exercise, but we're improving it, in an effort to inject additional rigor into the curriculum. The objective remains to provide the most capable lieutenants to the operational force, ready to hit the ground running in support of the commanders' priorities.

To that end, the CTE has been extended from five to seven days, with three days of the exercise devoted to what is called the Fire Support Coordination Exercise. This exercise intimately integrates live indirect fire with maneuver. BOLC-B students plan and execute a scheme of fires that features the active control of priority targets, the echeloning of fires from 105mm and 155mm cannon artillery, and the impact of high explosive munitions at minimum safe distances, conducted while closing on an objective. Sans an actual enemy to the front, it's as close as we've come to actual combat conditions in a training environment.



Students take a quick huddle during the approach to the impact zone. U.S. Army photo released.

Critical to the success of the exercise is the execution of comprehensive rehearsals. For a full 24 hours, students conduct terrain model, technical, tactical, and full dress rehearsals for the decisive operation — the Fire Support Coordination Exercise. In addition to the fires based rehearsals, students complete MEDEVAC drills and practice individual movement techniques prior to and during the exercise. The critical importance of detailed planning and rehearsals is ingrained in students.

While some students are executing the exercise, other BOLC-B students are supporting the exercise with live fires. From manning and operating the 105mm and 155mm howitzers, under the supervision of certified 13Bs, to conducting technical and tactical fire direction in support of actual maneuver, new lieutenants are demonstrating sound fundamen-

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tals in the execution of field artillery missions.

Student feedback has been positive, and instructors have opined on the significant improvement in training value as compared to the absence of the Fire Support Coordination Exercise in previous CTEs. The unanimous conclusion is students are directly benefiting from the inclusion of this exercise.

The Fire Support Coordination Exercise is a unique and highly effective training evolution that incorporates all components of field artillery—from

fire support, to gunnery, to platoon leadership. It sets expectations for the conduct of safe, yet dynamic training and symbolizes BOLC-B's emphasis on preparing artillery leaders for war.

We'll continue to explore opportunities to push young artillery lieutenants out of their comfort zones, give them realistic and demanding problems to solve, and improve expertise, confidence, and proven capabilities.

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