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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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Brig. Gen. Brian Gibson
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery
School commandant

The State of the Air Defense Artillery

As the year comes to a close, we are reminded of air defense artillery's rich history and the exciting direction our branch is headed. This year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of air defense artillery becoming a branch of the U.S. Army as well as the first Anti-Aircraft Artillery engagement during WWI by Brig. Gen. James A. Ship-ton's 1st Regiment on May 18, 1918. We also celebrated the activation this year of two storied units: 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in Germany, and the 38th Air Defense Brigade on Camp Zama, Japan.

Cheryl, the boys, and I are honored to be a part of the Fires Center of Excellence team here at Fort Sill, Okla. On July 26, I had the privilege to assume the role as the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School commandant and the chief of our branch. As your chief, I have focused on three priorities; holistic short range air defense strategy, ADA Branch transformation, and Air and Missile Defense modernization.

As we look to the future, it is these priorities that will keep our branch relevant and strong. Our first priority, holistic short-range air defense (SHORAD) strategy began in May 2017 when the Chief of Staff of the Army directed a Maneuver Stinger pilot program to train non-ADA Soldiers to operate the Stinger, filling a much needed gap in air defense coverage at the tactical level. We have trained and certified 62 Stinger teams over the past year. Simultaneously, we will field four Maneuver Short-Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) battalions by Fiscal Year 2022, with the activation of the first battalion, 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery in October of this year. The M-SHORAD platform will use an existing mix of guns, missiles and onboard sensors integrated onto

the Stryker A1 platform. The first prototype of this weapon system is currently in manufacturing and is expected to be completed in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2019.

Our second priority, ADA Branch transformation, will change the way we man, train and equip the ADA force. The goal to organize the ADA force in a manner allowing more flexibility to provide an array of ADA weapon systems at echelon. This drives the continuing effort to field a system-of-systems to integrate Air and Missile Defense operations known as Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD). To achieve AIAMD, it is crucial we continue efforts with the command and control material solution that will give us this flexibility, the Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS). IBCS is designed to replace the current mission command systems at all echelons and integrate onto a single common operating picture.

Lastly, our final priority is the continuous modernization of the Air and Missile Defense (AMD) force. ADA forces must continue to modernize and upgrade to keep pace with an ever evolving threat. The Patriot force is receiving Configuration 3+, which includes Modern Man Station, Patriot Post Deployment Build-8, and Radar Digital Processor-Configuration, the Missile Segment Enhanced interceptor, and the associated Patriot launcher upgrade to the M903. Sentinel radars are being upgraded to a Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle variant, and Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System will replace all of our current mission command systems. Finally, we will field a new system along with the M-SHORAD Stryker fleet to replace our Avenger fleet.

Our National Guard ADA Sol-



Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, practice scanning their sector and target engagement utilizing a Man-Portable Air Defense System during their annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla. (2nd Lt. Valeria M. Pete/U.S. Army)

diers are equally engaged around the globe. In 2018, over 2,300 Soldiers have participated in numerous hurricane relief efforts, most notably, Hurricane Florence in North Carolina and Hurricane Michael in Florida. With over 400 Soldiers deployed or forward-deployed, these ADA Soldiers have also participated in numerous multi component and joint exercises: Tabruq Legacy, Saber Guardian, Saber Strike and Juniper Cobra. Currently, Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 174th Ohio National

Guard are forward-deployed to the National Capital Region and Europe providing ground-based SHORAD capabilities to Washington, D.C. and to Maneuver Command ADA element in Europe. Also in support of the NCR mission is 164th ADA Brigade, Florida National Guard, who is providing the Command and Control, air-space integration, management and protection.

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade Ground-based Midcourse Defense and 49th Missile Defense Battalion also continue to provide for the nation's defense in support of U.S. Northern Command. The 100th MDB, known as the "300 protecting 300 million," celebrated 15 years as a brigade in 2018. In 2017, its GMD operators participated in the first successful exo-atmospheric intercept of an ICBM-class target (Flight Test Ground-based Interceptor-15). In 2019, they will participate in another first - a test incorporating a salvo of two ground-based interceptors against an ICBM-class target.

It has also been a busy and productive year for the Office of the Chief of Air Defense Artillery team as we work to manage career life-cycle functions for our Soldiers and integrate the personnel domain with rapid changes in the branch. Career managers continue to travel extensively, supporting our personnel with unit outreach visits conducted in conjunction with Human Resources Command professionals. These noncommissioned officers provide critical career advice to active, Guard and Reserve units while updating our population on the latest developments in our branch. At the same time, OCADA personnel support the NCO Education System Academy and Sergeants Major Academy to improve our leaders' awareness of branch initiatives. This communication is key to establishing realistic expectations and maintaining a healthy force.

Deliberately continuing to build momentum for officer accessions has also paid dividends this year. OCADA's branch marketing ac-

tivities, along with the Army's increased prioritization of air defense and the imminent return of SHORAD to the maneuver force, have significantly improved cadet interest in our branch. OCADA briefed cadets at more than 30 universities last year resulting in 3,260 cadets choosing to visit the air defense display at Cadet Summer Training, marking a significant increase over previous years.

Likewise, we incorporated air defense into U.S. Military Academy's Cadet Field Training this past summer with an emphasis on the third dimension threat and air defense capabilities. During CFT, cadets received hands-on MANPADS training, consciously accounted for passive air defense in the planning and orders production process, and carried Stingers in the platoon defense lanes. Building on this work, 22 air defense leaders participated in USMA's Branch Week in September, answering questions and educating cadets on the tremendous opportunities our branch offers. Two brigades provided static displays, and a Virtual Stinger Trainer was employed to increase cadet interest.

Cadet excitement for the branch is the result of a number of factors. The clear relevance of our mission appeals to cadets, along with the variety of overseas stationing and deployments, the great levels of responsibility entrusted to our junior officers, and the immediate leadership opportunities for them in our branch. Likewise, the expansion of SHORAD is compelling, increasing the variety of our missions and resulting in Ranger school slots, for example, as we move back into the maneuver force.

Our investment in the accessions process will pay long-term dividends for our branch. Cadets who want to be in the branch will stay longer and be more effective air defense leaders for our Soldiers. For the upcoming summer, we are working to include Avengers in the USMA combined arms live-fire exercise and make progress on air defense-related training in ROTC

curricula and summer training.

OCADA continues to aggressively work other numerous personnel domain issues with substantial potential impact on our Soldiers. For example, we created the A5 Stinger additional skill identifier for the brigade combat team MANPADS teams, have fought to shield our Soldiers from the grade plate roll downs that are significantly impacting other branches, created structure for new air defense formations, and are developing the requirements which will drive a permanent allocation of Ranger School slots for air defenders. OCADA is vigorously developing sustainable SHORAD growth models and safeguarding Career Management Field 14 progression from the impact of dynamics from outside the branch.

This is an exciting and dynamic time to be an air defender and the future is bright! I would like to congratulate and send my highest regards to the 2018 recipients of the James A. Shipton, Henry A. Knox, and Hamilton Awards, who together epitomize the excellence that our branch promotes. Respectively, the awards went to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lucas Watterson, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command; B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment; and C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

I look forward to the next year and the exciting opportunities air defense will embrace around the globe! I remain amazed that our branch, for its size, continues to be the most sought out and deployed force in our Army. I sincerely appreciate the hard work that you have done 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. I look forward to continuing the transformation of the branch and facing the challenges 2019 will bring.

First to Fire!



Brig. Gen. Stephen Smith
U.S. Army Field Artillery
School commandant

Field Artillery: Looking Forward to 2019

It's been a fantastic 2018 for the King of Battle! Due to efforts of our Redlegs in war and training, our maneuver commanders and Army senior leaders have incredible confidence in our branch. To re-enforce the field's successes and prepare for large-scale ground combat operations (LSGCO), the United States Army Field Artillery School will accomplish the below in 2019:

- Initiate a Danger Close Walk and Shoot lane in the Basic Officer's Leaders Course (BOLC-B) culminating training event.
- Increase amount of degraded operations instruction in all courses (degraded call for fire, manual gunnery, aiming circle training, etc.)
- Conduct multiple, three-to-seven-day field training exercises (FTXs). In all 13CMF Advanced Individual Training (AIT) courses and in BOLC-B.
- Reduce the amount of common core and other tasks that are not focused on LSGCO fire support/field artillery tasks.
- Rewrite and publish Training Circular 3-09.8 Field Artillery Gunnery and Field Manual 3-09 Field Artillery to match Field Manual 3-0 Operations. Update and publish our basic handbooks, which include the Executive Officer's Handbook, Multiple Launch Rocket System/High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Platoon Leader Handbook, and the Company Fire Support Officer Handbook.
- Increase the physical requirements of our students (foot march to the field, Army Combat Fitness Test preparations).

- Increase our academic rigor through pre-assessment testing and tightening up our Academic Review Board process.
- Take personal weapons to the field for every FTX to reinforce discipline in handling weapons.
- Pull Joint Fires Observer out of 13F AIT and BOLC-B, maintain it as a functional course.
- Increase/demand two-way dialogue with the field in all efforts at USAFAS.
- We will focus on lethality, lethality training and remove all "non-lethal Fires" verbiage from our lexicon.

Finally, in 2019 we will continue to nurture a culture of reading. This does not mean creating lists and requiring Soldiers to read each book and then test them on it. It means encouraging reading a range of materials, and providing formal and informal venues for discussion. Passion and excitement for reading is contagious, and it should match our passion and excitement for being Redlegs – because leaders are readers!

There is no more exciting time to be the best branch in our Army! Our civilian and military leaders have made Fires a top priority, our artillery force structure is growing, and maneuver commanders have more confidence and appreciation of our warfighting function than ever before. As we go forward into 2019, we will continue to demonstrate the awesome lethality of joint surface-to-surface/air-to-surface Fires in combat and at our cornerstone training events. Thank you for all that you do!

Keep up the Fire!
King of Battle!

The valiant defense of the Philippines by Coast Artillery forces

By Capt. Ethan Augustine

Prior to the rising tension between the East and West Empires in the midst of the 20th Century, a small island of strategic value lies within the South Pacific. On Dec. 10, 1898, the Spanish Crown ceded control of the Philippine Islands to the United States as a result of Spain's defeat during the Spanish American War.¹ Over the course of the next few decades the U.S. maintained control of the Philippines, further fortifying it while forward stationing a vast naval and aviation presence with only enough infantry to hold the key islands. Seeing the higher potential for threats toward this asset as World War II loomed closer, Lt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur asked the War Department for additional troops to reinforce defenses.² After assessment of the Philippines' garrison's strengths and weaknesses, Congress federalized the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment Anti-Aircraft out of New Mexico's National Guard for immediate deployment to the Philippines in 1941. Unbeknownst to the newly reinforced regiment, they would become one of the most iconic defenders of the Pacific theater and would be key in the defense of the Philippines. As a result of the tenacious defense of the Philippines, the U.S. and Australian forces had time to build their



Soldiers of the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment, New Mexico Army National Guard deployed to the Philippines, circa 1942. (Courtesy photo)

forces as the Philippine defenders occupied the Imperial Japanese Forces.

The 200th CA (AA), commanded by Col. Charles G. Sage, consisted of over 1,800 men. Most of those men were bilingual, fluent in English as well as Spanish. The regiment had been training the eight months prior to deployment as a transitional infantry regiment with hundreds of new selective service troops to fill in the ranks.³ Upon arrival to the island of Luzon, the largest Island in the Philippines, housing the capital, Ma-

nila, the regiment set up at Fort Stotsenburg.⁴ The 200th CA fell in alongside over 23,000 U.S./Filipino troops already placed to defend various critical assets. Upon arrival at Fort Stotsenburg, they were placed under the authority of the Philippine Coast Artillery Command and the United States Forces in the Far East under the command of Maj. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright. Their mission was to set up a defensive posture, utilizing their three-inch anti-aircraft cannons, .50 caliber machine guns, as well as several Sperry

1 E M. Flanagan. *Corregidor: The Rock Force Assault, 1945* (California: Presidio Press) 1988 pg. 1-2

2 Clayton Chun. *The Fall of the Philippines 1941-42* (Great Britain: Osprey Publishing), 2012, 8-11

3 "A History of the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery." *Angel Fire*, accessed Aug. 26, 2018, <http://www.angelfire.com/nm/bcmfofnm/history/briefhistory.html>

4 Society "Organization of the Coast Artillery in the Philippines" Accessed August 26, 2018 http://corregidor.org/chs_moorerpt/moore1.htm5



A map depicting key locations during the campaign in the Philippines. (Rick Paape)

Searchlights around Clark Field, one of the two bases where B-17 Bombers were housed.⁵ On arrival, the unit did not have any practice rounds to continue training, so the first rounds the 200th CA would fire were during engagements with Japanese aircraft.

Airfield critical assets, beginning of war

Clark Field was one of the largest airstrips on Luzon and was located on the northern part of the Island. It housed the 28th and 30th B-17 Bomber Squadrons along with multiple fighter squadrons.⁶ The importance of these aircraft could not be understated as the bombers were key to maintaining a higher level of aerial dominance within the region. The other bomber squadrons were located at Del Monte Field on a nearby Is-

land; both airfields would become primary targets for the Imperial Japanese forces as they were vital for control over this section of the Pacific.⁷ Without the protection of the fighters on those fields, the B-17s would not have near the effect. The total air corps stationed on the island comprised of around 277 aerial assets consisting of 107 P-40B/E Fighters, 52 P-35 A Fighters, and 35 B-17 C/D Bombers.⁸ Commander of the Far East Air Force (FEAF), Maj. Gen. Lewis Brereton had requested additional air support, but those reinforcements would not make it to the Philippines prior to the start of the war. Those aircraft were not all manned by U.S. personnel though; the FEAF was an amalgam of U.S. Army Air Force and Filipino Air Force pilots and

fighter planes. The FEAF would become a primary target as the Japanese needed the airstrips to increase their short-range fighter operations in the Pacific. As valuable as the aerial assets were, it was put on the shoulders of the 200th CA to defend them.

Because of the international dateline, members of the 200th CA woke on the morning of Dec. 8, 1941, with the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Navy. They continued to maintain and reinforce their positions in preparations for combat. At 12:35 p.m. local time Dec. 8, Japanese bombers and fighters could be heard roaring in the distance.⁹ As the ever encroaching Japanese Air Force moved toward the island of Luzon, the U.S. Air Forces scrambling to get airborne would prove too late, so the 200th CA

5 "Coast Artillery in the Philippines"

6 Chun, Fall of Philippines, page 19

7 Chun, Fall of Philippines, page 19

8 Chun, Fall of Philippines, page 20

9 Chun, Fall of Philippines, page 39

would become the first unit to engage the enemy. The CA only having powder train fused shells to shoot at the incoming bombers resulted in ineffective AA fire as the shells could not reach the Japanese bomber's altitude.¹⁰ The combination of surprise and ineffective AA fire allowed the Empire of Japan to successfully destroy most the FEAF Fighters as well as the B-17s on Clark Field. The other airfields across the island would share the same fate. As a result of the success of the Japanese bombardment, what was left of the aerial assets and the entire Asiatic Fleet under the command of Adm. Thomas C. Hart retreated to Australia to join with their Royal Fleet, for they could not be successful against Japan's overwhelming aggressing force.¹¹

At the end of the first day, the 200th CA (AA) annihilated five planes, but the aerial assets on Luzon were either destroyed or moved to Australia for later engagements.¹² The 200th CA and the rest of the land forces were now on their own with no chance of resupply or reinforcement, but they held on, knowing they could buy the rest of the world some time. In order to maximize coverage of critical assets in preparation for the prolonged engagement, the 200th CA had to create a smaller detachment that would move south to provide anti-aircraft coverage as the 200th CA remained in the north.

While continuing to defend wave after wave of the Empire of Japan's air force, the 200th CA decided to split a contingent off of the main regiment with the purpose of protecting the airfields at the southern end of the island of Luzon, while the bulk of the 200th CA stayed up at Clark Field defending the northern avenue of approach. A detachment consisting of 30 officers and over 500 enlisted personnel under the command of Lt. Col.

Harry M. Peck.¹³ This detachment would join with 750 Filipino soldiers to form the 515th Coast Artillery.¹⁴ The U.S. service members began training their Filipino counterparts on anti-aircraft strategies and gunnery, all while continuing to engage aircraft. By late December, the 515th CA was fully emplaced and engaged daily defending Manila.¹⁵ On Dec. 10, 1941, Lt. Gen. Homma Masaharu, commander of the Imperial Japanese Army's (IJA) 14th Army, ordered the landings of seaborne infantry at Aparri and Vigan beaches.¹⁶

The U.S. and Filipino infantry divisions were unable to repel or hold the IJA forces on the beaches for very long. Soon the order came down for the 200th CA and 515th CA to respectively retreat and provide anti-aircraft coverage of the bridges leading to the Bataan Peninsula until the rest of the ground forces could cross. As commander of the forces in Southern Luzon, Maj. Gen. George Parker, Jr., became commander of the Bataan Defense Forces responsible for the retreat and defense posturing. On Dec. 24, 1941, the 200th CA Regiment moved from Clark Field to Hermosa-Layac Junction-Dinalupihan area to provide anti-aircraft coverage for the Calumpit spanning across the river south to the Bataan Peninsula.¹⁷ They were to hold the bridges at all costs until the last U.S. and allied units crossed to the Peninsula.

The 515th CA was also given the same mission, but came from the south and was able to reach the bridges before the 200th CA where they were to hold until relieved. Once the 200th CA arrived, the 515th CA fell back up the Bataan Peninsula to establish defense of the Cabcaben Air-

field.¹⁸ The coverage provided by both the 200th CA and 515th CA allotted the surviving forces from North and South Luzon safe passage to the Bataan Peninsula to set up for the oncoming IJA.

By early January 1942, with almost 30 days of non-stop engagements and no resupply in sight, the 200th CA and 515th CA as well as the rest of the surviving ground forces were ordered to cut their food intake to half rations. The Soldiers' feelings of malaise and general muscle weakness began to set in mere hours after they began half rations. As the days went on, malaria and dysentery were on the rise, decreasing the combat effectiveness of the unit. Due to close proximity, poor diet and lack of hygiene, the effectiveness of all U.S. and allied forces began to decrease.¹⁹ Despite disease and malnutrition, the AA regiments continued to fire and maneuver to maintain coverage for the peninsula, facilitating the movement of all allied ground forces.

One aspect the coast artillery regiments dealt with during this campaign centered on the use of outdated weapons. According to an air defense artillery article published in 1992, *The Battle of Bataan*, "the three-inch guns utilized by the AA regiments, utilized powder-train fuses that had ceased production nine years earlier in 1932. A lot of the fuses were badly corroded and therefore did not detonate after being fired. Sage witnessed the firing of 17 of the rounds but only two of them actually detonated."²⁰ This lack of quality rounds further reduced the effectiveness of the AA fire and qualified how many rounds each gun could fire per target as the battle raged on.

On April 8, 1942, with no alternative options and a need to prevent the advancing force from using their own weapons against future allied troops, the order came down for both the 200th

10 "200th and 515th."

11 Chun, *Fall of Philippines*, page 41

12 "200th and 515th."

13 "The Battle of Bataan," *Air Defense Artillery*, (March-April 1992) 18-24 ADA Publication Division page 21

14 "Bataan," 22

15 "Bataan," page 21

16 Chun, *Fall of Philippines*, page 41

17 "Bataan," page 21

18 "Bataan," page 21

19 "Bataan," page 22

20 "Bataan," page 21



Maj. William Massello. (Courtesy photo)

CA and 515th CA to scuttle their anti-aircraft weapons and join the defensive line as rifle men.²¹ The regiment continued to fall back and re-establish defense lines for as long as they could, engaging tanks and infantry, but they could not hold out for much longer.

Conclusion, aftermath

As disease became rampant, the 200th CA and 515th CA along with the rest of the remaining defenders went days without food and had no more ground to fall back to. On April 9, 1942, both regiments, under the order of Maj. Gen. Edward P. King, Jr., surrendered to the continuously reinforced Japanese forces. After surrendering, those left had to face an even greater tragedy, that of the 65-mile “Death March” from Mariveles to San Fernando.²² They would wait for rescue for almost three years.²³ Out of the 1,800 men originally deployed, only half made it out; a third of those who survived died within the next year due to complications from torture and/or malnutrition.²⁴

Despite being heavily outnumbered, the 200th CA and 515th CA anti-aircraft regiments were able to successfully engage 86 Japanese aircraft and were able

to hold off their advance for four months.²⁵ They accomplished this using badly corroded ammunition, fighting rampant disease and surviving on an extremely limited food supply. Only when there was no more room to fallback and their health had significantly deteriorated did they surrender the island of Luzon. The defense of the Philippines was vital for setting the stage for further campaigns against the Empire of Japan for control of the Pacific. As a result of their efforts occupying the Japanese at the Philippines, the Australian military with the U.S. were able to regroup and build their forces for the eventual push to remove the Japanese from the very territory they took. In December 1945, Wainwright was quoted in reference to the battle for the Bataan Peninsula, as saying the 200th CA (AA) was the “First to fire, and last to lay down their arms!”²⁶

Story of Maj. William Massello

Many Soldiers, both U.S. and Filipino, were courageous and tenacious during the defense of Luzon and the Bataan Peninsula. There is one among the coast artillery that would stand out in the aftermath of the campaign. Maj. William (Bill) Massello had already served two tours in the Philippines and was on his third tour when the war broke out. After taking command of “Erie” Battery, 2nd Regiment, 60th Coast Artillery Regiment Anti-Aircraft, Massello, then a captain, was ordered to move his battery and set up defensive positions around the Bataan Peninsula following warnings of potential hostilities with Japan on Dec. 2, 1941.²⁷ Erie Battery would remain in that position until April 8, 1942, when he and his men were ordered to Corregidor Island. Massello, who

was a major by then, immediately volunteered himself, the eager remnants of Erie Battery, and around 100 other men to assist in the defense of Corregidor as mortar men.²⁸

April 28, 1942, Massello, along with all of those he led, began firing the four recently emplaced, twelve-inch M1890 mortars of Battery Way.²⁹ By May 5, 1942, there was only one piece of concrete-emplaced artillery still capable of firing on the Japanese forces on both Corregidor and the Bataan Peninsula. Massello continued to personally man the last mortar while his men lay under cover from constant counter-battery fire, unable to receive any orders to surrender as he had ordered his men to destroy their only communication device for that reason.³⁰ As Massello loaded the last shell, fragments from the incoming artillery peppered his body causing several wounds to his leg and almost severing his right arm. When his men rushed to drag him to cover he ordered them to get out there and fire the last round.³¹ As a group of Soldiers did as ordered, they noticed the breechblock had warped as a result of the superheated mortar tube cooling, making it inoperable. Massello and his men would continue fighting until May 6, 1942.³²

After which he and what was left of his men would endure the hardship of being a prisoner of war until September 1945. For his actions Masello was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, two Presidential Unit Citations, four Purple Hearts and numerous campaign and theater ribbons, ultimately becoming one of the most decorated Coast Artilleryman of the Philippine Campaign.³³

21 “Bataan,” page 21

22 “200th and 515th”

23 “200th and 515th”

24 “200th and 515th”

25 “200th and 515th”

26 “200th and 515th”

27 Thomas N. Murphy. “Wild Bill’s Memorial” The Corregidor Historic Society: Accessed September 17, 2018 http://corregidor.org/ca/btty_erie/massello.htm

28 Murphy, “Wild Bill”

29 Murphy, “Wild Bill”

30 Murphy, “Wild Bill”

31 Murphy, “Wild Bill”

32 Murphy, “Wild Bill”

33 Murphy, “Wild Bill”

Allied Patriot Top Gun

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matthew Keechi

"No nation's security and well-being can be lastingly achieved in isolation, but only in effective cooperation with fellow-nations."

~Dwight D. Eisenhower



Seven years in development, the inaugural Allied Patriot Top Gun (APTG) Course launched July 30, 2018. Two months later, eight foreign officers graduated — three from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, three from Kuwait, and two from the United Arab Emirates. A harbinger of things to come, it is both a product of addressing past failures and concerted efforts to develop and extend lessons and training to our foreign partners.

The aforementioned seven-year development of APTG was the direct result of the slow progression of material releasable to partner nations about Patriot. Obviously challenging due to those complexities, it took the concerted effort from steering agencies such as the Lower-Tier Project Office and the Air Defense Artillery School to both develop and receive approval for the course.

APTG offers a graduate-level intensely demanding curriculum to partner nations on Patriot system planning and employment. A mirror image of the U.S. course (which additionally trains on U.S. ballistic missile defense, BMD, platforms) APTG alternately focuses on BMD planning considerations and gives host nations' expertise in the air defense posture against threats to their home countries — a significant strategic planning value over generic training.

As we look back from the current course offered, history teaches that Patriot Top Gun was born of necessity and in wake of trag-



From left to right, Capt. Mohammed Alkaabi, Maj. Eid Almutairi (distinguished honor graduate), Lt. Col. Nawaf Alotibi, Lt. Col. Ahmed Alablan, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Matthew Keechi (instructor), Lt. Col. Naif Alarfag, Maj. Ahmed Kalandar, Capt. Saber Alkhyeli, Capt. Sulaiman Alenezi (honor graduate). (Courtesy photo)

ic, and in hind-sight preventable, events of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In late March of 2003, a Patriot radar classified a Royal Air Force Tornado as an anti-radiation missile. The aircraft was subsequently engaged and destroyed according with then established self-defense rules of engagement. A few weeks later, a U.S. F/A-18 Hornet was similarly destroyed due to an erroneous classification as a tactical ballistic missile. The result? Two aircraft were destroyed, but more tragically a British pilot, a British navigator and a U.S. pilot lost their lives.

Several factors contributed to these tragedies. Awareness, appreciation of, and appropriate planning for the complexities of Patriot were at the forefront — what we now call the “how” of system planning. Subsequently, the Patriot Top Gun Course was developed to address these important shortfalls.

Today, the premise of Patriot Top Gun is to teach officers how to think, not what to think. The Patriot Top Gun Course has been offered to U.S. Army officers since its inception in 2005, and has prepared nearly 120 officers to serve as planners and advisors for Patriot systems worldwide. Patriot Top Gun provides the major tools in developing that “how” with a comprehensive curriculum of radar theory, joint interoperability, ballistic missile defense enabling

platforms (e.g. E-2 Hawkeye, E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System, Aegis, etc.), advanced ballistic missile threat analysis, Patriot capabilities and limitations, and the art and science of air and missile defense design. Key to program success is the use of subject matter experts from across the country. Every topic in Patriot Top Gun is taught by such an expert. Student success is validated at course end by presentation of a plan for air and missile defense of assigned assets. This plan is presented and graded by an expert panel (Patriot Top Gun graduates, and/or planners who have already designed the in-theater plans being presented).

The Patriot missile system is a political tool used as a strategic deterrent in many countries across the globe. Including the U.S., Patriot is currently employed by 13 nations. As the enemy capability grows, it becomes increasingly imperative to share our training, curriculum, and what we have learned from our mistakes in the past. U.S. Patriot and host nation Patriot systems are often integrated to maximize the capability of the combined force. To retain a credible and effective strategic deterrence, combined forces must share knowledge and experience to maximize the employment of the system. The first APTG graduates have attained the skill level necessary to enhance the defense

of strategic assets and the population in their home countries.

The Gulf Cooperation Council has been united in the defense of ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle attacks from Houthi rebels in Yemen for more than three years. The officers selected to attend the first iteration of APTG have a combined military service of over 120 years, and arguably more operational combat experience than any U.S. Patriot Top Gun Course has seen in the past decade. The eight officers that attended APTG have operationally deployed the system, and most have neutralized enemy TBM and aerial attacks. These officers have a responsibility to not only defend strategic assets, but also to develop plans that protect the population of their homeland. The students understood the demands of the course, but more importantly embraced the ideology that the knowledge gained would greatly assist with the defense of their homeland. They stayed two hours after class to study, and on weekends they gathered together to study as a group. For them, this course was about knowledge gained to enhance their ability; it was very personal.

Combined training has long been a part of Army history, and the tradition continues at the ADA School at Fort Sill. ADA instruction is given to many of our foreign partners in varying degrees, but the detail of instruction afforded by APTG has changed how we will conduct future courses. International cooperation in training is in line with the Secretary of Defense Lines of Effort that “provides avenues for peace ... [and] temper the plans of those who would attack other nations or try to impose their will over the less powerful.”

Ballistic missile and aerial threats will continue to advance their capabilities, and it is essential we continue to develop our air defense forces in parallel to combat the threat. Allied Patriot Top Gun will be offered for years to come.

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

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

Ansbach

5th BN, 4th ADA

Grafenwöhr

4th BN, 319th FA

41st FA BDE

1st BN, 6th FA

1st BN, 77th FA

Ramstein Air Base

Grafenwöhr

Vilseck

Kaiserslautern

Kaiserslautern

10th AAMDC

5th BN, 7th ADA

Ansbach

Ramstein Air Base

19th BCD

Vilseck

FA SQDRN, 2nd CAV

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

Sajami Depot

38th ADA BDE

Camp Casey

Shariki

Kyogamisaki

Sajami Depot

Kadena Air Base

Osan Air Base

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

Okinawa

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 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, Colo.

4th Infantry DIVARTY

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

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Fort Carson, Colo.

Fort Irwin, Calif.

Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Fort Bliss, Texas

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 Fires BDE

- 1st BN, 14th FA
- 2nd BN, 4th FA

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

Florida

164th ADA BDE
1st BN, 265th ADA
3rd BN, 265th ADA
2nd BN, 116th FA
3rd BN, 116th FA
1st BN, 211th RTI

Georgia

1st BN, 118th FA
1st BN, 214th 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

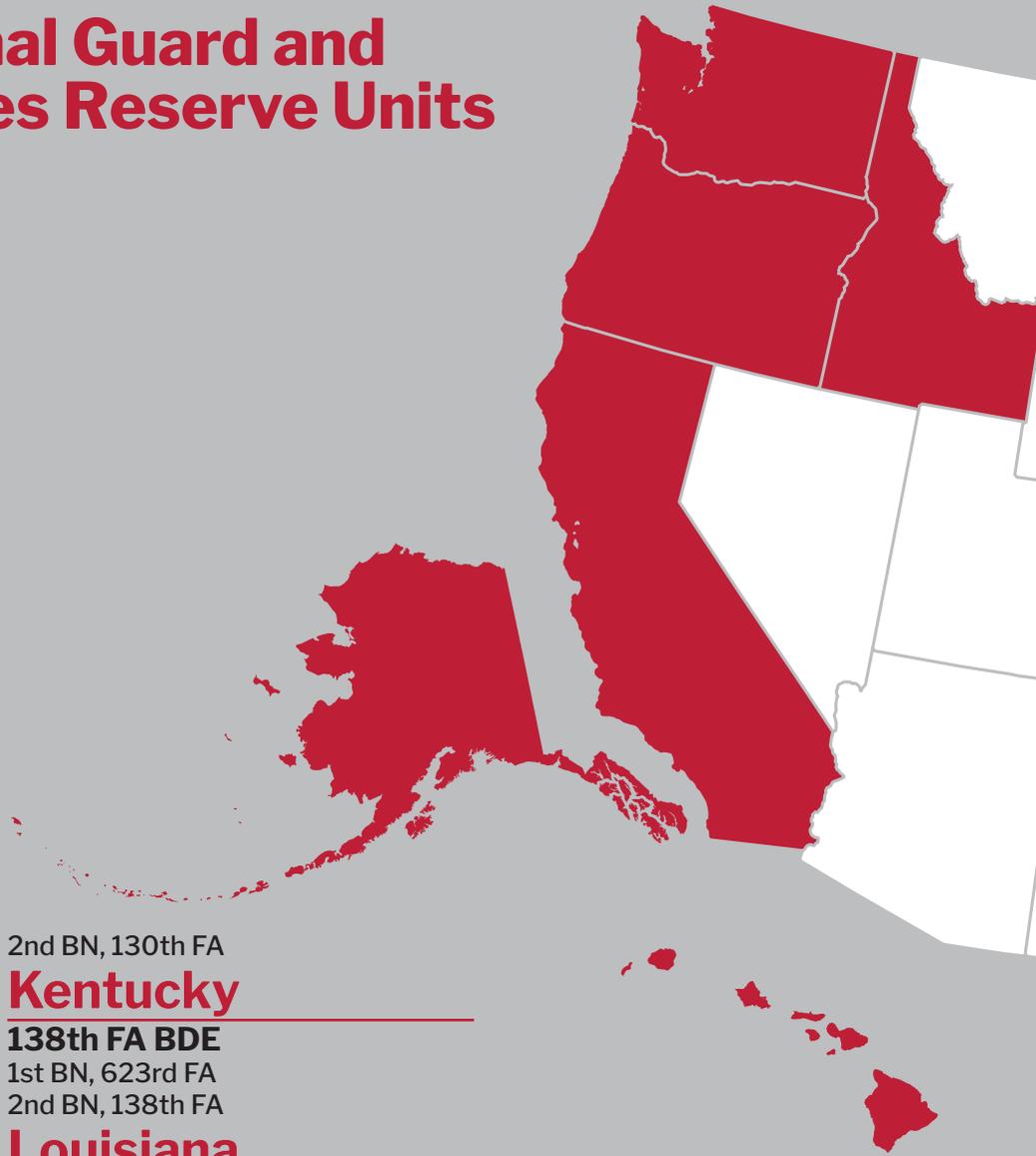
1st BN, 188th ADA

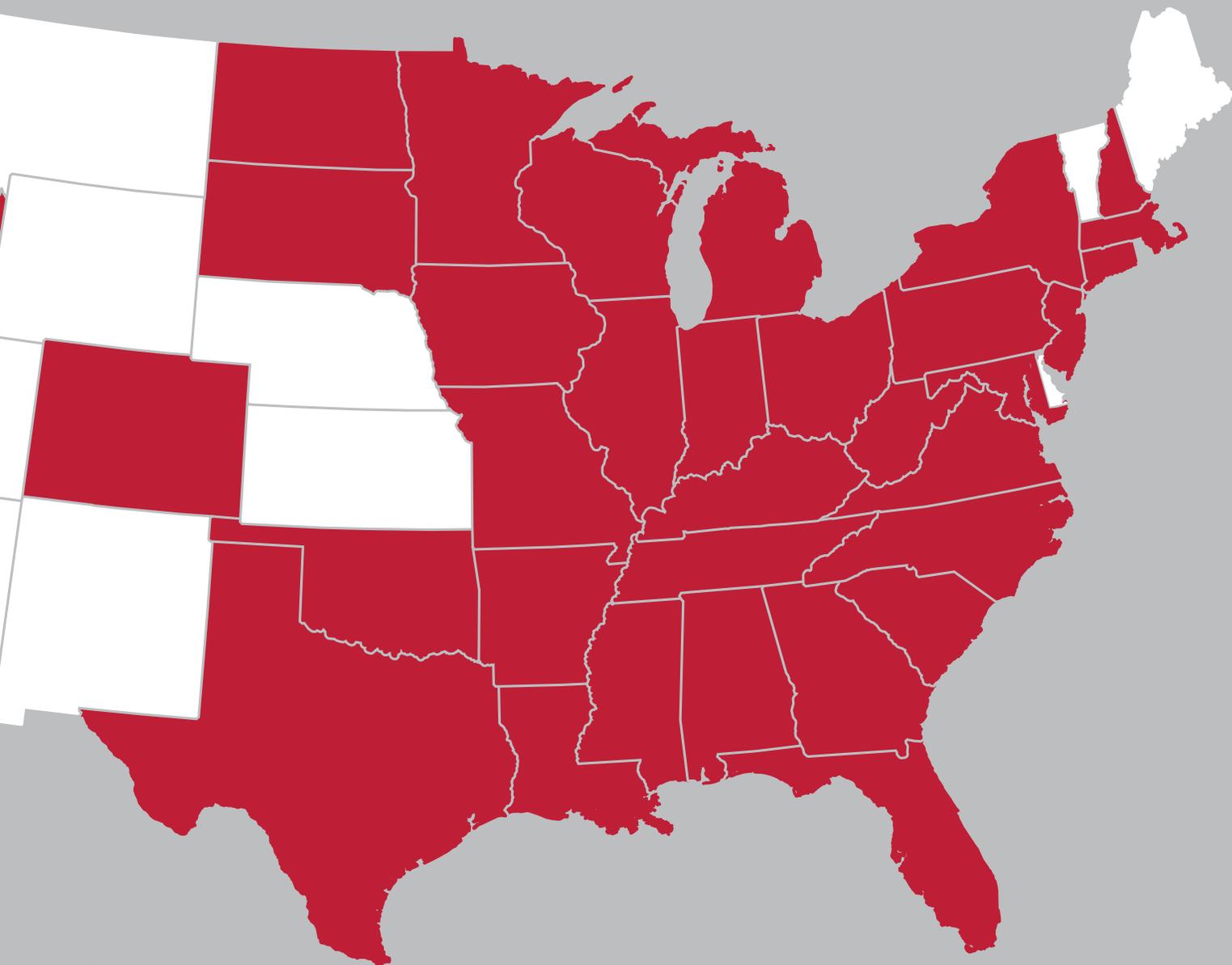
Ohio

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
4th 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 Units



Blackjack Warrior competitors conducted hot and cold load training on an UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter July 17, 2018. Crew chiefs explained the correct procedures on how to enter and exit the aircraft safely in a timely manner. (Sgt. La'Shawna Custom/U.S. Army)

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 air defense artillery brigades comprising nearly 80 percent of all active component air defense artillery.

Globally engaged and strategically responsive, the 32nd AAMDC maintains a continual forward presence in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR), while providing forces worldwide to deter aggression and promote stability. This year, 32nd AAMDC supported U.S. European Command

exercise *Austere Challenge*, conducted brigade-level planning exercises, and executed a rehearsal of concept at the component level in the CENTCOM AOR.

Notably, in 2018 32nd AAMDC successfully executed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) support to global operational and modernization requirements. The command also provided Counter-Rocket Artillery Mortar protection to Operation *Inherent Resolve* and Operation *Freedom's Sentinel*, and maintained AMD protection of critical assets across the CENTCOM AOR. Placing high emphasis on mastering AMD core competencies, 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 deployment in support of an air and missile defense exercise (AMDEX).

The 32nd AAMDC reestablished the premier AM-

DEX, Roving Sands, after a 13-year absence in order to validate deployment readiness of units in support of potential large-scale combat operations. The 32nd AAMDC and its subordinate units were able to execute a joint, multi-echelon training event in February through March 2018 on the Fort Bliss ranges focused on air and missile defense operations stressing and testing the readiness of THAAD, Patriot, and Avenger global response force and focused readiness units. They accomplished this with less than a year of planning. Roving Sands 18 reinvigorated the air and missile defense force's capability to successfully shoot, move and communicate while sustaining itself over large operational distances in an austere environment.

Over the past year, the command remained steadfast in all areas of readiness, including training readiness with the implementation this year of Objective-T. They 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 2018 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 U.S. Army's ADA forces are ready and responsive for 32nd AAMDC's next 50 years. Swift and Sure!

[f facebook.com/32ndAAMDC/](https://www.facebook.com/32ndAAMDC/)

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Top Notch

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade started the year on a global response force (GRF) mission. The unit had to be prepared to deploy anywhere in the world in 96 hours to provide air and missile defense command to that area of operation (AO). Prior to the unit being put on the GRF mission, the unit's training was primarily focused on preparing for field exercises. However, the GRF mission necessitated a shift in the unit's training approach. Much of the unit's training at the beginning of the year was focused on air loads, rail loads and container movements.

The GRF mission postured the battery for their scheduled deployment in mid-2018. Further expanding on the GRF training concentration, the battery conducted a mission readiness exercise for the majority of March in preparation for their deployment. This gave members of the brigade's staff an opportunity to walk through exercises that simulated possible situations they would encounter during their deployment.

In the last days before the battery deployed, Col. Lisa Bartel replaced Col. Janice Chen as the 31st ADA Brigade commander. Bartel is a native of Oshkosh, Wis. She enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1990 and was commissioned into the air defense artillery through ROTC from the University



May 2018, Brig. Gen. Christopher Spillman appointed Col. Lisa Bartel as the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander. (1st Lt. Matthew Press/U.S. Army)

of Wisconsin, Oshkosh in 1994. She has served in a variety of leadership and staff positions both in the United States and overseas.

After months of preparation, the Hawkeye battery deployed to Southwest Asia in late May to take up the *Top Notch* mission. The mission directs the *Top Notch Brigade* to conduct air and missile defense operations in support of global strategic contingencies in order to deter and then defeat tactical ballistic missile and air breathing threat attacks in the Central Command AO.

Command Sgt. Maj. Giancarlo Macri replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Jacobitz as the 31st ADA Brigade command sergeant major early November.

11th Air Defense Artillery

Brigade

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

First Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery the *Cobra Strike Battalion* has been headquartered at Fort Bliss, Texas, since returning in 2007 from the Republic of Korea. Since then, the battalion deployed three times to the Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) and is currently executing its fourth deployment to the CENTCOM AOR as of October 2018.

Critical to the assumption of their assigned CENTCOM mission, the *Cobra Strike Battalion* executed numerous pre-deployment training and readiness events to include a robust mission rehearsal exercise (MRE) that was externally evaluated by the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade in July 2018. The MRE served as the culminating training event for 1-43rd ADA and certified unit readiness to assume their mission prior to deployment in the fall. Not only did the battalion meet certification requirements as directed, but exceeded the standard to prepare for any

possible contingency and employed its entire array of equipment.

Preparation for this deployment was particularly challenging with the short notice approval and directed reorganization of Patriot forces. What this meant was that 1-43rd ADA's anticipated mission requirements changed in June 2018—just one month prior to the scheduled MRE. The challenge of the new mission required execution of split based operations. *Cobra Strike* rapidly adapted plans and implemented new tactics, techniques and procedures necessary to execute split-base operations while maintaining unity of command. As a result, the battalion re-organized its battle rosters, re-trained and re-certified its combat capability, and trained its battle staff in conjunction with the preparation and execution of the MRE.

Based on lessons learned from Roving Sands 2018, 1-43rd ADA took an aggressive approach by developing a tactical framework for the MRE to include incorporation of dynamic field conditions in addition to required engagement and force operations requirements. Throughout the exercise, the battalion also exercised its staff while generating a greater understanding of its upcoming mission by conducting a thorough military decision-making process. The staff performed in-depth mission analysis of potential contingencies and recommended courses of action to the battalion and brigade command teams. This honed the staff's ability to plan while educating and preparing the unit command teams to assume their mission. In the end, the staff and command teams created a refined mission brief

A Patriot launcher reload crew executes movement of a training canister during their crew certification. The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery conducted their mission rehearsal exercise from July 16-27, 2018. (Courtesy photo)



while continuing to provide oversight to 24-hour tactical operations, as it would be expected to do in a deployed environment.

Throughout the MRE, the battalion took additional steps to stress its personnel and equipment to the limits of their capability. Most notably, *Cobra Strike* exercised its full complement of assets by emplacing two separate Remote Launch-3 sites simultaneously. This stressed the skills of all tactical crewmembers as well as Mission Command functions of the Headquarters Battery.

At the conclusion of the MRE, *Cobra Strike* was able to operate effectively within a dynamic air missile defense scenario while executing 24-hour manning cycles that replicated deployed conditions, successfully trained and certified an additional battalion fire direction center with associated crews, certified a new battle staff, and developed competencies required for contingency operations associated with the upcoming deployment.

Upon redeployment of the MRE, the battalion immediately executed recovery operations in conjunction with motor pool area operations to prepare all equipment scheduled for transport via rail, sea and air. The operation was seamless, with the Fort Bliss Movement Team calling it one of the best and safest movement operations witnessed in years. These events validated the battalion's mobility and readiness to respond to any event, anywhere in the world, when called to do so.

Months of laborious preparation and training came to full fruition upon deployment and resulted in a seamless transfer of authority and relief in place operations between two battalion meeting the commander's intent and achievement of the Central Command combatant commander directed mission requirements. The change of mission led to a challenging and dynamic MRE—testing the war-fighting readiness of the *Cobra Strike Battalion*. The lesson learned throughout this process is that is necessary for all units to be able to respond to changing operational environments and replicate those conditions as much as possible during rehearsals prior to execution.

2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Warriors

The *Warrior Battalion* began 2018 by completing a nine-month deployment to Southwest Asia and reuniting with friends and family in late January. After a brief reintegration period to Fort Bliss, Texas, 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery refocused on training and combat readiness by executing air defense gunnery and certifications in the spring. This training culminated in a battalion field training exercise, where the unit executed air and missile defense operations in an austere environment. While in the field, units reacted to chemical attacks, defended their Patriot sites against assaults from an opposing force element, conducted a convoy live fire, and encountered a variety of asymmetric threats. In July,



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery arriving on Biggs Army Airfield, returning from Southwest Asia on January 17, 2018. The battalion was deployed for nine months to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility from May 2017 through Jan. 2018. (1st Lt. Micah A. Uchida, U.S. Army)

the unit integrated over 20 members of the Royal Netherlands Armed Forces in a combined live-fire event, where mixed American and Dutch crews fired four Patriot Interceptors.

Soldiers of the *Warrior Battalion* also pursued self-development as over 200 Soldiers attended either Basic Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Senior Leaders Course, or various other schools to learn and grow despite a high operational tempo throughout the year. Most importantly, the *Warriors* had another five noncommissioned officers graduate from the prestigious Patriot Master Gunner Course, bringing the battalion's total to 17 master gunners, a reflection of the unit's tactical proficiency and commitment to excellence. As the *Warrior Battalion* completes a period of modernization to Config 3+ and Post Deployment Build equipment, 2-43rd ADA is postured to continue to lead the air defense force in readiness and future capabilities.

Strength in Honor! Second to None!

[f facebook.com/243ADA/](https://www.facebook.com/243ADA/)

5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, Team Deuce

This year proved to be highly successful for 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery. Charged with assuming the PAT-Central mission in support of Central Command's Operation Spartan Shield, *Team Deuce* postured themselves to deter Iranian aggression and provide ballistic missile defense. After swiftly deploying all organic modified table of organization and equipment rolling stock, the deploy-

able tactical operation center, and all mission command systems to theater, they honed in on tactical skill sets. Taking advantage of joint kill chain exercises, *Team Deuce*, set up expeditionary measures from the battery level up and used various systems, including the Command Post of the Future, to accomplish operations. This level of detail demonstrated what a Patriot battalion on the move would experience, and further prepared the Soldiers for any future missions.

Team Deuce's philosophy is to provide expert air and missile defense. The Soldiers displayed their ample abilities during split-base operations. The fire direction center developed defense designs to help extend coverage and established procedures for additional remote launch capabilities. *Team Deuce* had the honor of establishing and manning the first Dismounted Patriot Information Coordination Central in theater. *Team Deuce* leveraged opportunity to create and refine means to enable flexibility and maneuver options to higher echelons, exhibiting the Soldiers' passion for air defense operations. Recognizing the importance of passive air defense measures, *Team Deuce* fielded the Ultra-Lightweight Camouflage Net System. Training with the new form of concealment technology prepares us to adapt to the operating environment and provide active and passive air defense measures as directed.

Superior air and missile defense encompasses other significant skills sets. The development and implementation of the *Team Deuce* SAGA (systems and processes, air conditioner, generator and auto) certifications directly contributed to the high oper-

Spc. Padilla from the 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, performs preventative maintenance. (Courtesy photo)



ational readiness rate throughout the deployment. The maintenance team further organized and facilitated C9 training for more than 60 maintainers across the region. During gunnery tables and Patriot site emplacements, as a result of detailed training plans, maintainers across the battlefield were ready to repair and conduct recovery operations as necessary. Each unit used sergeant's time training as a vehicle to prepare for any escalation of force. They improved fighting positions, taught Army Warrior Tasks, and coordinated joint training events with host nations and sister-services. The superb training throughout the year enabled *Team Deuce* to develop leaders from within the organization. The shared challenges, use of mission command, and focus on growing and bleeding together allowed us, as a team, to provide expert air and missile defense during our time in PAT-Central.

[f facebook.com/TheOnlyTeamDeuce/](https://www.facebook.com/TheOnlyTeamDeuce/)

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Soldiers recently participated in the Ground Test Distributed (GTD) test event, Aug. 6, to Sept. 7, 2018, which is led by the Missile Defense Agency. The test event is used to validate new systems, software builds, and technologies that will support capability upgrade and integration decisions for the operational force. Participants engaged in testing from positions around the world, requiring some 69th ADA Brigade Soldiers to travel to Huntsville, Ala., and others to Qatar as well.

GTD provided MDA valuable data on systems interoperability while also proving to be an excellent training event, allowing 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Patriot operators to utilize the newly

First Lt. Charles Starke, center, is currently the fire control platoon leader and Crew 1 tactical control officer for E Battery, 62nd Battalion, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. He commissioned from West Point and has previously served as an executive officer and tactical control officer for A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery in Korea. (Courtesy photo)



improved Reconfigurable Table Top Trainer Lab as well as the Dismounted Patriot Information Coordination Central in Fort Hood, Texas. From this lab, Patriot operators were able to coordinate with Terminal High-Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) systems and integrate into the joint kill chain for engagement operations. This rare interaction facilitated THAAD integration with Patriot operators, which increased the efficiency of advanced engagement coordination.

In addition to the valuable lessons learned for Patriot and THAAD operators, the Air Defense Fire Control Officer (ADAFCO) Element at the 69th ADA Brigade continued to increase proficiency by conducting coordination between Patriot, THAAD, and Aegis units while operating on new Command and Control, Battle Management and Communications software from Qatar. This role was a unique opportunity for the 69th Brigade ADAFCO Element to operate on a joint level in concert with multiple weapons systems from the Army, Air Force and Navy.

The GTD event provided a venue for our Soldiers to further understand their own weapons systems capabilities within a joint environment while providing valuable data to our partners within the Air and Missile Defense community.

1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Defenders

With an eventful year behind them, the *Defender Battalion* stands tremendously grateful to have built a strong and lasting relationship with its "Adopt-A-School" partner, West Ward Elementary. Located in the heart of Killeen, Texas, the schools' students, families and faculty have provided the *Defender Battalion* with a valuable and unprecedented connection to the local community. Over the combined 240 volunteer hours, the relationship between the *Defender Battalion* and West Ward Elementary took the form of monthly engagements with events like book readings and tutoring sessions. But it was through three events—the 9/11 Remembrance Freedom Walk, Field Day and Space Week—that the *Defender Battalion* and West Ward Elementary forged its most significant bonds and demonstrated valuable impact of fostering civil-military relationships.

Held annually, the 9/11 Remembrance Freedom Walk lets students demonstrate their patriotism through the remembrance of lives lost during the national tragedy. An educational event for students who did not witness the events of that day, the walk begins with an opportunity to hear Soldiers recollect their memories of 9/11 and how those experiences continue to impact and inform their decision to serve. The Freedom Walk then commences around a two-block radius of the school, and with flags in hand, Soldiers and students alike celebrate the fortitude of the American spirit.

As an opportunity to enjoy a full day of games and fun with Soldiers, Field Day is a much anticipated event for West Ward students. The festivities includ-

ed dancing, tug-of-war and relay races, to name a few. Students particularly enjoyed seeing the Soldiers demonstrate their dance moves and help create interesting face painting designs. The students even challenged Soldiers to some friendly competitions.

If Field Day is the students' chance to engage in healthy and fun athletic competition, Space Week engages the students' intellectual curiosities and proves an increasingly popular event every year. During Space Week, West Ward's fifth graders build working cardboard rockets to compete for best design. Partnering with community business leaders, *Defender Soldiers* help the fifth graders achieve their rocket-building dreams. The day culminates with students having the opportunity to see the efficacy of their designs in action as they are launched into the sky with a specially designed apparatus. Former astronaut Don Thomas and SpaceX technician Michael Lavender were also in attendance to share their experiences and motivate students to continue feeding their interests in the sciences. Undoubtedly, the day provided the students and Soldiers lasting memories.

In recognition for the hard work that the *Defender Battalion* put forth building their relationship with their adopted school, the Fort Hood Garrison Commander, Col. Henry C. Perry, presented the battalion leadership with a certificate of appreciation in May. Of course, battalion, the most valuable reward is not the recognition, but the opportunity to strengthen its relationship with the community and provide the students of West Ward Elementary with positive experiences.

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

Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery recently finished a one-year deployment to Kuwait. The battalion was responsible for defending the Northern region of the United States Central Command area of responsibility, which is composed of Camp Arifjan, Camp Buehring and Ali Al Salem Air Base. At the conclusion of the deployment, the battalion had the honor of providing the Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel Dailey, a tour of the battalion headquarters Patriot site. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Service Battery, and B Battery worked together to give Dailey a remarkable tour of the site. The SMA was thoroughly impressed and provided words of wisdom at the end of the tour which inspired the Soldiers and increased morale across the ranks.

The SMA was initially greeted by B Battery leadership as he entered the site. The B Battery *Beasts* briefed the SMA about the intricacies of the Fire Unit equipment which consists of the Engagement Control Station, Radar Set, Electrical Power Plant, Antenna Mast Group and Battery Command Post. First Lt. Christopher Schwartz articulated daily operations at the fire unit level and his mission as

a tactical control officer. Service Battery personnel then led Dailey to the site's maintenance bay and explained how the battalion's equipment is maintained and serviced.

The SMA was then brought to the Information Coordination Central (ICC) and Tactical Control Station, where he was briefed by Spc. (P) Jacob Nemitz, one of the battalion's premier tactical director assistants. The SMA entered the ICC where Ramos and Nemitz introduced him to the basics of the ICC. Dailey asked questions about Patriot capabilities and limitations, and how Patriot fits into the CENTCOM joint kill chain. It was invigorating to see the SMA's interests in the Patriot weapon system and Soldier roles in the mission. The SMA took the time to provide a personal story from 1998 when he was in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and witnessed a Patriot missile shoot down a tactical ballistic missile, thus saving the lives of hundreds of Soldiers. Dailey expressed his respect for the Patriot missile system and ADA because it had saved his life. Dailey honored Ramos and Nemitz with a coin.

Dailey transitioned to the site's training launching station where Hot Crew noncommissioned officer in charge Sgt. Ryan Albert briefed him on its capabilities, limitations and training program. At this point over 100 Soldiers congregated to hear the SMA's closing comments. Dailey pointed out that "the ADA mission is one of the toughest missions in the Army because air defenders must constantly train and maintain for a scenario that may never come. However, air defenders must be prepared for when those 30 seconds do occur and we must react accordingly."

It was apparent that Dailey's comments inspired the Soldiers because it was uplifting for them to have the SMA express his appreciation and understanding of the ADA mission.

It is not often that a Soldier gets the opportunity to meet the SMA. It was an experience that everyone will cherish and never forget. The SMA was able to reach Soldiers and had the ability to immediately increase morale within the battalion. He gave everyone the inspiration to continue their hard work and push through the duration of the deployment, leading to a successful relief in place and transfer of authority with 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery.

[f facebook.com/162ADABN/](https://www.facebook.com/162ADABN/)

B Battery, 62nd Air Defense Artillery, Badgers

Soldiers from B Battery, 62nd Air Defense Artillery, *Badgers*, have met every benchmark for their stand up. In April and May of 2018 the battery received all Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) equipment and completed System Integrated Check Out and Basic Qualification at Fort Hood, Texas, ahead of schedule. They subsequently completed mission qualification in May and June of 2018. In July and August 2018 the unit started the transition to the new Training Circular 3-01.92 gunnery standards. In September they completed their Table VI evaluations and certified Table VIII in Oc-

tober 2018. They completed the year supporting the 69th Brigade Mission Readiness Exercise.

B Battery, 62nd ADA continues to prepare for whatever mission the unit requires conducting loading exercise and field training exercises in preparation for participation in Roving Sands 2019. The *Badgers* are focused on being the most prepared THAAD unit in the Army and will always be on time and on target.

[facebook.com/162ADABN/](https://www.facebook.com/162ADABN/)

108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Spartan Brigade

Over the last year, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and its subordinate units have been dedicated to executing today's critical air and missile defense missions of today, while also preparing for those of tomorrow. This year alone, the *Spartan Brigade* participated in 11 joint exercises with the Air Force and Navy. During these exercises, 108th ADA Brigade Headquarters integrated the brigade's assets into joint multi-tiered air and missile defense via live, virtual, and constructive environments. In June, the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Battery executed staff planning and a tactical training exercise in an austere environment, in preparation for its culminating training exercise (CTE). The *Spartan Brigade* conducted the first brigade-level air defense CTE at Fort Bragg, N.C., in August 2018. The CTE validated that the *Spartan Brigade* can provide premiere air defense coverage expeditiously, in support of the Global Response Force mission. The 108th ADA Brigade is currently preparing for Roving Sands 2019 and its follow-on de-

ployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

[facebook.com/108thADA/](https://www.facebook.com/108thADA/)

1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, Panther Battalion

First Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, returned from the U.S. CENTCOM area of responsibility in May 2018. While deployed, the *Panther Battalion* planned, tested and executed Operation Rapid Rabbit, a contingency mission set that enabled protection of critical assets from divergent threats. Upon returning, the battalion executed a leaders situational training exercise focused on adopting an expeditionary mindset, which has been emphasized in subsequent training exercises including Patriot gunnery tables and the 108th ADA Brigade's CTE. First Lt. Hess, Sgt. Leal, and Spc. Romero competed in the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Black Jack Warrior Competition, winning in both the Officer and NCO categories and thus further illuminating the brigade's tactical mindset and focus. The *Panther Battalion* continues to focus on lethality through equipment fielding and maintenance, supply and logistics management, training, and Soldier readiness to ensure the battalion is *Ready Now*. *Panther Battalion* extends a historic legacy of executing any mission, anywhere in the world while remaining committed to strong, ready, and resilient Soldiers and families.

2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Strike Fear Battalion

Second Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Strike Fear Battalion* planned, resourced and executed the first Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) system and M-777 Combined Arms Live

First Lt. Ezekiel Parrow, front right, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, trains Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, the 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, and civilian contractors on unmanned aerial systems and the Drone Defender at Advising Platform Lightning, Afghanistan, June 2018. (Courtesy photo)



Fire Exercise (CALFEX) at Fort Campbell, Ky., in first quarter 2018. Second-44th ADA then deployed to assume the U.S. CENTCOM C-RAM mission for Iraq and Afghanistan from February through November of 2018. Unique to this deployment was the conversion of the Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery to an active-gun line unit that trained, certified and deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan. The mission in Afghanistan expanded to include short range air defense of three additional forward operating bases. *Strike Fear Battalion* also took on the implementation of the counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS) strategy for Afghanistan. The unit led the development of the United States Forces Afghanistan C-UAS Academy in support of Operation Resolute Support. With assistance from the Asymmetric Warfare Group and Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization, 2-44th ADA constructed and established five modules of progressive training to instruct North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Coalition, Host Nation and U.S. military forces on UAS threats throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan. More than 1,200 personnel across 15 separate loca-

tions within Afghanistan were trained on the UAS threat, C-UAS systems, reporting procedures and battle drills. Upon returning, the *Strike Fear Battalion* is now focused on engagement operation cell and Land-based Phalanx Weapons System training to prepare for the next battalion CALFEX.

3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Skystriker Battalion*

Third Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Skystriker Battalion* conducted collective Patriot Table VIII certifications throughout the various training areas of Fort Bragg, N.C., in second quarter 2018. The intent of the battalion Table VIII certifications was to maintain currency, and certify new battery crews. Teams conducted reconnaissance selection and occupation of position, while crews conducted emplacement and validation drills, and march order and emplacement training. The battalion also used this time to prepare for its internal culminating training exercise (CTE) in April 2018, their focus readiness assumption, and the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's CTE. E Battery, the Army's only airborne short-range air defense capability, executed an Avenger/Stinger live-fire exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga., to maintain proficiency and certifica-

Pfc. Eduardo Torres, Sgt. 1st Class Desmond Wiley, Staff Sgt. John Healy, Spc. Terry Knight, Spc. Kyre Thornton and Sgt. Taylor Strong, left to right, of A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conduct a reload drill during 108th ADA Brigade's combat training exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Capt. Brandon Nalley, U.S. Army.)





Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command and Australian Defense Force pose for a photo in front of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defence Command Jump-Tactical Operation Center, during Black Dart training exercise on Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind., Sept. 17. Black Dart is an annual Department of Defense field demonstration of current and emergent counter-unmanned aerial systems technologies, coordinated and overseen by the Joint Staff J8, Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization. (Sgt. Sarvesh Regmi/U.S. Army)

tions for all Avenger teams. The *Skystriker Battalion* is currently preparing for Roving Sands 2019 and their upcoming deployment.

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 94th AAMDC's mission is to provide joint and combined theater air and missile defense in order to meet operation plan requirements through the assurance of allies and deterrence within the Asia-Pacific area of respon-

sibilities. The 94th AAMDC commander serves as the deputy area air defense commander (DAADC), the senior air defense commander (SADC), and the theater Army Air and Missile Defense coordinator (TAAMDC) for joint and combined operations.

As the DAADC, the 94th AAMDC commanding general is the primary advisor for the Pacific Air Force and the 7th Air Force in support of the Area Air Defense Plan and facilitates coordination, communication, and operations with all Integrated Air Missile Defense (IAMD) forces within the Pacific Region. 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 *Sea Dragons* continue sharpening their IAMD capabilities throughout the Pacific region by participating in bilateral and multilateral training exercises, as well as joint training exercises and exchanges including Key Resolve 18, Rim of the Pacific 18, Keen Edge 18, Pacific Sentry 18-3, Valiant Shield 18 and Black Dart 18. The command also hosted the India Subject Master Expert Exchange, Taiwan Executive Steering Group and Philippine General Officer level delegation at the joint and multi-national levels. These exercises and exchanges helped the 94th AAMDC training and maintenance readiness. Key Resolve 18 provided the 94th AAMDC commander and the team a realistic opportunity to train in IAMD tactics, techniques and procedures with joint, combined and bilateral partners as the theater DAADC in supporting regional area air defense commander (AADC) and combatant commander. The 94th AAMDC supported USARPAC future development of Multi-Domain Task Force Pilot Program that was executed June through August 2018 during Rim of the Pacific exercise (RIMPAC).

This summer, Brig. Gen. Michael Morrissey assumed command of the 94th AAMDC from Brig. Gen. Sean Gainey in a change of command ceremony held July 26, 2018, and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray assumed responsibility of the 94th AAMDC from Command Sgt. Maj. John Foley, June 26, 2018, both at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Notably, the 94th AAMDC re-activated the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Headquarters, the *Guardian Brigade* in Japan. The unit was re-activated after 37 years of being inactive and stationed at the Sagami General Depot, Oct. 31, 2018. This milestone highlights the strategic importance of IAMD in the Pacific region. The unit mission is to provide joint and combined air missile defense in support of both U.S. Indo-Pacific Command priorities and the collective defense of Japan.

In addition to participating in multiple region-wide exercises, the 94th AAMDC assumed training readiness authority for the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade assigned to 8th Army in the Republic of Korea. This leverages Integrated Air and Missile Defense expertise in ensuring training readiness for the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

Additionally, the 94th AAMDC assumed administrative control of the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment in October 2018. Fifth BCD plays a critical role in the 613th Air Operations Center working alongside 94th AAMDC and PACAF to integrate fire support, intelligence sharing and airspace management.

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, 8th 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 Air Defense Command, 18th Air Wing, JASDF 5th Air Defense Missile Group and the Naha Direction Center respectively.

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

army.mil/94thAAMDC

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38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Guardian Brigade*

The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade reactivated Oct. 31, 2018, after 37 years of inactive service. The unit is located at the Sagami General Depot, in the city of Sagamihara, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is known as the *Guardian Brigade*.

The unit history traces back to the Coast Artillery Corps, organized as the 38th Artillery Brigade on Camp Eustis, Va., in 1918 for entry into War World I. The 38th ADA Brigade participated in multiple battle campaigns in World War II, including Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe and Rhineland.

As the specter of communism fell over the world in the post-war years, the brigade was again called into service. The 38th ADA Brigade spent the better part of three decades providing an umbrella of air defense capabilities over the Korean Peninsula until its inactivation July 31, 1981.

The reactivation of the *Guardian Brigade* in the Pacific demonstrates the U.S. commitment to promote “quick reaction capability” and helps strengthen the deterrent power and coping abilities of the U.S.-Japan alliance during this critical period in the region.

Col. Patrick Costello and Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Sartain are serving as the command team for the brigade headquarters providing oversight of the region’s air and missile defense units. The brigade headquarters will oversee operations of the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, as well as the 10th and 14th Missile Defense Batteries on mainland Japan and a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery on Guam.

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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 Oki-



Capt. Frederick Sherman, right, shows Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Col. Eiji Shimamori an air defense artillery site during a tour Jan. 30 on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, Japan. Throughout the tour, JGSDF members were able to ask questions to help them understand the training process and security that 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery provides for Okinawa. Leadership on both sides also took this opportunity to discuss future events and training opportunities to continue enhancing the Japan-U.S. alliance. (Lance Cpl. Danielle R. Prentice/U.S. Marine Corps)

nawa, Japan. Over the last 12 months, 1-1st ADA was reset with a new Post-Deployment Build 8.0 fleet of Patriot equipment. Additionally, two new tactical sites on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and Kadena Air Base expand the battalion's footprint on the island, and enhances our ability to defend assigned assets. The *Snake Eyes Battalion* continues to look to the future, anticipating the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command commander's requirements for air and missile defense.

First-1st ADA continues to strengthen combined and joint military relationships in Japan. The battalion maintains bilateral partnerships with the Japan Air Self Defense Force's 5th Air Defense Missile Group and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment. Routine training is conducted to enhance air defense interoperability with the 5th ADMG's Patriot fire units and improve integration with the 15th AAR's short-range Type 81 Surface-to-Air Missile or Tan-SAM and 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. Leveraging relationships developed over the last 10 years, the *Snake Eyes Battalion* is able to conduct monthly joint defensive counter air training with the 18th Wing's F-15 Fighter Squadrons, E-3 Sentry aircraft in the Airborne Air Control Squadron, controllers in 623rd Air Control Squadron and the U.S. Marine Corps' Air Control Squadron. Additional partnerships with rotational U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalions (SEABEES) were vital in completing the battalion's new tactical sites. The unit was also aided by efforts from 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and Military Sustainment Command-Korea, who provided additional maintenance aid for services and equipment.

In October 2018, the battalion occupied new tactical sites on Honshu at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and Yokota Air Base. Integrating into the Keen Sword 2019 exercise provided the opportunity to both validate the new sites and exercise contingency plans for split-based operations. As the battalion leans forward into an ever-changing oper-

ational environment, utilizing large exercises will provide the ability to foster relationships across the Pacific and rapidly respond to the INDOPACOM commander's requirements for air and missile defense.

Snake Eyes Soldiers are physically fit and ready to respond to new missions with little notice. Spc. Emily Moller was recognized as the 94th AAMDC Soldier of the Year, and went on to place second in the U.S. Army Pacific competition. Moller is a shining example of a physically fit Soldier, proficient in her duties, and shows what is possible when Soldiers and units take personal pride and ownership of the Army's No. 1 priority: readiness.

As the *Snake Eyes Battalion* looks forward to 2019, it will remain focused on its strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense*, continuing their mission as ambassadors to our Japanese counterparts, and extending the battalion's expeditionary capabilities to new reaches in the Pacific.

[f facebook.com/1.1AirDefenseArtillery/](https://www.facebook.com/1.1AirDefenseArtillery/)

Task Force Talon

The top priority for Task Force Talon continues to be holistic Fight Tonight readiness and strategic ballistic missile defense (BMD) of the homeland. E Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and Task Force Wolf (17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion) security forces continuously validate readiness by multiple means ranging from no-notice crew operational readiness exercises (OREs) to natural disaster response to combined joint theater-level U.S. Indo Pacific Command and U.S. European Command exercises. The TFT actively fosters partnership efforts with sister-services, active and reserve Army units, Department of Defense agencies, Guam and national civic leaders.

Throughout the year, TFT sustained a high degree of readiness through multiple training and real world events. In the spring, the unit conducted its

U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, speaks with Soldiers assigned to Task Force Talon, during a visit to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 20, 2018. Soldiers maintain a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery, which provides security from ballistic missile threats. (Senior Airman Zachary Bumpus/U.S. Air Force)



first-ever typhoon evacuation drill executed in conjunction with their annual Gunnery Table VIII train-up and certification. The integrated E-3 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) and Security Forces (SECFOR) exercise included a full equipment march order, convoy movement, emplacement, system validation, written test and air battle resulting in the successful gunnery certification of over 40 separate crews. The Air Force supported typhoon exercise served as a proof of concept validating the unit's tactics, techniques and procedures that were put into real-world practice as the TFT responded to typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu, later in the year. TFT also executed its first chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives training exercise consisting of convoy operations with personnel and equipment decontamination. E-3 THAAD conducted launcher training and gunnery certification of D-2 battery, our sister THAAD unit in the Republic of Korea. Finally, the TFT Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Staff Sgt. Mitchell Ratner, won at the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command-level, and placed second at the U.S. Army Pacific competition.

Key joint training events over the year included joint leader professional developments, command and control exercises and exchanges with U.S. Navy Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense forces. E-3 THAAD crews shared expertise through participation in INDOPACOM's Resilient Shield and EUCOM's Juniper Cobra and Theater BMD exercises with respective Japanese and Israeli partners. TFT also participated in several 36th Wing base support plan, security and training OREs.

Informing national and international senior leaders about TFT's strategic mission, future initiatives, and challenges remains an ongoing priority effort. In 2018, TFT hosted over 30 government and military leaders including members of Congress and service leaders including Gen. Mark Milley, Chief of Staff of the Army; General Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau; Honorable Jordan Gillis, Assistant Secretary of the Army and Lt. Gen. Gwendolyn Bingham, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

Task Force Talon Soldiers continue to enjoy the rich cultural heritage of Guam. This year, TFT expanded its partnerships with the Machananao Elementary School, the University of Guam Army ROTC program, and FT Soldiers proudly marched in the 2018 Guam Liberation Day Parade honoring the end of Japan's WWII occupation. In June, the lieutenant governor served as guest speaker at the Task Force Talon 5th Anniversary ceremony and re-designation as the Guardian Angels. Extending off-island partnerships, TFT hosted a University of Tampa ROTC cadet during the summer and looks to expand cadet sponsorship in 2019 to include the University of Eastern Washington and Purdue University.

2019 will be a pivotal year for TFT. In February,



Soldiers from the 10th Missile Defense Battery stand in position to push and pull a Tachi-Neputa lantern float before the start of the Tachi-Neputa Festival, Goshogawara, Japan, August 5. (Staff Sgt. Andre E. Russo/U.S. Army)

TFT becomes a multi-component unit as the Guam Army National Guard assumes the SECFOR mission, an effort five-years in the making. Extending THAAD expertise in the BMD community, E-3 THAAD will increase joint exercise participation and expand its role with Missile Defense Agency test events. The start of the year will also see the first of many permanency construction projects begin. Finally, new THAAD system upgrades will increase lethality. Soldiers from TFT stand ready to continue a tradition of excellence. *Stands Ready!*

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[andersen.af.mil/TaskForceTalon/](https://www.andersen.af.mil/TaskForceTalon/)

10th Missile Defense Battery, Samurai Battery

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

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

Another key mission is to establish a positive relationship with the local populace as well as the Japanese military. Soldiers participate in countless community relations events throughout their one-year

tour in Shariki that go from planting and harvesting rice in local fields, to teaching English to the local school children, to participating in multiple festivals and parades that go through the streets of Goshogawara and Tsugaru. The battery also has a strong bond with the Japanese Self Defense Forces, local dignitaries and politicians. Several training exercises and rehearsals are conducted each year to help maintain training readiness throughout the region and help strengthen the relationship between 10th MDB and their counterparts. Additionally, the 10th MDB Command Team hosted multiple site tours each year to provide an understanding on what our mission is and to show others the environment that they work in.

On July 22, 2018, the Soldiers of 10th MDB participated in the Japanese Air Self Defense Forces Open-Base event, held on Site A of the JASDF compound. Residents from the Aomori Prefecture were encouraged to attend as it was a chance for 10th MDB and JASDF to display their equipment and describe their mission. *Hayabusa Battery* helped Japanese residents engage with American Soldiers, and allowed the people to see the working relationship between JASDF and 10th MDB.

As the *Hayabusa Battery* continues to develop as ambassadors in the community, the focus remains on the strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense*.

[f facebook.com/10thMDBSharikiCommunicationsSite/](https://www.facebook.com/10thMDBSharikiCommunicationsSite/)

14th Missile Defense Battery, Hayabusa Battery

The 14th Missile Defense Battery is located at Kyogamisaki Japan, and falls under the operation-



Capt. Bogert, 14th Missile Defense Battery commander, greets Lt. Gen. Kishikawa, Middle Army Headquarters commanding general, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, for a briefing and site tour on Aug. 23, 2018. (Courtesy Photo)

al control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The unit's mission to provide long-range detection, tracking, classification and discrimination for the engagement of strategic and theater ballistic missile threats in support of the U.S. Indo Pacific Command area of responsibility and homeland defense. The 14th MDB has continued to increase the lethality of the installation anti-terrorism and force protection base security measures site-wide.

The newly assigned military police (MP) personnel strengthen the 14th MDB's ability to provide law enforcement site security operations. These assigned personnel have allowed for the unit's MPs to support guard force operations aligned with established status of forces agreements. Joint security operations (JSO) provides for the defense of, and facilitates force protection actions for the Kyogamisaki Communications Site, base clusters, lines of communications and other designated areas.

The 14th MDB continues to strengthen JSO capability for the Tier 1 facility throughout the Indo-Pacific Region. The 14th MDB participated in several joint table top exercises with Middle Army which developed into a large-scale situational training exercise (STX) throughout this past year. Oct. 29 through Nov. 2, 2018, more than 200 personnel from KCS, Japanese Air Self Defense Force, and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force conducted an STX. The 14th MDB completed a successful and productive multilateral STX with the unit's JASDF and JGSDF host nation military partners to establish base defense measures and reporting procedures. Furthermore, for the first time in the history of KCS, the 14th MDB executed with the host nation 3rd Division and 7th Infantry Regiment JGSDF, a suc-

cessful full-scale guard and protect training event in conjunction with Operation Keen Sword for site defense contingency operations focusing on multi-lateral deployment readiness.

The 14th MDB Soldiers continuously reach out to the local community and military units to build rapport through key leader engagements. The second mission of KCS is to continue cultivating strong and positive relationships with the JASDF, JGSDF, local government officials and citizens of Kyotango. Within the past year, the 14th MDB participated in over 50 local festivals and exchange events to include the Sodeshi Community Center English tutoring for children, community beach clean-up, the city of Kyotango Annual Multi-Agency Anti-Terrorism Training, and an elementary school Halloween event which has been recognized by the Kyotango City International Association in Japan.

There is great momentum behind the joint efforts to maintain readiness and strengthen relationships with the host nation military partners. The 14th MDB continues to build on the significant achievements accomplished by the battery during 2018. Moving forward into 2019, *Hayabusa Battery* will strive to build on readiness, resiliency, and responsiveness as they work together with the integration of MPs and move on to more demanding and complex exercises with their Japanese counterparts. *Eyes to the Sky!*

[f facebook.com/14MDB](https://www.facebook.com/14MDB)

10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

There have been great strides in development for integrated air and missile defense at the strategic, operational and tactical levels across Europe and Israel in 2018. Tenth Army Air and Missile Defense Command has seen tremendous growth this year in capability and capacity through the formation of new subordinate commands, exercising the total Army with the deployment of National Guard tactical echelon formations, as well as deepening our interoperability with allied and partner nations through increasingly complex and challenging exercises.

From mid-February to the end of March, 10th AAMDC, along with Israeli Air Defense Forces, participated in exercise Juniper Cobra 18, a bilateral combined ballistic missile defense (BMD) exercise. The exercise demonstrated the long-standing commitment and unbreakable cooperation between Israel and the United States. The aim was interoperability and the technical integration of IADF and U.S. Army BMD systems, a complex and dynamic problem set requiring the right personnel, training and equipment. Tenth AAMDC was successful at integrating with IADF to provide layered ballistic missile defensive Fires for critical assets during the exercise. Juniper Cobra 18 provided Soldiers a unique opportunity to test and incorporate new technology

and concepts against a simulated regional threat, while also facilitating training opportunities at the crew and collective levels.

In April, 10th AAMDC conducted an external evaluation leveraging the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff theater-wide and operational level command post exercise, Joint Warfighting Assessment/Blue Flag 18. During this mission, 10th AAMDC expertly applied the deputy area air defense commander functions in support of the Joint Forces Air Component commander, while simultaneously executing the Theater Army Air and Missile Defense coordinator role. This exercise was also the first time 10th AAMDC commanded a tactical Air Defense Artillery Brigade during an exercise of this magnitude. The integration of the 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Headquarters South Carolina Army National Guard as a rotational ADA brigade to Europe helped 10th AAMDC effectively plan and coordinate integrated air and missile defense at the operational and strategic levels of war, delegating the tactical level mission command requirements to the ADA brigade.

In June 2018, units from across the command participated in Saber Strike 18 (SbS18) with units deployed to Poland and the Baltic States. SbS18, U.S. Army Europe's capstone exercise for 2018, provided 10th AAMDC the opportunity to enhance readiness, deploying by both ground and strategic airlift to es-

tablish a multi-national air and missile defense operational shared picture with Polish air and missile defense formations.

In concert with SbS18 was Tobruq Legacy 18, the largest NATO annual ground-based air defense exercise focused on integrated air and missile defense (IAMD). This served as another challenging exercise providing Soldiers in 10th AAMDC an opportunity to showcase their technical capacity by integrating air and missile defense sensors and shooters with allies and partners. This year's exercise, hosted by Hungary, marked the fourth iteration of this multi-national ground-based air defense exercise. Tenth AAMDC, alongside 18 other participating nations, integrated air and missile defense capabilities from multinational air defense platforms to surface-based air defense operations centers. The technical interoperability and data link architecture ensured all sensors and shooters participating in the exercise shared a common air picture to defend against live air exercise air and missile threats.

Further enhancing our partnership with allied nations, 10th AAMDC supported the Estonian Centennial National Independence Day Parade in Tallinn, Estonia. Tenth AAMDC supported this event in February with Soldiers and Patriot battery equipment taking part in a highly publicized centennial day parade. In conjunction with the weekend's festivities, 10th AAMDC leadership conducted key leader en-

Spc. Robert Dees, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, provides covering fire to allow Staff Sgt. Joshua Van Horn, 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, to toss a grenade during the 2018 European Best Warrior Competition held at Grafenwoehr, Germany, Aug. 14. (Courtesy Photo)





Spc. Logan Abbott, Patriot Launcher crew member assigned to B Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment briefs Gen. Jaroslaw Mika, general commander of the Polish Armed Forces, about Patriot missile system capabilities during Saber Strike 2018 at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, June 8. (Sgt. 1st Class Jason Epperson/U.S. Army)

gagements with the Estonian Chief of Defense, the U.S. Ambassador to Estonia, and several other senior political and defense leaders, highlighting the relationship between Estonia and the United States, and the importance of air defense in the Baltic region.

In addition to continuous training and supporting U.S. Army Europe initiatives, 10th AAMDC also focused on ADA growth and setting the theater for the return of short-range air defense (SHORAD) artillery to Germany. Nov. 28, 2018, the command activated 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (a SHORAD pure Avenger battalion) at Shipton Kaserne, Germany, in order to grow capability and establish organic SHORAD forces in Europe. Fifth-4th ADA marked the return of an active component SHORAD battalion in Germany, as well as the ADA Branch after nearly a decade of obscurity. As 10th AAMDC moves into a new year, it will continue to build capacity at 5-4th ADA and integrate the battalion into ongoing theater deterrence operations and large-scale joint and multinational exercises in a deliberate and regimented manner. With the activation of 5-4th ADA, 10th AAMDC remains at the forefront of shaping the ADA force of tomorrow.

A highlight outside the tactical environment, was the command's professional staff ride program. This year was the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. Expeditionary Forces entry into World War I. Over

100 leaders had the opportunity to walk the battlefields in Verdun, the Meuse-Argonne Forest and St. Michel, France. The tactical and operational level lessons learned and in-depth discussions 100 years ago to the day demonstrated the relevancy which exists in today's wars. This was undoubtedly one of the year's highlights for 10th AAMDC.

5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Throughout 2018, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment continued its efforts of standing ready to provide air and missile defense throughout Europe. Fifth-7th ADA worked consistently to enhance integration with allies and partners through a rigorous series of exercises, international deployments and close coordination with European Command and service components.

Fifth-7th ADA began the year with Juniper Cobra 18, a bilateral missile defense training exercise with the Israeli Air Defense Forces. D Battery and a forward battalion headquarters, including the newly fielded Dismounted Patriot Information and Coordination Central or DPICC, deployed to Israel in February, 2018, to enhance technical interoperability and tactical procedures with Israeli Air and Missile Defense (AMD) weapon systems and operators. Unique to this year's exercise was the use of strategic airlift and convoy move-

ment from the airport of debarkation to directed deployment locations.

The remaining three batteries conducted a battalion field-training exercise in Germany, simulating a full-scale battalion deployment. Leveraging the live, virtual and constructive training methodology, the three batteries in Germany were able to participate in the AMD training scenarios by connecting to the DPICC by Patriot Data Information Link over Internet Protocol. D Battery concluded Juniper Cobra 18 with a live-fire exercise in conjunction with Israeli Air Defense Forces Patriot and Iron Dome weapon systems.

In late May through June, 5-7th ADA deployed to the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, for Saber Strike 18. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, A and B batteries, and E Battery deployed by tactical road march, deploying over 950 kilometers for the exercise with A and B batteries deploying with live interceptors for the entire movement. Once in Poland, the units provided AMD of defended assets in conjunction with a Polish surface-to-air missile operations center. C Battery deployed by strategic airlift from Ramstein Air Base to Mirosławiec Air Base in Poland after friendly infantry forces conducted a joint forcible entry, securing the airfield. At the conclusion of the exercise, the battalion successfully road-marched over 950 kilometers back to Baumholder, Germany.

Upon return, the battalion immediately prepared for Post-Deployment Build 8, or PDB-8, Patriot hardware and software upgrades. This included upgrades to radars, all command and control nodes and launching stations, increasing the battalion's lethality and readiness. Fifth-7th ADA conducted thorough training with Raytheon instructors to master the upgraded systems and prepare for future operations, improving overall readiness with improved system capabilities and operator training.

Fifth-7 ADA continued its efforts to improve interoperability and readiness with joint partners. Patriot systems participated in the Integrated AMD exercise European Test Bed 18-2, a Joint IAMD exercise involving Navy Aegis ships, Army Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense systems, and Air Force command and control elements through a simulation at the Air Force's Warrior Preparation Center. Fifth-7th ADA also participated in Spartan Shield 18-9, another simulation exercise allowing air defense artillery fire control officers (ADAFCO) from the 678th ADA Brigade Headquarters to operate with an Air Force Control and Reporting Center (CRC). Six hundred and seventy-eighth ADA Brigade Headquarters was the first ADA brigade in U.S. Army Europe in nearly a decade. Spartan Shield 18-9 was the first opportunity for brigade ADAFCOs to integrate with a CRC and conduct simulated AMD operations with actual 5-7th ADA crews.

The battalion not only succeeded throughout these tactical endeavors, but also established mean-

ingful, lasting relationships with allies and partner nations outside of a tactical environment. In July, three 5-7th ADA official military detachments represented the U.S. delegation to the Nijmegen Four-Days March in the Netherlands. Ultimately, 22 Soldiers of 5-7th ADA completed the 106-mile ruck march, earning the Holland Four-Days Cross. Along the way, they paid tribute to the sacrifices of U.S., British, Dutch and German Soldiers during Operation Market Garden in World War II. Additionally, 5-7th ADA participated in Independence Day parades for Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania, demonstrating our strong relationships and commitment to the people of these nations and celebrating the rich history and prestige.

For 2018, 5-7th ADA remained poised, ready and determined to succeed in any environment, alongside allies and partners, against any threat. Fifth-7th ADA established a culture of close interoperability throughout Europe and Israel, allowing the unit to rapidly deploy and integrate at any time. The battalion is looking forward to a fast-paced 2019 in which they can continue to establish and grow meaningful relationships with partners throughout the European Command area of responsibility, anytime, anyplace.

30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

In an esteemed effort to sustain Soldier morale, and demonstrate leaders' appreciation for the hard work and efforts of all permanent party Soldiers within 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's footprint, the brigade chaplain, Maj. Eric Dean, developed the unit's Cadre Resiliency Program. The one-day training event is conducted every two weeks off-site at Lake Elmer Thomas Recreation Area Lodge, Fort Sill, Okla., from 9 a.m. to noon. It is voluntary and serves as an opportunity for Soldiers to provide critical discussion and feedback on a wide range of common occupational-related subject areas such as relationship management, financial management, stress management and parenting techniques. Families are also encouraged to attend. Soldiers have the ability to drive the discussion topics, given the Soldier speaks with Dean prior to the class start date. Upon completion of the training, Soldiers are released on a four-day pass with the approval of the Soldiers' command team.

Originally intended to support no more than seven Soldiers per session, the program consistently meets the maximum capacity established within the brigade (16 personnel). Upon initial assessments (within the last fiscal year), the program has received tremendous feedback and has truly benefited Soldier morale and resiliency throughout the ranks. Dean, along with the support of leaders, will con-



Staff Sgt. Franklin Thoma, left, 14P Instructor, member of the Maneuver-Stinger mobile training team, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, initialized the scenario on the Virtual Stinger Trainer while Spc. Ryan Cardiff, center, and Sgt. Ryan Heaton, right, both assigned to 2nd Cavalry Regiment learned to operate a Stinger Man-Portable Air-Defense System during a VST training session at the 7th Army Training Command's Grafenwoehr training area, Germany. March 14, 2018. (Markus Rauchenberger/U.S. Army)

continue to refine the program as it has demonstrated great promise, and importance for all Soldiers within Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and the 30th ADA Brigade community.

2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Set the Standard, Kodiak Battalion

The *Set the Standard* Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery trained, educated and developed the world's premier air defense officers, select warrant officers and Soldiers in 2018. The battalion's rigorous and realistic education provided well-trained, disciplined and physically fit Soldiers and officers ready to lead formations in the operating force and to our international partners all over the world.

The battalion's Headquarters and A Battery continued its mission of training all commissioned officers and 140A warrant officers in the Air Defense Branch, along with the Air Defense Airspace Management/Brigade Aviation Element course. In June of 2018, the Basic Officer Leaders Course (BOLC) nearly doubled the size of a normal class from 60 to 100 students due to the growth of air defense. Additionally, all of the officer education courses

saw changes and improvements to their programs of instruction (POI). Warrant Officer Basic Course and Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC) saw a Training and Doctrine Command-approved four-week course growth, driven by considerations of future requirements and training equality with 140K/L courses. TRADOC also approved the shift of two weeks of instruction (80 hours) from the Captains' Career Course common core curriculum to branch-specific instruction. This additional course time will be used to build air defense – in particular Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) – proficiency. Work has begun on the implementation of a tough, realistic, three-day culminating field exercise event for BOLC focused on air defense core competencies balanced with warrior tasks and battle drills. Ajax Battery has seen record levels of throughput over 2018, graduating over 200 Air Defense second lieutenants, 120 captains, 24 140A WO1s, and 18 WO2s and WO3s from its courses.

BBattery experienced growth across each SHORAD and high-to-medium air defense MOS. The battery provided Maneuver Stinger (M-Stinger) training both at Fort Sill, Okla., and across U.S. Army

Europe and U.S. Army Forces Command to support the Chief of Staff of the Army's initiative to increase SHORAD capability and capacity in maneuver formations by adding dedicated and non-dedicated air defense capability to select brigade combat teams. Through 2018, the *Bulldog* Battery trained 1,100 advanced individual training students to include 154 combat arms Soldiers for M-Stinger training. B Battery provided an M-Stinger mobile training team (MTT) to 173rd Airborne, 2nd Cavalry Regiment; 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division; 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division; and 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and trained three resident courses at the Fires Center of Excellence which resulted in 71 ready M-Stinger Teams returned to maneuver units. Because of its success and demand, B Battery will continue to provide M-Stinger training for maneuver units through the next fiscal year.

C Battery, responsible for the Army Medical Department Direct Commissioning Course (AMED-DCC), one of only three direct commissioning schools in the Army, spent 2018 training, educating and indoctrinating new Army medical officers. The year saw exponential growth in the course with over 700 students graduating throughout the year, and the largest class size reaching 270 students. The course begins by instructing new medical officers on how to be leaders, with program of instruction ranging from developing subordinates to property accountability. The course includes a range week where the students conduct land navigation, rifle marksmanship, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense, gas chamber and the team development course. AMED-DCC officers then graduate the course and transition to Army Medical BOLC-B, ready and fully prepared to ensure the readiness of the force.

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3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Bruiser Nation*

The *Bruiser Nation* Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment spent 2018 training, educating, and testing at Fort Sill, Okla.; White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; and designated locations around the world in order to provide the operating force with proficient Soldiers, expert leaders and the most advanced and capable air defense equipment and software.

The battalion's headquarters and A Battery, which are responsible for Patriot warrant officer education, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense training, and a variety of Patriot functional courses, had an exceptionally busy and productive year. In June of 2018, the Warrant Officer Basic Courses supported the split of the former 140E career field by graduating the first-ever 140K and 140L warrant officers. The unit is currently preparing for the first 140K and 140L Warrant Officer Advanced Courses to be held in early 2019. In addition to a full complement

of Patriot Master Gunner (PMG) courses at home station, a battalion mobile training team executed a PMG course in Korea in the fall of 2018, graduating 14 PMGs to bolster Patriot training readiness in the Indo-Pacific Command region. From late July to September, Headquarters Battery and A Battery hosted the inaugural Allied Patriot Top Gun course. The Patriot Top Gun course is a graduate-level course that trains air defense officers to be tactical subject matter experts, and up until this year was only offered for U.S. students. The initial course was open to partners from three Gulf Cooperation Council states and was a great success.

B Battery continued its mission of 14E (Enhanced Patriot Fire Control Operator/Maintainer) and 14T (Enhanced Patriot Launcher Operator/Maintainer) Advanced Individual Training (AIT) for U.S. and foreign students. This year saw the return of drill sergeants to AIT formation after a 10-year absence. Early this year, the 14T course completed the transition from a 10-week course of study into a more condensed and streamlined seven-week version. This change enabled the battalion to train and graduate more Soldiers to meet the high demands across the air defense force for both U.S. and Foreign Military Sales partners. Overall, the *Bulldogs* educated and graduated over 1,200 U.S. and foreign students in 2018.

The Air and Missile Defense Test Detachment also had a busy year at its home at White Sands Missile Range. The detachment is responsible for testing the future of Air and Missile Defense systems, including the Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD) System of Systems (SoS), Air and Missile Defense Planning and Control System, Patriot Post Deployment Build Version 8 software, and directed energy.

AMD TD Soldiers completed testing of Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IABCS) software version 4.0.2 in 2018. From January through September, AMD TD Soldiers tested IBCS over seven different test events, making tactically significant changes to help develop version 4.5 of the software. The AMD TD's work in the developmental testing process kept the AIAMD SoS on its glide path to completion of operational testing by 2022. In April, AMD TD observed directed energy capability in the Mobile Expeditionary High Energy Laser at the Joint Warfighter Assessment 18.1 exercise in Europe as part of efforts to utilize directed energy defense systems in the Maneuver – Short Range Air Defense concept. Throughout the year, the detachment participated in a Joint Base Air Defense working group to develop the integration of directed energy into point and area defense of bases. The detachment is currently focused on building AMD expertise in preparation for testing PDB 8.1 and IBCS software version 4.5 in 2019.

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US Army Active Duty Field Artillery Units



Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery conduct MK-19 preliminary marksmanship instruction in preparation for a qualification range at Fort Hood, Texas. (Capt. Connor Savage/U.S. Army)

1st Cavalry Division Artillery, Red Team

Soldiers in 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, *Red Team*, successfully completed a broad range of operations in support of deploying brigades as well as division- and corps-level exercises in 2018. Collectively, these events built readiness across the force. *Red Team* concentrated on improving the collective Fort Hood, Texas, field artillery enterprise by preparing brigades for global deployment, standardizing field artillery practices in 1st Cavalry Division by rewriting the 1st Cavalry Division Red Book, and performing as the division and corps force field artillery headquarters in multiple warfighter exercises (WFXs).

Red Team began 2018 by supporting 3rd Field Artillery Squadron's Artillery Table XV's as they prepared for a combat deployment to Afghanistan. DIVARTY

concurrently began preparing for Warfighter Exercise 18-05 by participating in Staff University at the Fort Hood Mission Command Training Center and subsequently the first of many tactical operations center (TOC) setups and rehearsals. During National Training Center Rotation 18-02, DIVARTY provided Sentinel radar support to 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, *Iron Horse*, prior to their deployment to European Command as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

In January, DIVARTY hosted the Space Cadre Basic Course mobile training team for participants from across 1st Cavalry Division. Soon after, DIVARTY resumed preparation for Warfighter Exercise 18-05 by conducting a communications and staff exercise with the 1st Cavalry Division Joint Air Ground Integration Center. After Command Post Exercise 1, the DIVARTY staff deployed to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for pre-warfighter training with cadre from the Combined Arms Center. From April through May, DIVARTY conducted two command post exercises to complete train-up for WFX 18-05. During Command Post Exercise (CPX) 3, the 1st Cavalry Division Best Warrior Competition took place; DIVARTY then-Spc. Tyler Hamby won the Best Warrior Competition for all E-4 and below and Sgt. Nicholas Cahill earned second overall in the Best Noncommissioned Officer competition. DIVARTY conducted Q53 and Q50 radar fielding and new equipment training over the three weeks following CPX 3.

DIVARTY executed WFX 18-05 with 1st Cavalry Division from the end of May thru the middle of June. DIVARTY's ability to manage up to 11 cannon and launcher battalions simultaneously afforded the division's brigade combat teams the freedom to maneuver despite intense enemy resistance. DIVARTY contributed more than 20 Soldiers to the Army Recruiter Assistance Program over the remainder of the summer. This directly attributed to DIVARTY Soldier's recruitment efforts. At the end of June, DIVARTY's senior leaders were changed out following the success of WFX 18-05 as Col. Brett Forbes took command from Col. Kelly Webster and Command Sgt. Maj. Omari Ballou assuming responsibility following the departure of Command Sgt. Maj. Matt Tran earlier in the summer.

DIVARTY undertook the task of reviewing and began rewriting the 1st Cavalry Division Red Book in July. As part of the Red Book review, DIVARTY revised the processes and procedures for evaluating Artillery Tables XV and XVIII. In August, the Target Mensuration and Collateral Damage mobile training teams were hosted in the recently renovated DI-

VARTY Secure Internet Protocol Router work lab. Simultaneously, DIVARTY's radar sections trained crew drills for the Q64, Q53, and Q50 in anticipation of Artillery Tables I-VI being executed through mid-September. Exercise Courage Dawn, similar in scope to WFX 18-05 but executed with 1st Cavalry Division operational control to I Corps, presented an opportunity for DIVARTY to test the utilization of a liaison cell within the 1st Cavalry Division tactical command post. The DIVARTY liaison element demonstrated the ability to conduct counterfire operations and deliberate fire mission processing when the DIVARTY main tactical operation center is out of the fight.

In September, multiple exercises spread the *Red Team* across three states. DIVARTY provided support for 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery's Artillery Tables XV prior to their culminating exercise on Fort Hood. Under DIVARTY observation and control, the 2-82nd FA batteries were able to increase their efficiency and provide more responsive Fires during Pegasus Forge III, the brigade's external evaluation. Third Armored Brigade Combat Team, Grey Wolf, executed Pegasus Forge III in preparation for NTC 19-02; DIVARTY evaluated 2-82nd FA's staff during this exercise. The preponderance of the counterfire and S2 cells participated in Coalition Virtual Flag 18-4 at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. There, they provided integrated intelligence efforts to deliberately target enemy locations for multinational partnered forces. During this time, DIVARTY also sent Soldiers to Fort Sill, Okla., to participate in Unified Challenge 18.3 as members of a test element for future field artillery organizations in the Army.

In 2018, DIVARTY increased its ability to support the 1st Cavalry Division in a conflict with a peer enemy by participating in multiple warfighter-like exercises and certified two field artillery battalions on Fort Hood. Over the next 12 months, *Red Team* will perform as a corps-level force field artillery headquarters in WFX 19-02 and deploy the organization to Europe for Dynamic Front 19, operating as a force field artillery headquarters controlling firing platoons from ten European partnered nations.

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1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Dragons

Redlegs from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, continue to provide accurate and responsive Fires in support of the *Ironhorse Brigade*. The *Dragons* of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment were successful at National Training Center Rotation 18-02 in November 2017 and redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas to further prepare for the upcoming European Command deployment. Following leave, the battalion shifted focus to leader and artillery table certifications. In January 2018, the battalion conducted leader certifications, artillery skills proficiency testing, and Artillery Tables I-V. Later that month, the battalion conducted

Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) new equipment training (NET) which certified the battalion to use PGK-fused projectiles that increase accuracy and reduce the number of projectiles required per fire mission. Following PGK NET, the battalion executed a Table VI to certify new Paladin and fire direction center crews. In February 2018, the battalion certified its six firing platoons during Table XII.

Over the course of the next three months, the *Dragon Battalion* increased its execution of command deployment discipline programs and pre-deployment tasks. These deployment tasks included container inspections, railhead operations, seaports of embarkation/seaports of debarkation operations, household goods/personally owned vehicle storage, battalion footprint closeout, and home station battery activation. In May 2018, the *Dragon Battalion* deployed in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve to provide Fires in support of the *Ironhorse Brigade*, train with NATO partners and allies, and to deter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. The battalion advanced party arrived in Torun, Poland, to begin a warm start of the camp. Once on the ground in Poland, the *Dragon Battalion* conducted Paladin calibrations, small arms and crew-served weapons test firing, established maintenance and supply operations, and conducted an Artillery Table VI. On June 6, 2018, 73 years after D-Day, the *Dragon Battalion* was declared Ready to Fight at Camp Dragon in Torun, Poland.

In July 2018, the battalion certified its three firing batteries during a three-week long Table XV. This certification allowed the batteries to "starburst" across Europe to support company combined arms live-fire exercises and conduct multinational training with NATO partners. The firing batteries sustained combat readiness through realistic multinational training in exercises in Poland, Bulgaria and Romania. During the summer the battalion also focused on training its medical personnel, radar sections and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear Soldiers. The battalion also partnered with the local Voivodeship (Polish state-level government) in supporting countless events in and around Torun. Some of these events included high school visits, a children's hospital visit, and participation in the Polish Armed Forces and memorial commemorations. The battalion was also honored to participate in Torun's 100th Anniversary of Polish Independence celebrations.

As autumn approached, the battalion conducted its Spur Ride in late September in Torun, Poland. Nine Polish Soldiers also participated with all earning their spurs as well as accolades for high physical fitness and marksmanship scores. Soldiers in A Battery participated in Exercise Tornado 18 with the Polish 23rd Field Artillery Regiment while B Battery partnered with the Polish 12th Mechanized Field Artillery during Anakonda 18. In late October, the battalion began preparation for movement to Ho-

henfels, Germany. In mid-November six convoys from 1-82nd FA participated in *Ironhorse Ride 2*, driving 950 kilometers from Torun to Hohenfels. In December 2018, the battalion successfully executed the Force on Force portion of Combined Resolve XI at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels and then conducted movement to Grafenwoehr, Germany. After celebrating the holidays, the *Dragon Battalion* provided accurate and responsive live Fires in support of the *Ironhorse Brigade* as part of Crisis Reaction Battalion XI's live-fire exercise. As the battalion shifted focus to redeployment, they maintained combat readiness to assure our allies and deter Russian aggression.

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

The 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery contributed to the Army's overall mission throughout the last year. The *Rolling Thunder Battalion* conducted several simultaneous operations, as well as continuously supporting sister units and multi-national forces in their missions. Third-16th Field Artillery's timeline, and results far exceeded standards and expectations.

In February 2018, 3-16th Field Artillery *Rolling Thunder* returned from a rotational deployment that took place in the Republic of Korea. During the rotational deployment, 3-16th Field Artillery, alongside the ROK Army, conducted numerous joint exercises, such as Ulchi-Freedom Guardian and Warrior Strike. These outstanding exercises allowed 3-16th Field Artillery to fire over 2,500 rounds and safely observe over 5,000 mortar rounds, directly resulting in an increase of rapport and readiness between multi-national and joint forces.

In March of 2018, 3-16th Field Artillery redeployed and began a comprehensive maintenance program in order to prepare for upcoming certifications. In June of 2018, The Cadet Summer Train-

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, conduct an Artillery Table XII. (1st Lt. Amber Warren/U.S. Army)



ing program requested support in the training and direct development of future officers; 3-16th Field Artillery sent over 300 Soldiers in support of this mission. During the Cadet Summer Training, Soldiers acted as opposition forces, supported logistical requirements, competently instructed combatives level one, and stepped in as cadre for the confidence course. Simultaneously, A and B batteries supported multiple rotations at the National Training Center. A and B batteries acted as artillery opposition forces in order to enhance the rotational unit's ability to react to indirect Fires.

From August through November 2018 fire direction centers and firing batteries completed their qualifications and certifications from Artillery Table VI through Artillery Table XII, firing over 750 artillery rounds. In November of 2018, C Battery provided support to 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team by providing live-fire during maneuver companies Table XII. In direct support, 120 rounds were expended while maneuver elements conducted their operations.

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

The 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Steel Dragons* continued to set the standard for a 155 mm self-propelled field artillery battalion. Over the past year, the *Steel Dragon Battalion* redeployed from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and its support to Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve, conducted unit-level reset operations, served in support of focused readiness operations, executed a deliberate Artillery Table training strategy, and prepared for a culminating training exercise at the National Training Center. The troopers list of accomplishments embodied the battalion motto "Can and Will" throughout the year, as they executed highly visible missions throughout the entirety of the year.

The 2-82nd Field Artillery led the way on improving its organization, honing its own skills, influencing organizations up the chain of command and the field artillery community as a whole. The battalion focused on maintenance and reset operations during the early months of the year. Second-82nd FA maintained an operational 18 out of 18 Paladins and six out of six radars through April 1, 2018, and adamantly stayed within one to two vehicles of that standard throughout the entire training this year until the completion of Pegasus Forge. The *Steel Dragons* expeditiously led the way on Force Modernization. In one week, 2-82nd FA refitted a battery's worth of howitzers with the M984A2 chrome-tube upgrades and utilized them throughout the training this year.

The *Steel Dragons* were honored to discuss Force Modernization with the Secretary of the Army during his visit in April. Third Armored Brigade Combat Team fire support teams set up static dis-

plays of several fire support platforms and outlined sensor-to-shooter operations throughout the brigade. The battalion was able to show how the newly outfitted M984A2 chrome tubes can impact future combat operations. Second-82 Field Artillery's feedback direct to the highest levels of the chain of command will positively influence how the field artillery community continues to modernize.

The *Steel Dragons* assumed the role of crisis reaction battalion (CRB), May 1, and maintained through the garrison readiness exercise, May 22. As the CRB, *Steel Dragons* planned and executed different courses of action for all force protection conditions levels and fielded the response teams. On the day of the drill, the rapid reaction force secured five locations across the installation for 18 hours. From the most critical, to the remote, the *Steel Dragons* demonstrated discipline and professionalism during their watch. The garrison command was particularly impressed by the troopers' communication and dissemination of their responsibilities to every Soldier, at every location and commended them for their response times. The practical knowledge gained from the exercise will enhance the installation's readiness and security of the Soldiers and families working and residing on the largest installation in the Army, *The Great Place*.

Steel Dragon Troopers played a vital role during Warfighter 18-5. Sixty *Steel Dragon* Troopers executed brigade tactical action center/tactical operation center operations and the DIVARTY work cell, responsible for fire mission processing for four field

artillery battalions. Soldiers maneuvered their units in support of the division fight, gaining a greater understanding of larger scale operations. *Steel Dragon* Soldiers' participation facilitated the experience and knowledge gained from the training event, while individual Soldiers came away with a better understanding. Their participation allowed division staff to experience planning and battle tracking multiple subordinate cells.

The 2-82nd Field Artillery continued to execute complex missions designed to push Troopers' critical thinking and problem-solving skills to the limits. The *Steel Dragons* integrated into its August Artillery Tables VI and XII qualifications a variety of factors to consider and created a multifaceted training exercise that would train flexibility and adaptability during platoon-level operations. Platoons maneuvered over 20 kilometers and through four separate position areas for artillery while engaging targets during day and night operations during Table XI and Table XII. While conducting their mission, platoons had to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances as opposition forces tested the *Steel Dragons* with small arms fire, indirect fire and improvised explosive devices and civilian on the battlefield vignettes. The *Steel Dragons* honed the batteries' security, reporting and problem-solving in the face of adverse and changing circumstances.

Simultaneously, the fire support center exercised field maintenance, logistical support and area security operations, while the staff and Headquarters

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fire high angle rounds during the Pegasus Forge exercise at Fort Hood, Texas. (1st Lt. Andrew Carstensen/U.S. Army)



and Headquarters Battery refined their standards for TOC operations and drilled the six TOC functions. At the conclusion of the week, the *Steel Dragons* had completed certification of its 18 howitzer sections, six fire direction centers, through Table XII. Working through a shortened timetable due to range fires during previous weeks, the *Steel Dragons* demonstrated a hardy resilience and ability to adapt and overcome any challenge they face, training or real world.

The entirety of this year's training culminated in the brigade-wide Pegasus Forge III exercise. The *Steel Dragons* were adamant about showing both the lethality and flexibility the 2-82nd Field Artillery Battalion brings to the battlefield. The firing batteries demonstrated an ability to operate as a single dedicated entity in support of a maneuver battalion, as well as consolidating as a battalion and to mass combat power in order to decisively influence the battle at a critical juncture. Batteries fired calibration missions for multiple lots of ammunition and rehearsed battles drills in order to prepare for the 19-3 National Training Center rotation. The battalion also reacted to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive drills, training throughout the two week span in various mission-oriented protective posture levels. The dynamic array of mission sets enabled the battalion to simultaneously complete its Artillery Table XV and XVIII certifications.

Not to be left out, the Forward Support Company conducted rapid and sustained recoveries during the field operations, at one point returning five non-mission capable vehicles to the fight and recovering nearly 20 vehicles throughout the entire exercise. Their distribution platoon conducted CLV draws for over 30 lots and the fuel section distributed nearly 10,000 gallons of fuel during the exercise.

The *Steel Dragons* proudly demonstrated that field artillerymen have a mind for the integration of combat assets and looking at the battlefield as a whole. Second-82nd FA successfully integrated the Shadow and AH-64E platforms into fire mission processing during Pegasus Forge. The Shadow facilitated an additional intelligence surveillance, reconnaissance platform and observer for registration missions. AH-64Es, from 1-227 Attack Aviation, working in conjunction with C Battery, observed fire missions and successfully called for fire in support of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment. Ultimately, the battalion fired 977 rounds safely down range and showed its mastery of fully utilizing all combat assets available and fighting in any condition imaginable.

As the battalion prepares for an NTC rotation and the follow-on deployment, the battalion continues to engage training and force modernization efforts. The *Steel Dragons* eagerly anticipates every opportunity to excel at its tasks and impact the larger mission. Second-82nd Field Artillery looks forward to the future and is ready to accomplish the mission.

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Field Artillery Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Steel

This year began with the Soldiers of Field Artillery Squadron, *Steel*, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, deploying in February to the National Training Center as part of the 18-04 rotation. Following a successful rotation, *Steel* Squadron returned to Fort Hood, Texas, and began preparations to deploy in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) May 1, 2018.

Upon deploying, Task Force Steel included more than 300 Troopers, geographically dispersed over four countries, supporting the military defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Task Force Steel's mission included advising, assisting and enabling Iraqi Security Forces partners, base defense and operations support for Kirkuk Airbase (KI), providing direct support lethal fires to CJTF-OIR, theater radar acquisition network, and establishing and synchronizing targeting cells for the operational commands across the combined joint operations area.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, *Havoc*, led joint targeting efforts that focused on supporting the Federal Police Kirkuk Mobile Headquarters through support zone targeting and non-lethal efforts to defeat the ISIS narrative. To that end, the squadron developed a comprehensive campaign plan focused on four pillars: enabling ISF capacity; protecting the force; expeditionary Fires capability and maintaining readiness. This detailed approach lethally produced over 100 ISIS killed and trained

Soldiers assigned to the Field Artillery Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, fire an M777A2 howitzer during a fire mission at Fire Base Um Jorais at known ISIS locations near the Iraqi-Syrian border, June 5, 2018. Iraqi Security Forces and coalition partners provided fire support to assist the Syrian Democratic Forces as they continued Operation Roundup, the military offensive to rid the final pockets of the terrorist organization from the Middle Euphrates River Valley in Syria. (Spc. Anthony Zendejas/U.S. Army)



over 300 FEDPOL partners in intelligence, media, and medical operations.

A Battery, *King*, delivered Fires in support of Special Operations Joint Task Force Syria (SOJTF – Syria) and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). They established four austere fire base locations, providing accurate and lethal Fires from each position. *King* fired over 1,500 rounds to support AOB and SDF in the final defeat of ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley, resulting in over 75 enemy killed. Additionally, they provided counter-fire in support of base defense, neutralizing multiple ISIS mortar firing points, preventing their ability to place accurate Fires on friendly unit locations. Their effectiveness shaped the operating environment by denying freedom of maneuver to enemy forces and by enabling the SDF to clear the remaining pockets of ISIS in Syria.

B Battery, *Lion*, established Fire Support Base Um Jorais and Sa’Hem II in support of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and SDF forces along the Syrian/Iraqi border. Their M777A2 howitzers and fire direction centers conducted joint fire missions with ISF partnered artillery forces, computing eastern to western fire mission data, and facilitated key leader engagements (KLE) between ISF and Coalition Force leaders. They continued their efforts of expeditionary firing package support to CJTF-OIR with the establishment of one platoon at Al Asad Air Base, partnering with the Task Force Lion (United States Marine Corps), Norwegian and ISF forces to conduct joint training. Additionally, the *Lions* maintained one firing section at Q-West in support of the Saladin Operation Center and the NOC-E. The *Lions* fired over 500 rounds in support of the military defeat ISIS mission.

C Battery, *Regulator*, served as the Base Operations Support Integration for more than 300 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, coalition partners and civilian contractors from over five different organizations at K1. In this capacity, the battery was responsible for over \$100,000 of security improvements made throughout the K1 footprint, refining fighting positions and improving external and internal anti-terrorism measures. *Regulator* integrated 5th FEDPOL and 2nd Counter-Terrorism Service efforts into the overall security mission, creating partnerships and a layered security plan to protect forces on K1.

Regulator, in conjunction with *Havoc*, also provided a Guardian Angel Platoon for the squadron commander and CJOC-K1 staff, that provided security for over 200 key leader engagements with governmental and security leaders throughout Kirkuk Province. Additionally, *Regulator* Soldiers provided security to an Expeditionary Advisory Package (EAP) in the Northern Kirkuk Province in support of a joint operation between FEDPOL and Peshmerga Forces, while simultaneously maintaining security at K1 with minimal manning. Their efforts enabled the governments of Iraq and Kurdistan to work together

toward a common goal and positively impacted the re-establishment of healthy relations between the two governments.

In closing, TF Steel enabled the coalition’s efforts to achieve a military defeat of ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley by providing accurate and lethal Fires in a timely manner. The squadron’s effectiveness shaped the operating environment, resulting in our partner’s ability to realize security gains through our coordinated efforts.

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1st Armored Division, *Iron Steel*

The *Iron* Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division Artillery, *Iron Steel*, played a critical role in the defeat of ISIS through its Fires responsibilities within Combined Joint Force Land Component Command in support of Operational Inherent Resolve Iraq. Upon redeployment, the 1st AD Fires Enterprise honed its ability to mass Fires in large-scale combat operations during Warfighter Exercise 19-2. Concurrent to these efforts, *Iron Steel* produced lethal field artillery batteries and battalions in support of the division’s brigade combat teams.

From July 2017 through March 2018, the DIVARTY strike cells coordinated over 1,710 close air support sorties, 680 cannon, 123 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, 29 attack weapon teams, and 182 unmanned aircraft system strikes that resulted in over 3,800 enemy killed in action. The expert employment of combined and joint Fires in support of the Iraqi security forces accelerated the defeat of Daesh and enabled a cessation of major combat operations. The DIVARTY leveraged lessons learned from the employment of joint Fires in support of the liberation of Iraq as its training foundation for the transition to training for large-scale combat operations.

The DIVARTY executed a determined gated training strategy that consisted of three command post exercises which culminated in a successful Warfighter Exercise 19-2. The DIVARTY developed new methods to mass multi-domain Fires from III Corps, 82nd Division, 31st Division, and 7th Air Support Operations Squadron in a challenging constructive environment. The 1st Armored Division Fires Enterprise developed simple and effective systems that enabled the division to defeat the critical capabilities of air defense artillery and long-range Fires. In addition, the *Iron Steel* team integrated their National Guard partners, the 65th Fires Brigade, as reinforcing forces and counter-fire headquarters.

Concurrent to its mission as the force field artillery headquarters, the DIVARTY produced lethal FA batteries and battalions through Table XV and XVIII qualifications. Synchronized with the brigade combat team collective training, the DIVARTY conducted two iterations of Table XV and Table XVIII

qualifications in support of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. These rigorous training events prepared 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment to excel during their National Training Center rotations and 4-1st FAR's subsequent deployment to Korea.

Over the course of 2018, the 1st Armored Division Artillery stood out as a driver of readiness for the division. From the delivery of lethal Fires in support of contingency operations to the preparation of field artillery battalions, *Iron Steel* continues to accomplish its core mission, the delivery of joint Fires for the division and building readiness so batteries are ready to deploy, fight and win.

4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, *Iron Thunder*

Iron Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, *Iron Thunder*, provided timely and accurate Fires in support of Operation Spartan Shield from October 2017 to June 2018. *Iron Thunder* served a multi-national role in U.S. Central Command providing lethal Fires and radar in support of Operation Inherent Resolve Iraq and Syria. The battalion fired over 500 rounds against ISIS during operations in Iraq. While supporting Operation Spartan Shield, *Iron Thunder* executed partnership missions Eager Lion in Jordan, Iron Union in United Arab Emirates, Friendship in Saudi Arabia, and Army Day in Kuwait. *Iron Thunder's* involvement throughout CENTCOM helped bring stability throughout the region.

Upon redeployment, *Iron Thunder* immediately conducted equipment reset in order to increase readiness for the upcoming training cycle. In conjunction with reset, *Iron Thunder* began fire support certifications to rebuild core fire support capability

Soldiers of C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, conduct an Artillery Table XVIII with an M777 howitzer during the Steel Focus exercise. (Spc. Hardy/U.S. Army)



Soldiers from B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery fire terrain denial against ISIS positions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve at Al Assad, Iraq. (1st Lt. Brett Glaess/U.S. Army)

while simultaneously providing support to the DIVARTY as part of the 1st Armored Division's Warfighter Exercise. Today the Soldiers of *Iron Thunder* continue to hone their warfighting capability to support 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and prepare for rotation 20-01 at the National Training Center.

2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, *Gunners*

Gunners from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment provided timely, accurate and lethal supporting Fires to the Ready First Combat Team, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, throughout 2018. This past year was marked by a tough, realistic training strategy focused on the fundamentals of fire support and individual warrior tasks and drills. Through diligent adherence to standards and dedication to our mission, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment remains ready to deploy, fight and win in support of the Ready First Combat Team and 1st Armored Division.



Throughout the first and second quarters of 2018 the *Gunner Battalion* focused on individual section and platoon qualifications, culminating in all platoons qualifying through Table XII. In conjunction with Table XII qualifications, the battalion executed a platoon situational training exercise, focused on the fundamentals of platoon defense, day and night land navigation, reconnaissance, selection and occupation of position, and medical evacuations. Following Table XII qualification, the *Gunners* participated in Operation Hustler Trough in conjunction with the United States Air Force. Operation Hustler Trough pairs an Army firing battery and Army joint Fires observers with Air Force forward air control-Airborne (FAC-As). Upon completion of the event, the battalion's 13F Master Gunner certified each FAC-A to call for fire using artillery and mortar systems. After this event, the battalion qualified through Table XVIII in preparation for Operation Iron Focus; the brigade collective training event prior to the Ready First Combat Team's rotation to the National Training Center.

The *Gunner Battalion's* performance during Operation Iron Focus and National Training Center Rotation 19-01 was indicative of a year focused on mastering the fundamentals. Collectively, the battalion built and maintained a frequency modulation (FM) digital Fires network spanning 33 kilometers, and fired over 2,500 live rounds in support of the Ready First Combat Team. Additionally, the *Gunners* drove over 15,000 miles, moving across the Chihuahuan and Mojave Deserts in order to emplace their howitzers, never missing a time on target. As the year comes to a close, the *Gunner's* remain ready to deploy, fight and win in any environment, whenever the nation calls.

4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, Defenders

In 2018, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery regiment rigorously prepared for and deployed to the Republic of Korea in direct support of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. In preparation for this mission, the *Defenders* conducted training at every echelon from section level Table VI certification to successful completion of National Training Center artillery readiness test for *Axeman, Beast Battery*, and *Copperhead Batteries* in February, culminating with a battalion artillery readiness test (BART) evaluated by 1st AD DIVARTY. The battalion transitioned to supporting 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, *Bulldogs*, through their capstone training event, *Bulldog Focus*, which concluded with a maneuver combined arms live-fire exercise. After supporting the *Bulldogs*, the battalion moved forward and supported the division's culminating home station training event, *Iron Focus*. The battalion's fire supporters conducted Bradley sustainment gunnery in April. The battalion's training concluded with its rotation to the National Training Center in preparation for



Soldiers from C Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, fire their Paladin weapons system in support of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division during the Iron Focus training exercise. (Courtesy photo)

the 2018-2019 Indo-Pacific Command deployment. Over this intensive training cycle, the battalion fired over 2,000 rounds and spent approximately 100 days in the decisive action training environment.

1st Infantry Division, Drumfire

In 2018, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, *Drumfire*, marked 100 years since the *Big Red One's* artillery helped turned the tide toward Allied victory in World War I. It did so by continuing the tradition of developing lethal artillery units at echelon, enhancing interoperability with Allies, and setting conditions for modernization. The DIVARTY conducted these efforts at Fort Riley, Kan., at combat training centers and in Europe.

The 1st Infantry DIVARTY began the year conducting an expeditionary form of the Division Artillery Readiness Test (DART)/Table XV typically conducted at home station. A detachment of eight personnel including the commander, command sergeant major and primary staff deployed forward to Torun, Poland, and Grafenwoehr, Germany, to evaluate batteries from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery deployed with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division in support of European Command's Operation Atlantic Resolve. The DART verified battery command teams' ability to mitigate risks to mission and risks-to-force while still achieving time and accuracy standards laid out in the Training Circular 3-09.8 Field Artillery Gunnery manual. The tactical scenario posed these risks in the form of replicated threats from the air, ground, and indirect Fires that drove battery commanders' decisions.

From February to April, 2018, DIVARTY leadership and its master gunners supported B Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery as they conducted the Field Artillery's Initial Operational Test and Evaluation of the new M109A7 self-propelled howitzer and M992A3 tracked ammunition carrier. The *Drumfire* Team helped synchronize efforts with agencies such as U.S. Army Operational Test Command's Fire Support Test Directorate, the Fires Center of Excellence's Capabilities and Development Direc-



Soldiers of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, gather for a patrol brief prior to departing their tactical assembly area in Torun, Poland, as part of the Table XV Division Artillery Readiness Test. (Courtesy photo)

torate, the program manager for the Paladin Integrated Management system, and Fort Riley's Directorate of Training Management. These efforts laid the groundwork for B/1-5th FA's successful test and evaluation of the new howitzer and set conditions for future fielding of the system.

Also in February, the DIVARTY culminated months of preparation and training with its Total Army Partners, the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, as they participated together for the first time in Warfighter Exercise (WFX) 18-03. The DIVARTY performed the role of force field artillery headquarters (FFA HQ) and counterfire headquarters (CF HQ) as the primary training audience, while the 130th Field Artillery Brigade dedicated a response cell of more than 40 of its staff. The DIVARTY reciprocated by supporting the 130th FAB and the National Guard's Mission Command Training Support Program with personnel for higher command, lower control center, and observer, controller/trainers during the brigade's annual training. The *Drumfire* staff coached 130th FAB leaders on operations as a division FFA HQ and CF HQ. The 130th FAB's annual training builds toward its own WFX in 2020.

Upon completion of the final DART/Table XV in Europe, the DIVARTY commander and command sergeant major enlisted the aid of the Joint Mission

Readiness Center's Vampire Team to evaluate 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery as a battalion in a Table XVIII. A multinational exercise, Combined Resolve X (CbRX), provided the best available opportunity to gauge the battalion's ability to support the *Dagger Brigade* in a tactical scenario. The *Vampire Team* incorporated the criteria provided into their coverage of the exercise and, along with the command team, conducted the evaluation at both Grafenwoehr Training Area (live fire) and Hohenfels Training Area (force-on-force).

Concurrent with CbRX, the 1st ID conducted a multinational constructive exercise at Grafenwoehr hosted by the Joint Modernization Command based on a European scenario set in the near future. During the Joint Warfighting Assessment 18.1, as the exercise was called, the DIVARTY staff drew upon their experience from the WFX as a force field artillery headquarters and refined procedures with allies and partners. Eight partner nations: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand and the United Kingdom along with the 1st Infantry Division staff and DIVARTY, faced a peer-competitor in a constructive simulated environment for 27 days. The *Big Red One* worked closely with brigades and their artillery to improve human, procedural and even technical interoperability. Thanks to compatibility made possible through Artillery Security Cooperation Activities initiatives, multinational brigades were able to digitally conduct cross-boundary Fires in support of each other with DIVARTY facilitating these as the FFA HQ.

In conjunction with brigade home station training for 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, led by division, DIVARTY conducted DARTs for 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery following the battalion's fielding of M109A7s. *Hamilton's Own Battalion* successfully qualified live on Table XVIII prior to deploying to the National Training Center with the *Devil Brigade* for NTC 18-10. During the rotation, 1st ID and DIVARTY augmented the NTC's "52nd Infantry Division" higher command by conducting targeting across the division area of operations and coordinating suppression of enemy air defense for a live-fire aviation attack out-of-contact with elements from the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade at China Lake, Calif.

2018 proved to be a rigorous year of training, cooperation and leader development for the 1st Infantry DIVARTY. *Drumfire* built upon its reputation established over 100 years ago this year. It did so through improving the readiness of its artillery units, refining interoperability with its multinational and Total Army Partners, and setting conditions for modernizing Fires across the Army.

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

Hamilton's Own! Faithful and true since 1776 and now leading the way into the future of cannon artillery with the M109A7. In January, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, spearheaded by

Bonecrusher Battery, initiated the deliberate attack on the fielding and Initial Operational Test (IOT) of the M109A7 with an aggressive training plan. Over the course of the month, all three batteries qualified through Artillery Table XII to build readiness for the brigade with *Bonecrusher* qualifying through AT XV in preparation for the IOT. In February, the battalion shifted to support the IOT with *Dawg Battery* providing logistical and observer controller support for *Bonecrusher* as they continued to prepare. At 6 a.m. on Feb. 26, *Bonecrusher Battery* stepped off on the first 90-mile movement of the IOT, triggering the shift into the execution phase of the deliberate attack. From Feb. 26 to March 22, *Bonecrusher Battery* fired over 8,000 rounds and drove over 1,000 miles successfully completing the IOT and opening the path for the rest of the Army. Through the months of April and May, *Archangel* and *Dawg Battery* fielded and qualified on the M109A7 completing the transition of the battalion.

Following the overwhelming success of the test, the battalion was equipped with 18 new guns and rapidly transitioned to support 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team from company-level certification during operation Devil Prowl through battalion and brigade-level certification during Operation Gauntlet. During Operation Gauntlet, the battalion conducted six AT XIIIs, three division artillery readiness tests and a battalion AT XVIII. After the completion of Operation Gauntlet, the battalion deployed to National Training Center.

The Soldiers of *Hamilton's Own* again proved their mettle while providing lethal Fires in support of 1st ABCT's maneuver forces. As the year comes to a

A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery carries a round during an unit exercise. (Courtesy photo)



close, the battalion stands ready to deploy to European Command in support of Operation Devil Resolve.

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!

2nd Infantry Division Artillery, Warrior Strike

The transition from Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 to FY19 provided unique opportunities in testing the flexibility and adaptability of the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery. Our primary missions leading up to Oct. 1, 2018, kept our focus on the oversight and ownership of our subordinate artillery battalions, training readiness authority (TRA) of U.S. Army Alaska and Washington Army National Guard direct support field artillery battalions. We also maintained our Fight Tonight posture with 2nd ID as the force field artillery headquarters (FFAHQ) in the event of conflict on the Korean peninsula.

By October, the battalions were realigned to the brigade combat teams and DIVARTY assumed duty as the headquarters (administrative control) for the newly established ICEWS (intel, cyber, electronic warfare, space) Battalion and shared Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) exercise responsibilities with the 17th Field Artillery Brigade. DIVARTY will serve as the MDTF for exercises Pacific Sentry 19 and Talsiman Saber 19.

To prepare for our responsibilities as the MDTF Headquarters, 17th FA Brigade shared after action reviews and lessons learned. This better informed our mission analysis for MDTF exercises and enabled support to the ICEWS Battalion during their stand-up. Concurrent with standing up the ICEWS, DIVARTY realigned the training glide-path to account for MDTF training as we continue to provide TRA oversight of five field artillery battalions' Table XV and XVIII qualifications programs in addition to our role in Korea during planned training and exercises. The DIVARTY quarterly long-range planning conference synchronized Table XV and XVIIIs for the battalions through FY19 to ensure they were ready for battalion and brigade combat team collective training events. Finishing 1st quarter strong, DIVARTY served as the 7th Infantry Division FFAHQ during Yama Sakura 75 with personnel forward in Japan and at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., while simultaneously conducting a Fires command post exercise with 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea.

For FY19, 2nd ID DIVARTY stands ready with 17th FA Brigade to assist the Army in validating the MDTF concept while validating the lethality and standards of precision for the field artillery battalions in 7th ID, U.S. Army Alaska, and the Washington Army National Guard. Adapt and Overcome.

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3rd Infantry Division Artillery, *Marne Thunder*

The Redlegs of 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, *Marne Thunder*, further developed and refined the Fires Enterprise within the division over the past year. In February, DIVARTY dominated the battlespace while serving as the 18th Field Artillery Brigade in support of 18th Airborne Corps during Warfighter Exercise 18-03. While in the throes of WFX 18-03, DIVARTY deployed a portion of the headquarters to Afghanistan in support of the *Rock of the Marne Division*, establishing the first Force Field Artillery Headquarters in Afghanistan. During the deployment, the DIVARTY continued its oversight role with E Battery, 1st Battalion, 28th Field Artillery, assisting the brigade combat team artillery battalions with readiness and transformation activities.

Upon a successful redeployment, DIVARTY began its train up to WFX 19-02, where it focused on providing the division with accurate and responsive joint Fires and counterfire. DIVARTY's training efforts resulted in high praise during the capstone training event for the thoroughness of Fires planning and technical mastery of Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, allowing for rapid execution of dynamic fire missions. Following WFX 19-02, DIVARTY assisted in the qualification of 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery's M777 and M119 crews through Artillery Table VI. DIVARTY concluded the year with the planning and execution of the culminating training exercise for 48th IBCT, *Macon Volunteers Brigade*, in preparation for their deployment in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

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

Redlegs from 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, *Glory's Guns*, deployed in support of the Korean Regionally Aligned Forces from January to October 2018. The *Glory's Guns Battalion* dispersed throughout South Korea, from Camp Humphreys to Camp Hovey, with personnel task organized under the *Raider Brigade* from Fort Stewart, Ga., and 210th Fires Brigade of Camp Casey.

Fire supporters were an integral part of the deployment, supporting not only the *Raider Brigade* and 210th Fires, but also the Republic of Korea Special Forces joint Fires observers (JFOs). Fire supporters from the *Glory's Guns Battalion* regularly conducted dry and live fire training integrated with ROK JFO's, developing and refining ROK Army Fires plans coordinated with close air support and attack aviation. Fire supporters conducted a fire support team (FiST) certification across the Korean Peninsula, awarding A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment as the *Raider Brigade* Best FiST.

First-41th FA conducted a battalion level artillery training progression, completing two Artillery Table VI's and one Artillery Table XII, firing over 600

rounds in the process. The target acquisition platoon took advantage of every training opportunity by observing rounds fired by both the *Glory's Guns* team and our ROK Army partners, as well as survivability exercises with Raider engineers. Batteries took advantage of the unique training opportunities and environment of South Korea by planning and executing multiple battery-level training weeks. During this time, the batteries were able to refine their Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise procedures and Korea specific artillery tactics, techniques and procedures. This training aided the *Glory's Guns* Battalion's ability to shoot, move and communicate effectively throughout the Korean theatre of operation.

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

The 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, *Battlekings* met a challenging and historic year head on in 2018. Through steadfast discipline and motivation, the *Battlekings* successfully transitioned the battalion from towed artillery into a mechanized artillery battalion, equipped with M109A6 Paladins and M7 Bradley Fire Support Vehicles (BFiST).

From February to March 2018, while waiting for their respective fielding of the new equipment, batteries took full advantage of training in the Fire Support Combined Arms Tactical Trainer. This training facilitated standardization of crew drills in the Paladin and allowed sections to gain familiarity with the equipment prior to the Operator's Displaced Equipment Training (OPDET). The same diligent focus on crew drills allowed the fire support teams to successfully complete their BFiST OPDET and BFiST gunnery. The battalion followed an incremental training progression through Artillery Table XII, platoon qualifications. Beginning with Artillery Table (AT) VI, training variables, such as opposing forces situational training and mass casualty exercises, were applied to increase the *Battleking's* readiness

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery conduct direct fire engagement during M109A6 Artillery Table VI certification, Oct. 18, 2018. (Courtesy photo)



to provide lethal, close supporting Fires in major combat operations.

Collective training culminated with deploying the entire 1-9th FA for AT XII in October. The highlight from the October AT XII was massing the battalion in a time on target fire mission, which set the conditions for the upcoming 2019 National Training Center deployment train up and execution.

October 2018 also marked the reattachment of 1-9th FA to 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. The *Battlekings* finished off 2018 with an expeditionary deployment readiness exercise, providing the battalion with the opportunity to exercise its ability to rapidly mobilize and deploy.

4th Infantry Division Artillery, Ivy Gunners

Throughout 2018, the Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division Artillery, continued to hone their tactical and operational skills in support of the *Ivy Division*. In April, the *Ivy Gunners* distinguished themselves by being the first DIVARTY to achieve battlefield effects before the opposing force (OPFOR) during the 4th ID warfighter. As stated by the chief of Fires, Integrated Fire Control commander, “Fourth ID DIVARTY Fires had significant effects on OPFOR enablers ... From [forward passage of lines] through the wet gap, the DIVARTY was well positioned to support maneuver.”

In July and August, the Sentinel Radar team deployed to the U.S.—Mexico border, providing surveillance in support of Joint Task Force—North and the U.S. Border Patrol. In addition, the DIVARTY established a new joint Fires team, composed of former joint terminal attack controllers and joint Fires observers, to streamline and improve joint Fires observer training and certification within the division.

The *Angry Vikings* of 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery completed a National Training Center rotation in January prior to deploying in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, providing lethal fire support to coalition units across Afghanistan and expert advisory assistance to the Afghan National Army’s 201st Corps.

Second Battalion, 77th Field Artillery’s *Steel Warriors* displayed admirable flexibility conducting rigorous artillery training at Fort Carson, Colo., providing Fires in support of the Air Force’s 66th Weapons Squadron at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., and deploying a battery to Afghanistan to provide counter rocket, artillery, and mortar Fires in support of United States Forces—Afghanistan operations.

Pacesetters from 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery conducted realistic and challenging training, providing Fires in support of the *Iron Brigade* at Fort Carson, Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, and the National Training Center, and preparing them for deployment to the Central Command area of operations early next year.

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2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, Angry Vikings

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, *Angry Vikings*, have been decisively engaged throughout 2018. In January, the battalion deployed to the National Training Center Rotation 18-03 providing accurate and responsive Fires for the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team. After a successful NTC rotation, the battalion deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel 18-19.

As the only cannon battalion in Afghanistan, the *Angry Vikings* were dispersed across theater supporting operations for every Train Advise Assist Command (TAAC) with 18x M777A2 howitzers. Through the deployment the *Angry Vikings* supported conventional forces, the Army’s first Security Force Assistance Brigade, Special Operations Task Force – Afghanistan and Afghan National Defense Security Forces maneuver, providing fire support for expeditionary assistance packages. In addition to their normal duties, the battalion headquarters served as the 201st Military Advisor Team, advising the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army in TAAC-East. In 2018, the *Angry Vikings* have proven that no matter the task, the battalion is always ready for any mission and most importantly, embodies their motto of “Stay Angry!”

2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, Steel Warriors

Redlegs from the 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, *Steel Warriors*, remained steadfast and loyal, providing Fires in support of the 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Forces Afghanistan and sister services. Following a successful Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in October of 2017, the *Steel Battalion* deployed all its fire supporters and radar crewmembers in support of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division’s mission in Operation Freedom’s Sentinel from February to November 2018.

In February and March 2018, B Battery attended Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) training in Fort Sill, Okla., and deployed shortly after to support operations across operating bases in Afghanistan. At home station A and C batteries ensured readiness for the Forces Command General Global Response Force mission and focused on mastery of core artillery competencies, achieving Table XII qualifications in July and maintaining proficiency in firing platoon operations in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 18 through a series of battery, battalion and joint Fires exercises. In September 2018, C Battery provided over 1,800 rounds of accurate and responsive Fires in support of the Air Force 66th Weapons Squadron’s Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) Weapons Instructor Course at Creech Air Force Base.

In October 2018, A Battery conducted an Artillery Table XV exercise while simultaneously supporting

a joint Fires exercise with the 66th Weapons Squadron, 13th Air Support Operations Squadron and 10th Special Forces Group in Fort Carson, Colo., providing a critical enabler to the Air Force in the training of their forward air controllers-Airborne, JTACs and joint Fires observers.

Whether providing artillery support, C-RAM defensive Fires, or supporting the joint Fires team, 2-77th FAR demonstrated capability and developed expertise in 2018, ensuring the *Steel Warriors* as a combat-ready field artillery formation ready to deploy and provide responsive and lethal Fires to the *Warhorse Brigade Combat Team* and the *Ivy Division* anytime and anywhere they are called to do so.

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3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, Pacesetters

The 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, *Pacesetters*, returned from deployment in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve in October 2017 and immediately embarked on a rigorous training cycle as part of the Sustainable Readiness Model. The battalion focused on mastering the basics and digital fire mission processing.

The battalion established a dedicated room to facilitate weekly digital sustainment training that started with only battery fire direction centers and gradually incorporated the entire Fires Enterprise across the brigade. The firing platoons concentrated on consistency in their crew drills and terrain utilization. The fire support elements systematically enhanced the digital call-for-fire chain through a sustained maintenance effort on the Bradley Fire Support Team fleet. The forward support company quickly achieved proficiency in field maintenance and “tailgate” resupply operations. The strong foundation, grounded in fundamentals in digital mastery, set conditions for the battalion’s National Training Center preparation training exercise at Pinyon Canyon in July, and subsequent deployment to the NTC (19-02) in October.

The battalion provided timely and accurate Fires that allowed the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team to achieve success against a determined Blackhorse opponent. Currently, the *Pacesetters* are focused on their upcoming deployment in February to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

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10th Mountain Division Artillery, Mountain Thunder

It was a busy year for the artillery within 10th Mountain Division. Tenth Mountain DIVARTY deployed over half its formation in support of Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command -- Operation Inherent Resolve (CJFLCC-OIR), subsequently Combined Joint Task Force - OIR. DIVARTY Soldiers enabled partnered security forces



Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment supported the POTUS visit to Fort Drum, N.Y. with a 21-gun salute. (Courtesy photo)

with joint and coalition Fires in support of operations against Daesh in Iraq and Syria. Simultaneously, 10th Mountain DIVARTY provided training support to the brigade combat team’s (BCT’s) field artillery battalions at Fort Drum, N.Y., and Fort Polk, La.; and spearhead planning for a division live-fire exercise, Operation Summit Strike, on Fort Drum to occur in spring 2019. Operation Summit Strike will incorporate surface-to-surface, fixed-wing and rotary-wing assets to counter an adversary’s anti-access/aerial denial strategy and enable multi-domain operations in and around the Fort Drum area.

3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, Centaur Battalion

The *Centaur Battalion*, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, remained fully engaged, supporting many of the division’s missions. As part of the *Warrior Brigade*, 1st Brigade Combat Team, the battalion deployed Soldiers to support training missions across the continent of Africa as part of the African Command Regionally Aligned Forces. Third-6th FA fire supporters also deployed to Central Command with the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade. The battalion took part in the 10th Mountain Division’s deployment readiness exercise, highlighting its rapid deployment capability, and supported Joint Readiness Training Center rotations for 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain and a security force assistance brigade. On Aug. 13, 2018, 3-6th FA showcased its capabilities in an air assault raid demonstration and 21-gun salute to welcome President Donald Trump to Fort Drum to sign the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. The battalion completed the year



Soldiers from 3rd Section, 2nd Platoon, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment fire a M777 howitzer during a live-fire exercise at Joint Readiness Training Center, La. (Courtesy photo)

with qualifications through Table XVIII and a rigorous Mountain Peak Exercise where 3-6th FA provided a lethal application of Fires in the cold and snow of the North Country, honing their skills to execute their wartime mission.

2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, Allons

The *Allons* remained steadfast in providing accurate and responsive Fires to the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Commandos*. The battalion executed its Table XVIII qualification under three feet of snow and fired over 1,000 rounds in support of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's combined arms live-fire exercise. It also supported its brigade's Mountain Peak Exercise in March. The battalion took part in the division's sea emergency deployment readiness exercise in conjunction with its JRTC 18-08 rotation where the unit's Fires allowed 2nd BCT to rapidly exploit the initiative during offensive operations and provided critical to support to defensive operations. In October, the more than 100 fire supporters deployed to Afghanistan with 2nd BCT to provide fire support and assume military advisory duties as a part of Train, Advise and Assist Command. Throughout the year, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Ar-

tillery demonstrated time and again it is *Ready Now*, capable of overcoming the challenges of time and terrain, and poised to make the next *Climb to Glory!*

5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, Thunder Battalion

The *Thunder Battalion*, provided lethal Fires across Central Command against adversaries in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Fifth-25th FAR delivered over 1,000 rounds of indirect fire and coordinated joint strikes in support of Iraqi Security Forces. *Carnage Battery* (M777A2) supported operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while *Bulldog Battery* (M119A3) cross-trained on the M777A2 to support Operation Inherent Resolve missions in Iraq and Syria. *Ares Battery* (M119A3) maintained decisive action proficiency at home station by supporting company combined arms live-fire missions in cooperation with the brigade's associated unit partners of the 36th Infantry Division. Following redeployment, the battalion continued its support of associated unit missions; completed qualifications through battery, a fire support coordination exercise and a combined arms live fire exercise; and assumed the focused ready mission on Oct. 1. In the *Thunder Battalion*, everyone fights and we fight to win, with our Patriot Brigade

teammates, we continue to be *Focused Ready Now. Climb to Glory!*

17th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunderbolt!

The 17th Field Artillery *Thunderbolt Brigade* continued its mission supporting America's I Corps as the force field artillery headquarters and the U.S. Army's Multi-Domain Task Force Pilot Program. This past year the brigade accomplished and executed many successful training objectives as well as combined, joint training exercises. This year marked the centennial for the *Thunderbolt Brigade*, as the brigade celebrated 100 years after being founded at Camp Bowie, Texas, in July 1918 under the 17th Division.

At the beginning of the year the *Thunderbolt Brigade* reintegrated 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment after their successful deployment in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom-Spartan Shield and Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. During the deployment First Round fired over 1,500 precision-guided munitions in support of CJTF-OIR operations.

In April, 17th FA Brigade conducted a 550-mile trek to Orchard Combat Training Center in Idaho. The training stressed the brigade's systems to include logistics, maintenance, communications and overall firing processes. This exercise gave Thunderbolt Soldiers the confidence in their equipment and their ability to sustain through limited logistic capabilities. While at OCTC, 308th Brigade Support Battalion and 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment were given an external evaluation by the brigade to ensure that both battalions were certified and ready to deploy if called to support contingency operations. It established the brigade's readiness as a whole in the event of a deployment to combat aggression towards a near-peer adversary in support of I Corps.

The *Thunderbolt Brigade* traveled in July to Schofield Barracks and Ford Island, Hawaii, to participate as the MDTF-PP in support of U.S. Navy's Third Fleet during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), the world's largest biennial international maritime exercise. RIMPAC provided a unique training opportunity for the *Thunderbolt Brigade* by fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships with joint and international forces. This exercise allowed the Brigade to integrate its High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) asset into planning efforts with joint services in order to further develop multi-domain concepts.

During RIMPAC, 17th FA Brigade and 1-94th FAR worked alongside the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force and conducted the first multinational and U.S. Army HIMARS Rapid Infiltration (HI-RAIN) at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii. The HI-RAIN validated the HIMARS as part of the

Multi-Domain Task Force and its ability to shape both land and naval operations by targeting adversary naval assets. The exercise provided tough, realistic training for the *Thunderbolt Brigade* in order to deter and defeat aggression by major powers across all domains and levels of conflict in order to build multi-domain concepts.

Immediately following RIMPAC, 17th FA Brigade deployed a portion of its headquarters, alongside 1-94th FAR, to Guam in support of Valiant Shield as the MDTF-PP. Valiant Shield is a U.S. only, biennial field training exercise with a focus on integration of joint training in a blue-water environment among U.S. forces. This training enabled the *Thunderbolt Brigade* with real-world proficiency by integrating with the joint assets to provide capabilities to employ the joint services freedom of maneuver in a maritime environment and be able to enable the operation and mission in the Pacific domain. Seventeenth FA Brigade continued to develop and validate priorities as the MDTF-PP while at Valiant Shield such as improve communication systems and architecture, facilitate and integrate artillery capabilities in the Indo-Pacific maritime environment, and inform and improve upon the multi-domain operational discussion.

Simultaneously, the *Thunderbolt Brigade* conducted a Warfighter Exercise 19-1 exercise in support of I Corps. This was a routine exercise to enhance the interoperability between the U.S. and Republic of Korea forces. The exercise was hosted at the Joint Base Lewis McChord Mission Command Training Center in Washington. The brigade met all training objectives and validated its ability to serve as the FFAHQ for I Corps.

In November, Soldiers from the 17th FA Brigade's 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment conducted a field training exercise at Yakima Training Center, Wash., during this exercise the first HIMARS Rapid Infiltration was conducted at YTC on the newly established Selah Airstrip. Seventeenth FA Brigade, in conjunction with 62nd Airlift Wing, planned and executed a successful live fire HI-RAIN that clearly demonstrated joint inoperability as well as the HIMARS ability to rapidly strike long-distance targets and move before being detected. This training also demonstrated that now units similar to 17th FA Brigade can utilize YTC as a premiere training installation in order to rapidly deploy and execute missions at a moments notice.

The *Thunderbolt Brigade* wrapped up the year by welcoming the new Thunderbolt commander, Col. Brandon Anderson while simultaneously supporting the Yama Sakura 75 exercise. Seventeenth FA Brigade deployed a small contingent of Soldiers and leaders to Japan to train with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and support I Corps as the FFAHQ for the exercise.

While only a small contingent of Soldiers went forward from the brigade, the majority of the bri-

gade participated in the exercise at the MCTC on JBLM, Wash. In conjunction with JGSDF, the *Thunderbolt Brigade* is responsible for directing fire support and shaping efforts for I Corps.

This year marked significant changes to the mission of the *Thunderbolt Brigade* as well as the leadership at the brigade level. However, 17th FAB continues to foster a learning-based organization by employing disciplined initiative, and maximizing efforts to deploy, fight, and win, whenever, and wherever, our nation requires for the next year to come.

[f facebook.com/17thFieldArtilleryBrigade/](https://www.facebook.com/17thFieldArtilleryBrigade/)

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

First Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, *Deep Steel* set the standard for High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalions through the successful execution of diverse mission sets, to include overseas exercises with multi-national partners across the Pacific. Each quarter, the battalion validated expeditionary readiness through HIMARS Rapid Infiltration (HIRAIN) operations, in conjunction with 62nd Airlift Wing. Batteries rapidly load launchers into aircraft and conduct tactical movements to firing positions upon landing, giving commanders the ability to conduct forward projected precision strikes, anywhere in the world. The *Deep Steel Battalion* remains prepared to rapidly deploy launchers with no notice in support of worldwide operations.

Keeping in line with the Army's sustainable readiness model, the *Deep Steel* team conducted weekly tactical readiness exercises (TRXs). The TRX tests leadership abilities and the professional competency of platoon leaders and section chiefs and fosters an expeditionary mindset across the battalion. Battery commanders task elements within their formation to conduct short notice missions tied to mission essential task list tasks. The detachment could be a light HIMARS package, the battalion fire direction center, a retransmission team, etc., that must conduct a convoy movement to training areas and exercise their core competencies. Observer/coach, trainers move with the element, providing invaluable feedback to the tasked unit and battalion commander. These exercises reveal avenues of continual improvement and shape future training, leading to greater warfighting capacity across the formation.

In April, 1-94th FAR conducted a battalion external evaluation (EXEVAL) at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho. The battalion executed a three-day, 550-mile convoy to validate expeditionary ground movement and vehicle recovery operations. While at OCTC, the battalion conducted a HIRAIN operation with 62nd Air Wing to integrate multi-domain planning and cross-service operations in a training environment. Battalion staff exercised real-time airspace de-confliction with AH-64Ds, successfully synchronizing surface-to-surface and air-to-surface

Fires in support of deep strike operations. Launcher crews closed out the EXEVAL by successfully qualifying through a Table XV live-fire mission. After successfully qualifying all 16 launcher crews, the battalion conducted a three-day convoy movement back to Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash.

The battalion continued to rehearse our deployment readiness with a HIRAIN deployment to Hawaii following the EXEVAL. First-94th FAR deployed to the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Kauai, Hawaii, as part of a joint forces operation to in support of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) and validate multi-domain operation (MDO) capabilities. The *Deep Steel Battalion* shaped land operations by executing multiple missions targeting naval assets. The realistic mission set provided crews with the ability to hone their skills and integrate in a multinational operation. RIMPAC highlighted the validation of HIMARS as a part of the Multi-Domain Task Force for future global operations.

Immediately following RIMPAC, the *Deep Steel Battalion* deployed to Guam for another joint-forces operation, Operation Valiant Shield. The battalion, as the Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) headquarters, conducted land, air, sea, space and cyberspace shaping operations in conjunction with the Navy and Air Force. Operation Valiant Shield validated the joint communications architecture necessary to conduct synchronized MDO and further the discussion of MDTF HQ roles and responsibilities in the joint environment.

[f facebook.com/1stBattalion94thFieldArtilleryRegiment](https://www.facebook.com/1stBattalion94thFieldArtilleryRegiment)

308th Brigade Support Battalion, Red Lions

The *Red Lion Battalion* has been hard at work in 2018 with major training events internal to the battalion and in support of 17th Field Artillery Brigade. We conducted platoon and company external evaluations (EXEVALs) in January and February to prepare for our battalion EXEVAL in March. We then focused on reset and recovery across the brigade's maintenance program from May to July, supported various brigade and corps exercises such as Rim of the Pacific 18, and absorbed external units into our formation for a battalion field training exercise (FTX) in November.

In January 2018, 308th BSB began collective training to prepare for deployment to Orchard Center Training Center, Idaho in March 2018. From the section to battalion levels, all *Red Lions* were externally evaluated in order to become certified for deployment in support of contingency operations around the world. The 308th BSB was augmented by 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion. The augmentation was to train on one of our primary tasks: to absorb and employ external units to support 17th FA BDE's firing units. OCTC was located 550-plus miles away from JBLM and our deployment exer-

cised the unit's ability to deploy and move personnel and equipment across three states.

Upon redeployment from OCTC, 308th BSB took time to allow for personnel, equipment, and vehicle recovery. Immediately after this reset period, we deployed both logistics and signal capabilities to Hawaii in support of RIMPAC 18 and Guam in support of Valiant Shield 18. During these exercises, *Red Lions* brought dedicated expertise and equipment to support 17th Field Artillery Brigade as it assumed the role of Multi-Domain Task Force Pilot Program.

The Soldiers of 308th BSB solidified the year's training efforts by conducting a battalion FTX at Yakima Training Center in November 2018. Again practicing the employment of external medical and transportation companies, the battalion displaced the brigade support area both during day and night operations while supporting the the training efforts of our sister battalion, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery. Over the course of this exercise, all battalion mission essential tasks were trained and we internally tested our junior leaders on all aspects of sustaining the fight. *Pride in Performance!*

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

It's been a busy year for the *First Round Nation* – redeploying from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in December, conducting reintegration and reset operations through June and an arduous train-up culminating with a Table XV live-fire exercise in November.

In December 2017, the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Ar-

tillery Regiment, First Round Battalion, redeployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom-Spartan Shield and Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) where it delivered over 1,500 precision-guided munitions in support of CJTF-OIR operations.

Upon redeployment, the *First Round Nation* conducted in-depth re-integration, reset operations and designed a combat training center-like external evaluation at the Orchard Center Training Center in Idaho for our sister battalions, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment and 308th Brigade Support Battalion in April. Heading into the summer months, 5-3rd FAR focused on individual and lower-level collective training culminating with Table VI and XII live-fire exercise in June. Heading into fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2018, the team conducted battery and company external evaluations here at JBLM in preparation for a battalion field training exercise (FTX) and Table XV live fire exercise (LFX) at Yakima Training Center, Wash. The battalion FTX at YTC improved on proficiencies through disciplined initiative scenarios driving decisive action by the battery and battalion leadership. The culmination of the battalion FTX was the execution of the first High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Rapid Infiltration (HIRAIN) LFX on the newly established Selah Airstrip; demonstrating the capability of 5-3rd FAR and other similar units to rapidly deploy to an austere environment and execute operations at a moments' notice.

Soldiers assigned to the 18th Field Artillery Brigade fire an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) near Fort Greely, Alaska, Oct. 9, 2018, during Red Flag-Alaska 19-1. A HIMARS has the ability and flexibility to launch its payload at ground targets and quickly move to a different location. (Airman Aaron Guerisky/U.S. Air Force)



18th Field Artillery Brigade, Steel Brigade

The *Steel Brigade* started the year with an aggressive training strategy designed to increase overall readiness and maintain a high proficiency in artillery skills. The brigade challenged Soldiers, crews, and battalion staffs alike through a rigorous brigade field training exercise which included executing artillery raids, base defense missions, and logistical operations; all while firing Table XVIII qualifications.

The brigade built on its proficiency while supporting the XVIII Airborne Corps War Fighter Exercise (WFX) 18-04. During the WFX, brigade and battalion staffs exercised the ability to control artillery Fires on a large and rapid scale through the military decision making process as the corps' force field artillery headquarters (FFA HQ).

In addition to numerous local events and training exercises to maintain certifications and qualifications, 18th Field Artillery Brigade provided support across the globe to joint and coalition partners. As part of the XVIII Airborne Corps Global Response Force element, the brigade participated in multiple emergency deployment readiness exercises, Joint Readiness Training Center rotations to Fort Polk, La., and a seaborne emergency deployment readiness exercise to the Port of Charleston, S.C.

Other joint training executed by the brigade included participation at the Weapons School Integration at Nellis Air Force Base, the Air Force's Red Flag Exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, and the 75th Ranger Regiment's Multi-Lateral Airborne Training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

When a natural disaster struck, the brigade deployed elements from all of its battalions in support of local, state and federal emergency services and disaster relief organizations to respond to Hurricane Florence.

As part of the brigade headquarters preparation for a deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield, Steel Soldiers participated in U.S. Army Alaska's Arctic Anvil exercise as the FFA HQ for 7th Infantry Division over 1st Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division in Delta Junction, Alaska.

The 18th Field Artillery Brigade stands ready to provide lethal Fires in support of Operation Spartan Shield, Operation Freedom Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve as U.S. Army Central's FFA HQ and as an element of the XVIII Airborne Corps Global Response Force.

Regardless of challenge or location, the Soldiers of the *Steel Brigade* remain tough, proud, and disciplined ready to answer our nation's call.

188th Brigade Support Battalion, Steel Eagle

The *Steel Eagle Battalion* spent the past year building proficiency in logistical operations and support-

ing the firing battalions. In addition to maintaining crew certifications and qualifications, the battalion maintained logistical support for the brigade, until June, as it supported XVIII Airborne Corps 96-hour global response force mission set.

From March to April, the 188th Brigade Support Battalion led sustainment operations for the XVIII ABC Warfighter (WFX) 18-02. During this operation, Headquarters Support Company and the forward support companies conducted daily pushes of class I and class III to over 1,500 Soldiers from multiple Forces Command units and a U.K. brigade throughout Fort Bragg, N.C. Additionally, the battalion conducted mission command of daily life support and transportation requirements for all WFX 18-02 participants.

In July 2018, 583rd Forward Support Company and 135th Forward Support Company were attached to 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, respectively, while 188th BSB assumed administrative control of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Field Artillery Brigade. As the logistical headquarters for the brigade, 188th BSB continued to plan training events to validate the readiness of the forward support companies. The 188th BSB lead the brigades planning efforts and coordinated a movement of 65 vehicles and over 120 personnel from Headquarters Service Company, 206th Signal Company, and the FSCs in support of 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command's Dragon Lifeline. This was a seaborne emergency deployment readiness exercise which allowed sustainment elements to validate their ability to marshal, ground convoy to Charleston, S.C., and load rail and sea vessels. In September, 188th BSB's staff led the brigade's planning and mission command of 35 vehicles and over 80 Soldiers to conduct high water rescues in Eastern North Carolina during and after Hurricane Florence in support of 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

In September and October, the BSB and FSCs conducted base defense live-fire exercises where the units trained to: defend the assigned area, conduct troop leading procedures, employ camouflage and concealment, treat and evacuate casualties. This exercise tested the units' ability to maintain a defensive posture while it reinforced Soldiers' warrior tasks and drills.

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

The battalion remains ready to set the logistical conditions in support of the 18th Field Artillery Brigade's mission of delivering precision Fires for future missions. *Bearing the Heavy Burden Steel Eagles!*



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Field Artillery Brigade conduct aerial ammunition resupply operations during their November 2018 Table XV certifications at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Courtesy photo)

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

The *Steel Rain Battalion* spent the past year honing its field artillery skills and preparing for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield. In addition to maintaining crew certifications and qualifications throughout the year, the battalion maintained XVIII Airborne Corps 96-hour global response Global Response Force mission sets through June.

As part of the battalion's support to conventional and special operation forces, B Battery provided a Light High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Package (LHP) to participate in Strike 2.0 – a joint Fires exercise in White Sands, N.M. B Battery conducted an infiltration by air, with a follow-on field artillery raid in support of joint forces. The battalion also trained with joint partners as it exercised a LHP in support of Red Flag Alaska 18-01. Red Flag Alaska was a multi-national, joint exercise conducted between Eielson Air Force Base, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska and Fort Greely, Alaska. The battalion's mission was to conduct a HIMARS rapid infiltration (HIRAIN) mission integrating air movement and long-range strike Fires into multiple Air Force vulnerability exercises (VULS). The battalion integrated with 535th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and 517th Airlift Squadron, JBER, Alaska using the Joint Precision Airdrop System to perform hot panel raids. In June, the battalion saw a change in leadership as Lt. Col. Jeremy Linney assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment from Lt. Col. Douglas Thomas.

After a successful handover of the GRF mission set to 3-321st FAR, the battalion continued to train with external conventional units as the battalion's 135th Forward Support Company participated in a seaborne emergency deployment readiness exercise

to the port of Charleston, S.C., testing the readiness of the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command. The exercise validated the ability of the battalion to marshal and deploy via both ground and sea. In October, the battalion supported U.S. Army Alaska's Arctic Anvil and the Air Force's Red Flag Alaska 19-01 exercise with A Battery sending an LHP to perform multiple HIRAIN missions, integrating air movement and long range strike Fires into Air Force VULS. These training events showed the battalion's ability to control multi-echelon independent field artillery operations while providing seamless Fires capability – with special emphasis on a dynamic environment against a hybrid threat, and counter-fire operations.

In December, the battalion continued to prepare for Operation Spartan Shield and spent time with friends and families, over the holiday season, in preparation for continued excellence in 2019. *United We Stand!*

[f facebook.com/327FAR/](https://www.facebook.com/327FAR/)

3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, Thunderbolt Battalion

The *Thunderbolt Battalion* started 2018 fully reset from deployment and focused on rapid deployment combat readiness. With the assumption of the Global Response Force mission, the *Thunderbolts* worked to develop, refine and achieve a high standard of preparation for no-notice deployments from Fort Bragg, N.C. Third Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment stands ready to deploy, engage, and destroy our nation's enemies with precision strike Fires.

In the spirit of 3-321st FAR's glider airborne artillery history during WWII, *Thunderbolt* leaders worked with Air Force elements to develop joint High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Rapid Insertion (HIRAIN) competencies and integration into their mission command nodes. Batteries spent countless hours conducting hot and cold load training events with C-130 and C-17 platforms, culminating with fly-aways for multiple off-post training exercises. In February, B Battery, 3-321st FAR participated in 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division's emergency deployment readiness exercise (EDRE) and joint forcible entry (JFE) firing pre-assault suppression of energy air defense missions against targets to protect 2nd BCT, 82nd ABN DIV's insertion. Following the airfield seizure, the battery executed air lands to continue providing deep-strike Fires. The EDRE set conditions for support to Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-06, where B/3-321st FAR deployed a platoon via HIRAIN to provide precision Fires that shaped the deep fight in support of maneuver forces. The EDRE also allowed the battalion to validate version 8.0 software prior to its release by the Army's Precision Fires Rockets and Munitions Program Office at Redstone Arsenal. PFRMS used the JFE to gather data on version 8.0 during normal operations and

tested its operability during air movement. Consistent and successful engagement with PFRMS resulted in 3-321st FAR being the first unit in the Army to successfully live-fire with the version 8.0 software upgrades.

In June, the *Thunderbolts* assumed the GRF mission for the brigade. As part of the GRF, the battalion provided support to conventional and special operation forces. A Battery, 3-321 FAR provided a Light HIMARS Package (LHP) to support U.S. Army Special Operations Command's and XVIII Airborne Corps' Multi-Lateral Airborne Training – a multi-echelon training event on Fort Bragg involving 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd ABN DIV and 75th Ranger Regiment. During this operation, *Thunderbolts* conducted a HIRAIN in support of 75th Ranger Regiment to seize critical objectives and provide precision Fires against scenario targets that highlighted HIMARS capabilities to conventional and SOF forces.

Also in June, and again in December, A/3-321st FAR and B/3-321st FAR provided LHPs via 96-hour notification sequences that culminated in live-fire exercises in support of the Air Force's Weapon School Integration training for their joint terminal attack controllers. In September, *Thunderbolts* from A/3-321st FAR supported U.S. Army Europe's Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe treaty compliance demonstration in Grafenwoehr,

Germany to support requirements to demonstrate new weapon types and equipment systems projected for deployment to Europe. The *Thunderbolts* closed the year with HIRAIN training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. to support internal and Air Force training objectives.

As 3-321st FAR prepares for 2019, the *Thunderbolts* remain a lethal and combat-ready battalion of disciplined artillery professionals ready to rapidly deploy and provide precision strike Fires wherever needed. *Thunderbolts!*

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25th Infantry Division Artillery, Tropic Thunder

The Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the *Tropic Thunder Division Artillery* worked hard this year to support numerous training missions, partner engagements and simulated exercises to increase the capabilities and readiness of the most lethal Fires enterprise in the Pacific. Twenty-fifth DIVARTY served as the division's force field artillery headquarters in three major command post exercises (CPXs) to build mission command capabilities and support theatre security cooperation plan missions.

In May, the 25th DIVARTY participated in Opera-

Soldiers from 25th Infantry Division Artillery with 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery stand in formation prior to a division review. (Courtesy photo)



tion Lightning Strike at the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii. This operation is a multi-echelon command post exercise using the division targeting process for a live, constructive build training. It also allowed the DIVARTY to enable 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's preparation for Joint Readiness Training Center by executing Tables XV and XVIII for 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment. Second-11th FAR and 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment conducted gunnery, fire support team certifications, and offensive and defensive exercises at Schofield Barracks, Pohakuloa Training Area, and the Kahuku Training Area. The DIVARTY staff participated in multiple command post exercises throughout the year, to include Yama Sakura, Key Resolve, and CPX2. The 25th DIVARTY conducted a change of command ceremony in June bidding farewell to Col. Matthew Stader and Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron White and welcoming Col. Brendan Raymond and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Donegan. From Sept. 30 through Oct. 11, the 25th DIVARTY executed Warfighter Exercise 19-01, proving once again, that the world class opposing force was no match for the *Tropic Thunder Brigade*.

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

The 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, *Never Broken*, returned from the Joint Readiness Training Center in March 2018 as a fully trained unit prepared for combat operations anywhere in the world. The battalion sustained proficiency within a band of excellence by executing a combination of regional engagement exercises and fire support field training exercises. Soldiers of 3-7th FAR provided gunnery and fire support to partnered maneuver forces while increasing interoperability, strengthening alliances and building partner capacity. A Battery, 3-7th FA deployed to New Zealand in July 2018 in partnership with the 196th Artillery Regiment for a month-long field training exercise providing live



Soldiers of C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery conduct air assault operations with Marine Corps CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. (Courtesy photo)

artillery fire, honing battery defense techniques and small unit tactics. Likewise, the *Never Broken Battalion* executed Operation Tiger Balm by integrating with the Singapore Strike Observer Mission team; deployed Soldiers to Japan to participate in Orient Shield; and deployed to Australia for Exercise Kowari. These exercises improved Fires enterprise skills and supported U.S. Army Pacific Command's overall effort to support positive strategic relations in the Asia-Pacific Region. *Never Broken Soldiers* executed Operation Steel Crucible to improve combat readiness. The battalion increased expertise in core artillery skills and gained proficiency in artillery raid operations by partnering with the 463rd Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron and 2nd battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. Furthermore, 3-7th FAR fire supporters partnered with ground and air cavalry units to exercise calls for fire utilizing AH-64s and Raven Unmanned Aircraft System. Headquarters Battery also gained proficiency in casualty

Soldiers in C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery conduct fire base operations at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii. (Courtesy photo)



evacuation procedures by working with the UH-60 teams from C Battery, 325th Brigade Support Battalion and HH-60s from the U.S. Coast Guard. The team also fielded the Q-53 radar, further enhancing their ability to provide Fires to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

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

Artillerymen and women from the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, *On Time*, continued their steadfast support in providing Fires in support of maneuver forces across the Pacific area of operations over the past year. In April, the *War Gators* of A Battery deployed with Task Force 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, Gimlets on Pacific Pathways for a six-month training exercise. The exercise spanned three countries: Thailand, Korea and the Philippines. They conducted combined arms live-fire exercises and enhanced gunnery and fire support skills, all while building relationships with partner nations. The *On Time Battalion* trained alongside 2nd Squadron, 6th Aviation and 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment at the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, on ways to fight the division and brigade deep fights. This was followed by the crucible training exercise

Soldiers of B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment fire an M777 howitzer at the Yukon Training Area, Alaska, March 7, 2018. (John Pennell/U.S. Army)



of Lightning Forge; a validation of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Warrior Brigade*. Finally, *On Time* closed out the year with its culminating training event, providing accurate and responsive Fires at the Joint Readiness Training Center. The *On Time Battalion* performed masterfully in support of the *Warrior Brigade* Combat Team and stands ready to deploy, fight and win anywhere in the world.

2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, Automatic

The *Automatic Soldiers* of 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment supported the *Arctic Wolves* of the 1st Stryker Brigade through a full training cycle in preparation for an upcoming combat training center rotation. Determined to gain and maintain *Arctic* proficiency at the platoon level, the battalion spent January to March executing platoon operations in temperatures ranging from -30 to 15 degrees.

The quarter culminated in a week of platoon-level artillery raids supported by 1st Battalion, 52nd General Support Aviation Regiment, executed under snowy Arctic conditions. A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment supported a key joint exercise, Operation Arctic Edge, with 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment augmented by a company of Marines, validating U.S. Army Alaska's ability to project combat power across Alaska. The battalion and brigade Fires cell synchronized and massed joint Fires during Red Flag 18-02, hosted at Eielson Air Force Base. The battalion also executed Precision Guidance Kit Fielding, and qualified through Artillery Gunnery Table XV in preparation to Arctic Avalanche – the brigade's combined arms maneuver live-fire exercise – throughout August and September.

The year culminated with the brigade force-on-force exercise, Arctic Anvil. Anvil ended with a 2nd Infantry Division Artillery supported Artillery Gunnery Table XVIII. The *Automatic Battalion* remains poised to provide massed, lethal, joint Fires in support of the *Arctic Wolves* under any conditions across the Globe.

Open Sheaf...Never Miss...Repeat!

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

Arctic airborne Redlegs from the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division remain committed as a modernized, lethal and ready battalion not only capable of providing Fires in support of Asia-Pacific and Arctic Regions, but also contingency operations worldwide.

The battalion returned in May from a nine-month deployment to Eastern Afghanistan where it made significant contributions to Operation Resolute Support and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Prior to the battalion's deployment, Parachute Field Artillery Regiment (PFAR) made the transition to a composite Fires battalion. As part of the composite Fires modernization, C Battery executed a delib-



Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion fire an M777. (Courtesy photo)

erate lateral transfer of six M777A2s in Afghanistan where they trained and certified its howitzer sections and subsequently supported Operation Freedom's Sentinel with effective and precision 155 mm Fires. Also while deployed, the battalion supported the train, advise, assist East Command, Special Operations Joint Task Force Afghanistan, and the very first Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) unit, 1st SFAB Brigade, with lethal Fires and integrated fire support enabling offensive and defensive operations for the Afghanistan National Defense Security Forces. To highlight, PFAR executed one of the longest Excalibur, M982A1 fire missions in combat, ranging nearly 39 kilometers that successfully denied enemies of Afghanistan's ability to engage friendly maneuver forces. Lastly, PFAR's battalion staff executed the train, advise and assist mission and were the primary military advisors to the 201st Afghanistan National Army Corps. Their efforts enabled the Afghans to conduct two large-scale offensive operations cited by Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, as an example of what winning looks like in Afghanistan.

Upon redeployment from Afghanistan, PFAR began an aggressive approach to collective training deploying north to the Donnelly Training Area. At DTA, the batteries successfully certified all M119A3 and M777A2 Howitzer sections, fire direction center

and radar sections, and nearly 100 fire supporters on their respective section level certification training tables. Additionally in October, PFAR deployed again to DTA to support 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division's Operation Arctic Anvil that included a joint forcible entry operation, OC/T, and opposing force support for 1-25th SBCT's upcoming National Training Center rotation.

With arctic conditions setting in at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, in November and December, the battalion continued its collective training glide path completing Table XII and provided Fires in support of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

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34th Infantry Division Artillery, Red Bull

In 2018, the 34th *Red Bull Infantry Division Fires* team demonstrated its professionalism and increased its proficiency through multiple exercises and pre-deployment events.

Throughout the year, the 34th Infantry Division headquarters conducted training exercises in preparation for the unit's deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield. Training included planning and conducting four command post exercises (CPXs), a warfighter exercise, and a culminating training event (CTE).

In the first half of the year, the division Fires team participated in CPXs, which solidified its Joint Air Ground Integration Center procedures for controlling and clearing joint lethal Fires. These CPXs refined the Fires team's targeting cycle, enabling the division to effectively prosecute Fires in a joint environment.

In June 2018, the division headquarters conducted Warfighter 18-5 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. During this exercise, the Fires team planned deep lethal Fires through the division targeting process, in order to shape the battlefield to achieve desired effects and to set the conditions for a successful end state. Upon completion of Warfighter 18-5, the division Fires team shifted its focus from lethal to non-lethal Fires by implementing a four-week engagement cycle process in anticipation of the new mission.

In September 2018, the division mobilized in support of Operation Spartan Shield and completed final pre-deployment activities at Fort Hood, Texas. While at Fort Hood, the unit conducted a CTE, which validated the non-lethal engagement process. During the CTE, the Fires team trained to drive leader engagements to support exercises and events throughout the U.S. Army Central Command area of operations. After a successful CTE, the division headquarters deployed to Kuwait, where the unit took command of Task Force Spartan on Nov.

12 during a transfer of authority ceremony with the outgoing 28th Infantry Division.

The division Fires team leads the Task Force Spartan engagement cycle, which is the critical path to the commanding general for decisions to conduct Theater Security Cooperation engagements, exercises and events (E3) throughout the region. These E3s are focused on increasing military readiness and capability in order to maintain regional stability and expand partnerships.

The past year has provided ample opportunities for the 34th Infantry Division Fires Warfighting Function to improve proficiency, while enabling the division to excel in conducting lethal and non-lethal targeting and joint Fires.

41st Field Artillery Brigade, Railgunners

The 41st Field Artillery Brigade uncased its colors in an activation ceremony that was combined with

an assumption of command and responsibility for the unit, here, Nov. 30.

With a history dating back 100 years, crossing oceans and continents, the 41st FA Brigade has been known by many names and called many locations home — including 33 years in Babenhausen, Germany.

“After a 13-year break, the *Railgunners* have come back to Germany,” said Col. Seth Knazovich, 41st FA Brigade commander. “The field artillery has a reputation. It is known for always being ready to support the Army, day or night, in any weather, under any conditions.”

The 41st FA Regiment formed in 1918 in Virginia; in 1924, was re-designated as the 41st Coast Artillery in Hawaii; re-activated as the 41st FA Group in Oklahoma in 1952; spent 1972-2005 in Germany, while also changing names to the 41st FA Brigade; re-activated in Texas in 2007 under the name of 41st Fires Brigade; reverted back to the 41st FA Brigade in 2014; and inactivated and reflagged as the 1st Caval-

Col. Seth Knazovich, left, 41st Field Artillery Brigade commander, and Edgar Knobloch, right, mayor of Grafenwoehr, Germany, sign a partnership agreement during the unit's activation ceremony in Grafenwoehr, Nov. 30, 2018. The 41st Field Artillery Bde. ‘Railgunners’ is the new unit activating in Grafenwoehr, Germany under the training readiness authority of 7th Army Training Command and will provide long-range precision Fires capabilities for U.S. Army Europe. (Spc. Emily Houdershielt/U.S. Army)



ry Division Artillery in 2015. The unit had a role in World War II and also saw many deployments from Vietnam to Kosovo, and from Albania to Iraq.

“Today we continue in a rich history; a rich history of a great unit,” said Brig. Gen. Christopher LaNeve, 7th Army Training Command commanding general, “and a rich history here in Germany. This great brigade is continuing to answer our nation’s call to arms and has never failed the colors of our country.

“Today, this brigade starts to write their own legacy, their own stories and their own triumphs once again,” he said.

The 7th Army Training Command has training readiness authority over the newly-activated 41st FA Brigade and its subordinate units yet to arrive — two Multiple Launch Rocket System battalions, a maintenance battalion and a signal company — who will provide long-range precision Fires across Europe. Those units are Headquarters and Headquarters Battery; 589th Brigade Support Battalion; 232nd Signal Company; 1st Battalion, 6th FA Regiment; and 1st Battalion, 77th FA Regiment.

“You have the opportunity to start traditions within this organization, to show-case the tough, realistic training that you will be able to accomplish right here in this training area,” LaNeve added.

The brigade’s activation is one of the first in Europe as a result of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, showing continual U.S. commitment to NATO and its collective defense.

The significance of standing up the 41st FA Brigade again in Germany is that it enhances the collective training objectives of 7th ATC and U.S. Army Europe, as well as the readiness of rotational forces training here, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Zoker, 41st FA Brigade senior enlisted advisor, while returning U.S. Fires capabilities back to U.S. Army Europe.

“I’m looking forward to meeting new people and traveling,” said Pvt. Jozlyn Lara, a fire control repairer, who has been in the Army for eight months and arrived here in November as the first Soldier to report to the 41st FA Brigade. “I feel very proud to be in this unit because it’s historic, and I’m barely starting my career.”

Soldiers and families will continue to arrive as the 41st FA Brigade’s units activate through 2020, making Bavaria the brigade’s new home.

“We look forward to building relationships with the city of Grafenwoehr and the surrounding communities,” said Knazovich. “We appreciate the warm welcome our German neighbors have given us, and we endeavor to grow our partnership in the future.”

Following the ceremony, the unit already began to build and cultivate bonds with the local community, signing a partnership agreement with the city of Grafenwoehr, while respecting the tradition of Grafenwoehr Training Area as it was first established by the Royal Bavarian Army as a field artillery training site.

Honoring the shared history between Germany and the 41st FA Brigade, community leaders attended the historic event, including Minister Dr. Florian Hermann from the Bavarian State Chancellery; U.S. Consul General Meghan Gregonis; and Edgar Knobloch, Grafenwoehr mayor.

82nd Airborne Division Artillery, Mass the Fire

Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, maintained a trained and ready combined arms team capable of executing joint force entry operations through decisive action by integrating all means of fire direction, fire delivery and fire support with maneuver elements and end states. Throughout the year, fire supporters from across the 82nd Airborne Field Artillery Enterprise supported multiple divisional efforts to include Key Resolve 2018, Swift Response 2018 and Unified Challenge 2018. Additionally, our Redleg paratroopers conducted numerous iterations of the Precision Fires Program, Joint Fires Observer Course, and upgrades to our M777A2 and M119A3 through the Fires Center of Excellence Modification Work Order program.

The DIVARTY executed battalion artillery readiness tests and multiple division artillery readiness tests as the capstone training events in support of no notice deployments to various collective training centers and real-time contingency operations around the globe. Whether in air or on land, the 82nd Airborne Artillerymen are ready to jump, fight, and *mass the fire* tonight!”

[f facebook.com/82ndABNDIVARTY/](https://www.facebook.com/82ndABNDIVARTY/)

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

The Paratroopers of 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *Loyalty*, stayed ready to provide accurate, lethal and timely Fires in support of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and the Nation’s Global Response Force (GRF). The *Loyalty Battalion* maintained the highest level of readiness from January to July 2018 while on GRF, continuing to uphold its high standard of training from individual certifications through Table XII qualifications.

Throughout its time on GRF, 1-319th AFAR conducted numerous live Fires, certified sections on Artillery Tables I-VI, and supported several exercises. In April, A Battery participated in Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-06 at Fort Polk, La., to support 2nd Brigade Combat Team as the opposition force battery. Also in April, C Battery conducted a combined arms live-fire exercise with 3rd Brigade Combat Team maneuver companies, integrating howitzer with mortar Fires to great effect.

In June, 1-319th AFAR supported 3rd BCT in Operation Swift Response, a multi-national airborne training operation in Latvia. *Loyalty Paratroopers* successfully conducted a joint forcible entry by



Paratroopers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Artillery move 155 mm ammunition and powder from a CH-47 Chinook during an air assault mission in August 2018. (Courtesy photo)

jumping into Latvia, and fire supporters integrated Fires from several NATO partners, helping project a strong United States and NATO presence in Eastern Europe. Also in June, *Loyalty fire supporters* back at Fort Bragg, N.C., supported Operation Bronze Ram, a joint forcible entry exercise with 3rd BCT and 75th Ranger Regiment. Both operations greatly increased 1-319th AFAR's interoperability and lethality of Fires.

From October through November 2018, 1-319th AFAR supported 3rd BCT, this time at Fort Bliss, Texas, during Network Integration Exercise (NIE) 18.2. While at NIE 18.2, *Loyalty Paratroopers* conducted mission command and integration of Fires with the Command Post Computing Environment (CPCE) system. Using CPCE in conjunction with the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, *Loyalty* successfully provided Fires in support of 3rd BCT operations. At Fort Bragg, *Loyalty Paratroopers* completed an air assault mission, live fire, and a drop zone mission with live fire in back-to-back weeks.

Upon returning from Fort Bliss, Texas, 1-319th AFAR finished the year assuming the role of outload support battalion, supporting 2nd BCT as the Global Response Force. *Loyalty* will continue training to provide Fires in 2019, and prepare to maintain a

high level of focus to support the upcoming deployment of 3rd BCT.

[f facebook.com/1st319th/](https://www.facebook.com/1st319th/)

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

The *Black Falcons* of the 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment continued to provide direct support to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Second-319th AFAR provided Fires critical to successful 2nd BCT operations at its Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in April 2018, prior to its Global Response Force assumption in July 2018. The *Black Falcons* conducted a successful battalion mass fire mission from Sicily Drop Zone following an airborne operation in November 2018.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Hydra, has provided critical fire support and radar coverage for 2nd BCTs combined-arms live-fire exercise and JRTC rotation, observation for every howitzer qualification and live fire throughout the year, and support of Warfighter Exercise 19-2. The A Battery, *Demons*, conducted seven howitzer heavy drops and drop zone missions, and two gun raids. The B Battery, *Bulls*, returned from Afghanistan and

Counter Rocket and Artillery Mortar operations to its airborne firing battery mission at Fort Bragg, N.C. Additionally, B Battery represented 82nd Division Artillery during All American Week 2018-Air Assault Demonstration, the National Airborne Day Static Display and the 4th of July Salute. C Battery, Strike, conducted one joint forcible entry exercise and provided long-range precision fire capabilities to 2nd BCT throughout the year, with M777A2 howitzers. Fox Forward Support Company has supported every training event while working overtime to maintain the battalion's equipment and winning the 82nd Airborne Division's "Best Chef" competition. Heading into 2019, the *Black Falcons* remain professional paratroopers who are ready to jump, fight, and win tonight, anywhere in the world on a moment's notice.

[f facebook.com/2nd319th/](https://www.facebook.com/2nd319th/)

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

The *Gun Devils* of the 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment proved their versatility and professional excellence during 2018. Spending the first three months of the year deployed across two continents, the organization completed successful missions simultaneously in both Kosovo and Afghanistan. In Kosovo, the battalion commanded the forward command post for the Multi-National Battle Group – East, who, along with B Battery operating as liaison monitoring teams, provided a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for the local populace throughout the area.

While in Afghanistan, detachments from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery directed lethal strikes and targeting against Taliban targets in the volatile Kandahar region of southern Afghanistan, along with providing embedded training and advising of the local Afghan Army artillery forces within the Train Advise Assist Command–South headquarters area of responsibility. In addition, C Battery provided lethal Fires across the country with M777 howitzers, while A Battery separately provided Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar support for force protection after having been cross-trained on the Land-based Phalanx Weapon System at Fort Sill, Okla., prior to deployment.

Upon redeployment, the battalion immediately began training for traditional artillery operations, successfully completing all certifications, platoon-level air assaults and conducting four heavy-drop parachute assaults with live Fires off the drop zone. The *Gun Devils* also conducted a brigade-level fire support coordination exercise and combined arms live-fire exercise, culminating with the massing of the battalion's Fires in support of a brigade-level joint forcible entry and simultaneously successfully completing a division artillery readiness tests — all within four months of redeployment. Finally, the battalion ended the year supporting a deployment readiness exercise with the 1st Brigade Com-

bat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, *Devil Brigade*, in early December, conducting an in-flight rig heavy-drop from Fort Bragg, N.C., across the country to the National Training Center, Calif.

[f facebook.com/gundevilsFA/](https://www.facebook.com/gundevilsFA/)

101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Artillery, Guns of Glory

Redlegs from the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Artillery, *Guns of Glory*, continued their *Rendezvous With Destiny* by supporting brigade combat team integration of Fires at every echelon, and providing accurate and responsive Fires in support of the *Screaming Eagles Division* and Operations Freedom's Sentinel and Inherent Resolve.

The DIVARTY started the year running, supporting Warfighter Exercise 18-03 with the DIVARTY headquarters and Fires battalions participating.

Immediately after Warfighter conclusion, DIVARTY Soldiers hit the road to Germany supporting Operation Dynamic Front with our strategic partners in the 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard, integrating combined Fires in Europe and forging bonds between strategically aligned regular Army and National Guard units.

In March, the DIVARTY hosted the inaugural Eagle Fires Forum, a two-day Fires Conference to synchronize Fires, best practices and build branch comradery within the 101st Division and XVIII Airborne Corps Fires communities.

Later in March, the *Top Guns* of 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment deployed to Joint Readiness Training Center providing lethal Fires in support of the *Strike Brigade* Combat Team's (BCT) rotation, capping off a grueling yearlong train up that prepared the *Top Guns* to fight and win wherever required.

The DIVARTY headquarters deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters in support of Operations Resolute Support and Freedom's Sentinel. There, they were responsible for all surface-to-surface Fires throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan and resourcing train, advise and assist missions to improve Afghan Fires and training. While deployed, 101st DIVARTY successfully employed joint Fires in support of Afghan National Defense Force missions, advising and lethal strikes against terrorist networks in Afghanistan.

The *Proud Americans* of 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment sharpened their core competencies and Fires skills through the DIVARTY battalion artillery readiness test in April and division artillery readiness test in June. After proving their mettle during tough and realistic training events against live and simulated enemy and friendly maneuver forces, expending over 2,000 rounds of ammunition, the

battalion accompanied Bastogne BCT to JRTC in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility. The *Proud Americans* were augmented by current Knox Award recipient, C Battery, *Top Guns*, in a general support reinforcing role to give Bastogne even greater lethality on the modern battlefield.

Fire supporters and radar operators from *Red Knights*, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment further strengthened the relationship with the 138th FA Brigade (Kentucky Army National Guard) by supporting 1st Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Regiment's qualifications at Fort Knox, Ky., and Camp Grayling, Mich. The observers and radar coverage integrated additional assets into the battalion's training, making it more realistic and providing excellent training to the *Red Knights* Soldiers, building interoperability between the two formations.

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

Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers from *Top Guns*, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, *Strike*, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), remain trained and ready to deploy in any environment to support maneuver elements with lethal and accurate Fires. During 2nd BCT's brigade field training exercise

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery fire an M119 howitzer during an exercise. (Courtesy photo)



(FTX), *Top Guns* deployed and destroyed opposing forces (OPFOR) Fires assets and maneuver forces enabling the *Strike Brigade* to seize key terrain and meet all training objectives during the final evaluation along the ramp up to Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-05. The nine-day FTX tested the *Strike Brigade's* ability to deploy to a tactical assembly area, conduct joint forced entry, expand the lodgment, conduct a defense, and subsequently execute offensive operations against a hybrid threat replicating potential real-world adversaries. Following recovery operations, *Top Guns* deployed to Fort Polk, La., utilizing barge transport for the first time in 13 years. At JRTC 18-05, *Top Guns* met and defeated the challenges posed by Geronimo's world class OPFOR in a near-peer fight. *Top Guns* stressed the enemy fire support and JRTC training systems with the speed of counterfire and quantity of rounds fired in support of Strike maneuver formations.

With the successful completion of JRTC, 1-320th FAR recovered and reset personnel and equipment in preparation to support the United States Military Academy's summer training in West Point, N.Y., *Top Guns* applied lessons learned from a challenging training cycle to teach, mentor and develop West Point Cadets in field artillery operations. During this period Command Sgt. Maj. Berkeley Parsons, the senior advisor to the field artillery commandant, presented the 2017 Henry A. Knox Award to the *Comanches* of C Battery, recognizing the unit as the best battery in the U.S. Army. The summer culminated with B and C Batteries deploying to JRTC for the second time in six months for Rotation 18-10. C Battery provided general support Fires for 1st BCT Bastogne, doubling their long-range precision Fires capability, while B Battery challenged the Bastogne team as an elusive and deadly opposing force. Throughout 2018, *Top Guns* maintained an exceptional operational tempo and established the unit as one of the most highly trained and lethal artillery battalions in the Army. The 1-320th *Top Guns* stand ready to fight where they are told and win where they fight!

[f facebook.com/thetopguns/](https://www.facebook.com/thetopguns/)

3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Knight Rakkasans

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, *Red Knight Rakkasans*, continued to provide timely and accurate Fires in support of 3rd Brigade Combat Team *Rakkasan*, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). In January, A Battery, 3-320th FA conducted air assault insertions and fire mission processing in support of joint Fires element (JFE) operations as the division exercised its unique air assault lethality. Building upon the JFE, all batteries conducted platoon external evaluations (EXEVALs) initiated by live air raid insertions to sustain strong air assault artillery proficiencies. In February, the battalion staff gained valuable experience participating in 101st Division Warfighter Exercise 18-3, while



Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division Artillery Brigade, began moving artillery assets to the training area at Fort Campbell, Ky., Jan. 22, 2018. The air assault training is the lead up to platoon level artillery live-fire evaluations over the next three weeks. Six artillery platoons from the Red Knights are slated to participate in the evaluation, which will validate the unit's readiness to fight. (Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot)

B Battery, 3-320th FA deployed to Joint Readiness Training Center to provide opposing force support to rotation 18-05.

The *Red Knight Battalion* continued the spirit of support and camaraderie within the 101st DIVARTY by providing support to 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment's division artillery readiness test (DART,) and deploying fire support to Exportable Combat Training Capability Rotation 18-05.

In May, *Red Knight* firing batteries progressed through Table XV EXEVALs and executed demanding and challenging fire support team and radar semi-annual certifications. In June, the *Red Knights* provided timely and accurate Fires in support of the *Rakkasan* combined arms maneuver live-fire exercise, preparing them well for their subsequent battery artillery readiness tests. To ensure they remained ready to *Fight Tonight*, the *Red Knights* conducted four deployment readiness exercises, two battery artillery readiness tests, an internal DIVARTY DART, and a brigade-level field training exercise with an integrated DART. The *Red Knights* excelled in the execution of core field artillery standards which enhanced our lethality and set conditions to provide prompt Fires in support of the *Rakkasans*.

[f facebook.com/RedKnightRakkasans/](https://www.facebook.com/RedKnightRakkasans/)

210th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunder Brigade

The 210th Field Artillery Brigade remains the only permanently forward stationed field artillery brigade in the United States Army. Through task organization and command and control of rotation forces, the *Thunder Brigade* operates as a Field Artillery Brigade Task Force in the Republic of Korea

(ROK). It consists of three Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalions, a Paladin battalion, an armored cavalry squadron, a brigade support battalion organized with a maintenance company, transportation company and chemical company, and a combined U.S. and ROK infantry battalion. Task Force Thunder remains the only U.S. field artillery brigade aligned with a ROK Army headquarters and fights as part of the ROK led Counter Fire Task Force to deter aggression on the Korean Peninsula and defend the Greater Seoul Metropolitan Area.

Task Force Thunder began 2018 at a heightened state of readiness to *Fight Tonight* as tensions escalated to unprecedented levels. The task force prioritized operational readiness of its equipment and conducted multiple, unannounced task force-wide emergency deployment readiness exercises and supported theater and division-level exercises. Simultaneously, the *Thunder Brigade* remained postured to conduct counter provocation operations with ROK Army Missile Command. After almost two years and the conduct of multiple Fires missions, the mission concluded and the brigade's elements returned to Camp Casey.

Throughout the year, the *Thunder Brigade* continued to strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance. The brigade focused on interoperability with the ROK Army and participated in the certification of three Chun-moo equipped field artillery battalions to increase interoperability of combined Fires on the peninsula. Additionally, the *Thunder Brigade* integrated ROK officers onto its staff to include a deputy commanding officer. Approved by the commanding general of United States Forces Korea and the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Third ROK Army (TROKA) reinforces the brigade with first-rate officers and NCOs to ensure Task Force Thunder operates and coordinates seamlessly with TROKA and adjacent ROK elements.

Controlling the Best!

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

The 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment *On the Minute* stands ready to provide rocket and missile Fires, in support of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and U.S. alliance. For the past year, the battalion executed multiple rotations on deterrence operations, partnered with our ROK Army (ROKA) security forces and artillery units, and maintained a high level of readiness through a host of training exercises.

The *Assassin* and *Barbarian* Batteries deployed for extended periods of time on a strategic deterrence mission in support of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff mission to deter enemy aggression. The two firing batteries demonstrated a high level of readiness and agile responsiveness during several recent critical periods in Korea: 2018 Winter Olym-



The 210th Field Artillery Brigade staff poses for a combined brigade staff photo. From the top left to bottom right are: Maj. SanYun Shin, Maj. Nathaniel S. Beckett, Sgt. 1st Class Despina R. Valdez, Pvt. JaeHun Han, Maj. Steve J. Chun, Maj. Jamie L. Gurtov, Sgt. Major Raymond S. Middleton, Sgt. 1st Class InYeol Lee, Maj. Claude Kusuka, Capt. JaeKyong Lee, Capt. Phuoc H. Nguyen, Maj. Alex J Torres, Maj. Charles T. McCormick, Lt. Col. Shane R. Doolan, Col. SungJin Park, Col. John B. Mountford, Command Sgt. Maj. Erick R. Macher, Maj. James J. Langdeaux, Maj. YunHo Lee, Maj. Curtis L. Kimbrell, Capt. BoNa Kim. (Courtesy photo)



Soldiers of A Battery, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery fire a standard counter-fire volley during a live-fire exercise at Rocket Valley, Republic of Korea. (Courtesy photo)

pics, April 2018 Inter-Korean Summit, and 2018 North Korea - United States Summit.

The *On the Minute Battalion* also spearheaded combined training efforts with the ROKA, to strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance. The battalion helped certify 32 ROKA Chun-moo launcher sections across two battalions, which validated their ability to accomplish the counter-fire mission. Additional combined training exercises included two reconnaissance and security exercises with the ROKA 118th Mechanized Battalion and partnered logistics training with the ROKA 5000th MLRS Battalion. Thanks in part to the efforts of the *On the Minute Battalion*, the ROKA continued to modernize and build defensive readiness through self-reliance.

Throughout the year, the *On the Minute Battalion* maintained combat readiness with several collective training exercises. The battalion was essential to the Combined Forces Command theater level exercise, Exercise Directive 2018, which supported the Combined Ground Component Command and the Combined Air Component Command, respectively, with counter-Fires and pre-air tasking orders. The battalion also executed three operation plans rehearsal emergency deployment readiness exercises and three MLRS live-fire exercises while continuing to develop junior and future leaders across the formation.

The freedom and way of life of over 60 million people rest on the partnership of the ROK and U.S. forces. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our Soldiers, Korean augmentees to the United States Army, NCOs, and officers throughout the year, the 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, along with our ROKA partners are prepared to support peace and deter enemy aggression, but if called, we

remain ready to *Fight Tonight and Continue Fighting Until We Win!*

On the Minute!

[f facebook.com/rocketbattalion/](https://www.facebook.com/rocketbattalion/)

1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, the Steel

The 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, the *Steel*, relentlessly pursued readiness to complete its missions to both deter enemy aggression and defend the Republic of Korea (ROK) alongside its ROK Army (ROKA) partners.

This year, the *Steel Battalion* celebrated its 100th anniversary. For a century, the battalion has answered the call to serve wherever needed. The battalion traces its honors and lineage back to WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. Today we still stand ready as part of the most forward stationed Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion in the ROK.

The *Steel Battalion* has led the way in initiatives to train in adaptive, non-standard missions that meet the operational needs of the Korean theater of operations. We aggressively pursued the development of proactive fire mission sets that would suppress enemy long-range artillery and allow ROK and U.S. forces the freedom to maneuver during contingency operations. This required detailed integration and cooperation with our ROKA counterparts to create a shared ammunition plan which expedited war-time resupplies, ensuring the most expeditious defense of the ROK.

The *Steel Battalion* participated in Warrior Thunder, a field exercise that validated our ability to successfully execute fire mission processing, develop battery defense plans, fortify position areas for artillery and conduct field expedient maintenance and vehicle recovery. The battalion conducted convoys in densely populated ROK cities while integrating simulated hip shoots, and linked up with our ROKA counterparts, who enabled our local security plan. The battalion also spent 135 days conducting the

Flexible Response Option mission with the ROKA, which increased bilateral cooperation and strengthened the ROK-U.S. alliance.

The firing batteries shared responsibility in assuming the Ready Battery mission that provided the 8th Army and the Combined Forces Command a method of immediate response to crises with limited notice. The batteries of the *Steel Battalion* displayed commitment to the profession of arms by maintaining a no-notice response option postured to deter enemy aggression.

The *Steel Battalion* displays flexibility within its initiatives and training through the constant adaptation to the unique geopolitical environment that exists in the Korean Theater of Operations. Diplomatic advances yielded the change in the political atmosphere that shaped combined training and exemplified the necessity to creatively integrate limited resource intensive training with ROKA partners.

The *Steel Battalion* continues to lead the way during a time of change in modern field artillery as it constantly seeks to develop forward-thinking leaders and Soldiers. Our determination to shape and enhance our operational environment set the battalion and battery standard for excellence in the *Thunder Brigade*. The legacy of selfless service and dedication that *Steel Soldiers* have forged over the last century will continue to stand strong for generations to come.

Steel!

[f facebook.com/SteelBehindTheRock/](https://www.facebook.com/SteelBehindTheRock/)

70th Brigade Support Battalion, Blacksmith

The 70th Brigade Support Battalion, *Blacksmith*, earned its name as the premier support battalion in the division. The 70th BSB played a pivotal role in logistics package operations in support of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff's Flexible Response Option. The *Blacksmith Battalion* provided external logistics support to the 17th Ordnance Company, Marines, as well as other rotational and

Soldiers of the A Battery, 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery, load their Multiple Launch Rocket System in support of the Ready Battery Mission. (Courtesy photo)



echelons above brigade elements. The *Blacksmith Battalion* provided coordination and hasty support of all classes of supply, to include artillery pod exchanges at two brigade support area training exercises—*Blacksmith Hammer I* and *II*. Additionally, the *Blacksmiths* hosted two sustainment conferences, refined *Thunder Brigade's* sustainment annex of the operational plan, and expanded the knowledge to senior maneuver leaders on how the brigade support battalion will overcome challenges and keep them in the fight!

The headquarters support company *Outlaws* participated in and trained Operation Outlaw Strike, which led to proficiency of battalion and company mission essential task lists in preparation for its wartime mission. During this operation, the company established a brigade support area with elements of base security and entry control point operations. The *Outlaws* safely trained leaders and Soldiers on the fundamental skills required to conduct alerts, marshal, deployment and redeployment with 100 percent of personnel and equipment accountability in order to coordinate, synchronize and employ sustainment of the *Thunder Brigade*.

The 579th Signal Company, *Dawgpound*, maintained relentless efforts to provide reliable and efficient means of digital and voice communication to *Thunder Brigade* and its Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalions. Throughout the year, *Dawgpound* Company provided communications support to the division, brigade and battalion exercises. Soldiers from the Network Operations platoon, provided uninterrupted Non-classified Internet Protocol Router, Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System and Secret Internet Protocol Router communication services through high capacity line-of-sight communications, Joint Network Node systems, secure, mobile, anti-jam, reliable, tactical-terminals and satellite transportable terminal systems to each level of echelon when needed. In addition, the Range Extension (RETRANS) platoon successfully validated frequency-modulated voice and digital communications linked for all four primary go-to-war RETRANS sites and ensured a successful Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System platform. The RETRANS platoon also provided outstanding communications support to multiple live-fire exercises to enable the MLRS battalions to qualify with their launchers. The 579th Signal Company was an epitome of excellence in support of the brigade throughout the year.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, *Headhunters*, of the *Thunder Brigade* remained ready to Fight Tonight and kept fighting throughout a year of heightened tension. The battery conducted several emergency deployment readiness exercises to maintain a superior level of readiness. With each loss and addition to the team, one of the many constants of the *Headhunters* is the ability to accomplish the mission no matter the adversity. The battery was

at the forefront of the fielding of the Collective Protection Equipment Tent throughout the Peninsula that provided the ability to self-decontaminate various chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive agents. The battery continued to lead the *Thunder Brigade* through various exercises, such as Exercise Directive 18, TROKA Combined Counterfire Exercise, and division command post exercises that combined forces from across the world, such as the British Scotts Guard. The exercise helped to improve the alliance and practice working alongside systems and networks from allied nations and our combined force with the ROKA.

Strength through Support!

[facebook.com/70th-BSB-Official-146805835404387/](https://www.facebook.com/70th-BSB-Official-146805835404387/)

428th Field Artillery Brigade, Cornerstone

The *Cornerstone Brigade* is the foundation of America's artillery and produces the best field artillery Soldiers in the world through initial military training and professional military education. In Fiscal Year 18, the brigade trained 8,197 artillerymen to include 5,119 Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Soldiers, 921 field artillery lieutenants, 394 FA captains, and 100 FA warrant officers in addition to 1,663 Soldiers trained in specialty functional courses.

This year the brigade began a major shift from counter-insurgency operations to large-scale combat operations and increased focus on degraded operations in order to produce Soldiers and leaders capable of fighting and winning against a peer threat in a contested environment. The brigade is adding new field training exercises and modifying existing exercises to ensure graduates are both physically and mentally prepared to accomplish their mission. The 428th Brigade consists of 2nd Battalion, 2nd

Soldiers of the 70th Brigade Support Battalion, 210th Field Artillery Brigade strap down training pods to a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck during Task Force Thunder, an emergency deployment readiness exercise. (Courtesy photo)



Field Artillery Regiment (firing battalion), 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery (officer professional military education, Basic Officer Leaders Course, and functional courses), and 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery (AIT).

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2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, Big Deuce

Second Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, 428th Field Artillery Brigade, delivered field artillery Fires and provided logistics to support the training of more than 2,200 artillerymen in 2018. *Big Deuce* fired over 60,000 105 mm rounds this year in support of 13F Advance Individual Training, Marine Artillery Scout Course, and the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sill, Okla. Second-2nd FAR serves as the ceremonial cannon salute and mascot support battalion for Fort Sill, Okla. Additionally, the battalion conducted air assault operations and platoon-level training with the capstone of Table XII certification. *Big Deuce* remains focused on supporting the 428th FA Brigade, and the Fires Center of Excellence's mission of producing highly trained and adaptive artillerymen. The battalion is unique mission allows the battalion, and the U.S. Army and Marine Corps Field Artillery, to showcase the power, precision and tradition of our time-honored branch. Second-2nd FAR is a reliable, credible and disciplined organization and sets the standard for howitzer and fire direction crew drills, ammunition delivery, mascot handling and ceremonial salutes and is the "Base Piece of the Field Artillery."

1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Regiment, Hard Chargers

The *Hard Chargers Battalion* mission is to execute initial military training and professional military education to develop fit, competent, disciplined field artillery leaders of character to enable maneuver commanders to dominate in large-scale combat operations. The battalion trained and sent more than 3,000 leaders to the operational force from Basic Officer Leader Course-B (BOLC-B), Captain's Career Course (CCC) (to include the Reserve Component classes), Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC), Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC), Master Gunner, and the Weapons Maintenance course. These new and seasoned professionals are ready to lead their units in accomplishing missions in increasingly complex operating environments. The cadre are transforming already dynamic programs of instruction, adding rigor and challenge where possible to better prepare field artillery leaders. The battalion is increasing academic demands within BOLC-B, with the intent of placing officers in stressful situations while reinforcing core competencies. BOLC has also increased physical demands by expanding field time within the existing program of instruction, three times the number of foot marches, and preparation for the Army Combat Fitness Test. The addition of a walk-and-shoot lane in BOLC-B will

challenge second lieutenants mentally and physically while demanding they demonstrate proficiency in their craft as artillerymen. They will now integrate 105 mm and 155 mm Fires within 450 meters of their position and gain firsthand appreciation for the capabilities and effects of artillery.

Within the CCC, the battalion increased academic rigor by adding three additional iterations of military decision-making process, doubling practical exercises, and adding a comprehensive rewrite of quizzes and exams. Both WOAC and WOBC have increased academic and physical rigor through additional practical exercises in realistic scenarios, quizzes, research and writing assignments, Warrior tasks and battle drills, ensuring students are proficient in the application of their acquired skills. Functional courses—the Weapons Maintenance Course and the Master Gunner Course—continue to meet the needs of the force through tough, realistic standards.

[f facebook.com/1stBN30thFA/](https://facebook.com/1stBN30thFA/)

1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery Regiment, Teamwork

Teamwork instructors and staff from the 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery trained over 5,119 Advanced Individual Training Soldiers across five occupational specialties in order to provide the Fires forces with combat ready and resilient, skill level one Soldiers qualified in field artillery core competencies. The battalion conducted 39 live-fire events, fired over 7,000 artillery rounds, observed over 26,000 rounds and fired 48 rockets in support of course curriculums. The *Teamwork* Battalion focused on improving the confidence of Soldiers graduating from the I3-Series AIT. To do so the battalion focused on instructor development by setting higher standards for instructor badges, increasing the number of total instructors, spending more time conducting tactical training, and extending the amount of training time on core skills. Each school is re-investing into degraded operations to adjust to multi-domain warfare and competition within the electromagnetic domain. We added physically rigorous training to courses through foot marches, combatives and obstacle courses. Each course now has a culminating training event that sends the Soldiers through a field tactical training event requiring them to integrate each artillery skill with common Soldier skills. Furthermore, the I3F School refocused on artillery call-for-fire by shifting the requirements of joint Fires observer to Skill Level II Soldiers.

The *Teamwork* Battalion informed Army and civilian leaders of the field artillery accomplishments by hosting the Under Secretary of the Army; foreign leaders from Thailand, Ukraine, Poland and Israel; and the New York Times at our training events. Artillery Soldiers from the past were recognized during two artillery live Fires with the Artillery Officer Candidate School Association and the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association.

434th Field Artillery Brigade **1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Regiment, War Eagle**

Over the last year, the *War Eagle Battalion* continued to execute Basic Combat Training and successfully completed 21 cycles resulting in over 4,500 Soldiers, prepared for Advanced Individual Training and first unit of assignment. In 2018, 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Regiment, trained and developed our nation's newest Soldiers, preparing them for various military occupational specialties to include, field artillery, air defense artillery, military intelligence, and medical service corps.

In October the battalion made the transition to a revised program of instruction that increased rigor throughout BCT and included qualification with both backup iron sights and close combat optics during rifle marksmanship along with an expeditionary mindset during field training exercises. Coupled with the execution of training the battalion conducted two post retirement ceremonies and is working toward the implementation Army Combat Fitness Test. The battalion planned and executed Leadership Oklahoma Class 32 giving delegates from across Oklahoma the opportunity to experience the life of a BCT Soldier during a 72-hour period.

The battalion bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Jon-Paul Zappala and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Slater in the summer of 2018 and also executed two battery changes of command and three battery changes of responsibility. During this time the battalion continued to focus on the mission and remained committed to the local community through its Army Partnership with Local Schools program with Ridgecrest Elementary School in Lawton, Okla., and local veteran's organizations throughout the Lawton-Fort Sill community.

Throughout the year, members of the *War Eagle* team distinguished themselves within their career field and personally. Drill Sergeant (Sgt. 1st Class) Jeffery Williams, D Battery, was recognized as the 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Drill Sergeant of the Year and was also selected to serve as a Drill Sergeant Leader. Drill Sergeant (Staff Sgt.) Gilbert Mayer was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. C Battery, led by Capt. David Johnson and 1st Sgt. Christopher Hartzell won the inaugural Best Battery competition that tested the physical endurance of the battery along with the systems and processes within the battery. Congratulations to the 19 drill sergeants and cadre that were selected for promotion to sergeant first class! Finally, congratulations to Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Rios and his family for their recognition as a finalist for the Fort Sill Family of the Year.

1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery Regiment, Proud Americans/Always First

Located “across the tracks” at the Fires Center of Excellence on Fort Still, the cadre and drill sergeants of 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, continued to execute their unique and vital Basic Combat Training (BCT) mission of transforming civilian volunteers into trained, disciplined, and motivated Soldiers, who can immediately contribute to the operational force.

This year, the *Always First Battalion* trained 18 BCT classes and successfully graduated over 4,500 newly-trained Soldiers that entered Advanced Individual Training. As they have done for years, the battalion stood up an additional battery to help manage the influx of trainees during the “summer surge.” The “Echo Mission” integrates Reserve cadre at all levels of leadership to staff an additional battery and, as always, the level of training and professionalism is such that you cannot tell a seasoned active duty drill sergeant from their Reservist counterpart.

In addition to their standard mission, the *Proud Americans* were instrumental in testing and implementing the new BCT program of instruction, which overhauled BCT by making it more rigorous and strenuous, producing more lethal and disciplined Soldiers. The battalion also selectively tested the newly minted Army Combat Fitness Test, specifically on how to execute it in a timely and efficient fashion with a class of 250 trainees and only 12 drill sergeants to administer it.

Drill sergeants in 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Regiment stand with the Honorable Patrick Shanahan supporting the Oklahoma-Army football game. (Courtesy photo)



More impressive than the tireless efforts of the 1-31st FA cadre to produce tomorrow’s Soldiers, are the added ways in which they continue to expand their outreach efforts. The battalion is proud of its active role in building and maintaining relationships with the local community, including through the Army Partnership with Local Area Schools program. Their partnership with Freedom Elementary School on Fort Sill has truly grown through many positive experiences. The *Always First Battalion* was proud to volunteer at numerous events like the Color Run to promote fitness, the annual Halloween Monster Mash and Holiday Santa Shop, and even held a Back to School Drive to provide students with much needed supplies. Of note, students and teachers honored several volunteer Soldiers at their Veteran’s Day Assembly. Other outreach activities included hosting the Youth Leadership of Oklahoma, facilitating the 5th Brigade JROTC Leadership Challenge, providing a BCT tour for leadership from the Defense Credit Union Council, and publishing numerous articles in various outlets, including the Fort Sill Tribune and the NCO Journal.

The *Proud Americans* continue to train the newest trainees and demonstrate the excellence demanded of Redlegs, despite their distinctly different mission set. However, this would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the cadre and the support of their families and the Lawton-Fort Sill community. *Always First!*

1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, Gauntlets

Over the course of 2018, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery achieved many milestones and continues to lead the brigade in providing new Soldiers to the Army. The battalion graduated over 3,500 new Soldiers this year over the course of 18 Basic Combat Training cycles. The battalion was the first in 434th Field Artillery Brigade to implement the new basic training program of instruction with great success. Feedback from cadre and trainees has been very positive and the increased rigor and repetitive focus on fundamentals will no doubt produce a better quality Soldier for the force.

In June, the unit celebrated its 100th anniversary by hosting over 75 Vietnam Veterans and their families for a weeklong celebration. Special events included room dedications for Soldiers of the battalion that were killed in action, a rededication of the monument located at the Fort Sill Artillery Museum, and a welcome home ceremony 50 years overdue. The week was a great way to recognize the veterans for their service and maintain ties to our lineage and heritage. Additionally, throughout the year, 1-40th FA continued to develop its relationship with the local community, participating in the Army Partnership with Local Area Schools program and a number of other volunteer and community outreach events. Lastly, the battalion began preparations for implementing the new Army Combat Fitness Test into basic training. Our glide path has the first trainees

experiencing the ACFT by summer of 2019, and will enhance new Soldiers' readiness and integration into their first units of assignment.

Regardless of the obstacles facing the *Gauntlets* this year, the All for One Battalion stands ready to train our future force and sets the standard for training excellence in 434th FA Brigade.

[f facebook.com/140FA/](https://www.facebook.com/140FA/)

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

A myriad of military occupational specialties fill the ranks of drill sergeants and cadre within the 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, *Peace through Victory*. Their mission is to provide the Army with professional, dedicated and well trained Soldiers. The battalion completed the Standard Army Safety and Occupational Health Inspection, ensuring the battalion is enforcing all safety standards in order to build an environment for civilians to transition into Soldiers.

The brigade hired military family life counselors to assist with trainees who are having difficulties adjusting to the stressors of military training. These valuable additions to the team provide much needed support for the trainees and drastically reduced the number of visits to Community Behavioral Health Services. Drill sergeants also took part in a wellness survey that gave the Army a snapshot of a drill sergeant's overall wellbeing. This survey also identified ways to improve their overall mental and physical health.

Two drill sergeants were selected as drill sergeant leaders. Their mission is to mold future drill sergeants. Drill sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Diego Vega and drill sergeant Staff Sgt. Samuel York earned the title of distinguished honor graduate at their Senior Leaders Course and drill sergeant Staff Sgt. Danny Gardner was the honor graduate for his class at the

Drill Sgt. (Staff Sgt.) Dustin Bannister, E Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery walks with a group of new trainees during fill day at Fort Sill, Okla. (Courtesy photo)



Drill Sergeant's Academy. Gardner also earned admission into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

First Battalion, 79th Field Artillery has completely new battalion leadership. The battalion commander, command sergeants major and battalion executive officer have all recently joined the *Peace through Victory* team. In addition to executing a battalion change of command, 1-79th FA conducted change of command ceremonies for all five batteries. The battalion also gained four new battery executive officers. The new leadership at all levels oversaw the implementation of the new program of instruction (POI) for Basic Combat Training (BCT) events, as well as moved to a newly renovated starship. To support the change in BCT physical fitness standards, the battalion implemented new policies, ensuring trainees were conducting truly rigorous physical training. As a result, the battalion saw drastic improvements in their trainee's abilities to meet the Army Physical Fitness Test standards. The new POI provides increased focus on basic rifle marksmanship through additional range days in order to emphasize basic marksmanship principles with Iron Sights, extends training time in hand-to-hand combat, and reinforces skill level 1 tasks through added field time, basic tactical operations and additional field craft instruction. Improved training events, such as the Forge, expose trainees to a truly rigorous and demanding training environment. The 1-79th FA executed 20 cycles, producing over 3,900 Soldiers. These Soldiers completed more than 280 ranges, utilizing the M16A2 rifle, M249 squad automatic weapon, M203 grenade launcher and M67 fragmentation grenades. Soldiers fired over 2.5 million 5.56 mm rounds, fired more than 27,000 40 mm grenades, and threw over 7,800 M67 fragmentation grenades. Drill sergeants and cadre dedicated over 6,000 hours to administer these training events.

The professionalism of the drill sergeants and cadre lead to the creation of well-trained, physically and mentally tough Soldiers ready to contribute to their first unit. In addition to the immense amount of time put into training, the battalion still developed America's younger generations at Lincoln Elementary School. The battalion held monthly book readings, assisted with serving lunch, and provided assistance wherever the school needed. Batteries conducted resiliency training events following each cycle. Both cadre and their families learned techniques to strengthen their bonds and cope with the high operational tempo of Basic Combat Training.

2nd Cavalry Regiment Field Artillery Squadron, Artillery Hell

Artillery Hell Dragoons from the Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, maintained an extremely high level of readiness through complex and realistic training over the course of a demanding operational year. To begin the year, FA Squadron

deployed to Joint Multination Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, to participate in Allied Spirit VIII, a NATO combat training center rotation, which provided an opportunity to further strengthen interoperability with United Kingdom, Poland and Czech militaries. Following this exercise, *Artillery Hell* joined 26 other allies and partner nations in U.S. Army Europe's largest collective Fires Warfighting exercise in the past decade: Dynamic Front.

Several months later, FA Squadron deployed in support of USAREUR's exercise Saber Strike 18, demonstrating our "Fight Tonight" deterrence capability and interoperability by traveling over 3000 kilometer round-trip and throughout Germany, Czechia, Poland and Lithuania with High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems from the Kentucky Army National Guard and our multinational partners. This exercise allowed the squadron to plan and execute a deliberate attack on an airfield, a battery gun raid as part of a wet gap crossing, and defensive Fires planning in Lithuania.

Less than a month later C Battery deployed to Georgia to support exercise Noble Partner, working with our multinational partners to provide accurate and responsive fire support in complex maneuver scenario. Throughout the course of the year *Artillery Hell* supported enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group, Poland, rotating A and C Batteries to a forward deployed posture in Northeast Poland, capable of providing fire support to assigned maneuver task forces arrayed along the Sulwalki Gap. In October, Field Artillery Squadron participated in 2nd Cavalry Regiment's force-on-force exercise Dragoon Ready 19, once again deploying to JMRC, Hohenfels, to evaluate the squadron and battery's ability to execute mission essential tasks against a free thinking opposing force. Finally, to maintain artillery proficiency, *Artillery Hell* started its collective squadron training progression beginning with Artillery Tables



Soldiers of A Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment conducted sling load loading and unloading operations, transportation, and air drops of their M777 Howitzers using CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. (Courtesy photo)

I-VI qualifications in November as it advances toward Table XVIII culmination early next year. *Artillery Hell! Always Ready!*

157th Infantry Brigade **2nd Battalion, 307th Field Artillery Regiment,** **Bushmasters**

In 2018, 2nd Battalion, 307th Field Artillery Regiment, an active duty U.S. Army Forces Command unit, partnered with and provided observer, coach/trainer (OC/T) support to two National Guard divisions, 12 brigades, three Multiple Launch Rocket System battalions, and 11 cannon artillery battalions across the Midwest.

The *Bushmasters* assisted their partners in developing training plans and facilitating their mobilization to future missions within U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command areas of operation. Their mission sets included coordinating division to Soldier level training events with Army National Guard counterparts, operational support for all phases of Guard mobilization, and support to each military occupational specialty and staff elements at annual trainings and monthly inactive duty trainings.

In February 2-307th FAR supported C Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment in conducting new equipment training on Precision Guided Kit munitions. Later in the month, the *Bushmasters* supported C Battery, 1-161st FAR and 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment as they conducted pre-deployment mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas. *Bushmasters* Soldiers proved vital in their partner units' successfully firing of all the artillery tables up to and including Table XVIII. This demanding exercise lasted until May when the 2-307th FAR Soldiers returned to Camp Atterbury, Ind.

The *Bushmasters* supported their partner battalions throughout three separate annual trainings. In the summer, the *Bushmasters* also supported 157th Infantry Brigade in conducting an Exportable Combat Training Capability to 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Camp Grayling, Mich. The *Bushmasters* partnered with 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment to build their readiness through platoon operations in a replicated dynamic operating environment with a hybrid threat. Second-307th FAR augmented Joint Readiness Training Center personnel with six OC/Ts in support of the 157th Infantry Brigade and 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's partnered JRTC rotation in July. The unit also sent 17 personnel to Fort Hood, in September to assist 34th Infantry Division in their mission readiness exercise prior to their deployment to the CENTCOM theater. The OC/Ts assisted in building their combat power and assuring the division was prepared to take over their deployed mission.

Even during these major events, the *Bushmasters* continued to support their partner units as they prepared for other deployments. Bushmaster Soldiers



Observer/controller-trainers 2nd Battalion, 307th Field Artillery Regiment evaluate the crew drill of this M777 howitzer section from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment during Exportable Combat Training Capability Rotation 18-05 at Camp Grayling, Mich. (Courtesy photo)

assisted B Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Regiment to prepare for their upcoming EUCOM mission, the first of its kind in that theater. Second-307th FAR later facilitated the pre-mobilization training and deployment of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Bliss, starting Dec. 31, 2018. In total, the *Bushmasters* supported 38 unique missions throughout 2018 while enhancing the readiness of their partners and the Army.

173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *King of the Herd*

King of the Herd Paratroopers of 4th Battalion, 219th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, provided an intensive schedule of Fires throughout the calendar year 2018 in support of the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne). As the only permanently forward stationed airborne artillery battalion in Europe, *King Paratroopers* provided deterrence and a ready deployable force throughout European Command. In 2018, 4-319th FAR supported several multi-national exercises and combat training center rotations providing Fires across six countries and firing over 3,050 105 mm and 155 mm rounds. These joint, multi-national operations were: Bayonet Sphinx, Dynamic Front 18, Joint Warfighter Assessment 18.I, Saber Strike 18 and Saber Junction 18.

Throughout the year, *King Paratroopers* trained, jumped, and worked alongside German, British,

French, Italian, Polish, Czech, Israeli and Latvian forces, supporting a wide array of allied missions. The battalion fielded the Q-53 radar system into its asset pool providing significantly improved target acquisition capability. Additionally, the battalion's M119A3s were upgraded with the new Suspension Lock Out System, improving the robustness of the firing platform and ability to provide a diversified mission set. As 4-319th AFAR sets its sights on 2019, *King Paratroopers* will once again be expected to train and fight with our allies across Europe at a moment's notice.

<http://eur.army.mil/skysoldiers/4-319/>

[facebook.com/4th-Battalion-319th-Airborne-Field-Artillery-Regiment-126048058901/](https://www.facebook.com/4th-Battalion-319th-Airborne-Field-Artillery-Regiment-126048058901/)

177th Armored Brigade 2nd Battalion (Fires), 305th Regiment, *Red Team*

During 2018, the 2nd Battalion, 305th Regiment, *Red Team*, supported 13 National Guard units across nine states. *Red Team* members collectively traveled over 20,000 miles building readiness and mobilization units for our Total Army.

Red Team assisted in the first brigade mobilization since 1991. They collaborated with 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, *Dragon* under 155th Brigade Combat Team, *Dixie Thunder*, at Fort Bliss, Texas, from February to June. *Red Team* was essential in 155th BCT's deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield. They trained over 500 Soldiers in Field Artillery Table XVIII, supported 12 combined arms live-fire exercises, and one Fires coordination exercise.

Following the 155th BCT mobilization, 16 *Red Team* members drove to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., to support Western Strike and collaborate with 142nd

Paratroopers in 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment stationed at Tower Barracks in Grafenwoehr, Germany. (Courtesy photo)



Field Artillery Brigade from Arkansas. Over the course of 11 days, *Red Team* and partnered units conducted a scenario-based operation culminating in a Field Artillery Table XVIII live-fire exercise for two rocket battalions and two cannon battalions.

Concurrent to Western Strike, the remaining *Red Team* members went to Camp Shelby, Miss., and diligently prepared for eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) with 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's 550 Soldiers. Upon the start of XCTC, *Red Team* split once again to support both XCTC and train 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) from Fort Hood, Texas, for 14 days which resulted in 370 trained Soldiers.

From mid-August to November, *Red Team* re-organized its internal teams to mirror a brigade combat team-style battalion by creating an additional cannon team while partnering with 11 units over the course of 17 inactive duty trainings in four months covering every type of field artillery weapon system. In November, *Red Team*, along with six other field artillery battalions from 1st Army East and 1st Army West conducted the first 1st Army Fires Symposium at Camp Mabry, Texas, to develop products to support qualification at platoon, battery and battalion echelon for Army National Guard FA units for pre- and post-mobilization.

Focusing on the upcoming year, *Red Team* conducted their annual field artillery certification in December. Throughout the year, *Red Team* also focused internally on professional growth and development at all levels. A Soldier graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School, eight Soldiers promoted to sergeant first class, five Soldiers were selected to master sergeant, there were five Noncommissioned Officer Education System School graduates, and Soldiers graduated multiple Army schools to include Joint Targeting School. *Red Team* worked tirelessly to improve the Army and itself.

Red Team continues its success this year by following key goals of making ourselves better, our partners better and making the Army better. Dedicated to the Army Total Force Policy, *Red Team* continues to be a large presence across the 1st Army East footprint.

188th Infantry Brigade **2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment,** **Red Dragons**

The 2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment, *Red Dragons*, has the mission to advise, assist and train Army Reserve and Army National Guard component units in the First Army South Region to conduct unified land operations during pre-mobilization training in order to provide trained and ready forces to geographic combatant commanders.

Over the past year, the battalion's priority has been to support post-mobilization training events for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Tennes-



Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 305th Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas, for 155 mobilization. (Sgt. 1st Class Frazier/U.S. Army)

see Army National Guard, 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery of the Florida Army National Guard, and 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment of the North Carolina Army National Guard.

The *Red Dragons'* major training support event was an exportable combat training capability exercise in support of 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team of the NCAR-NG. The battalion has also performed observer, controller/trainer tasks in support of seven inactive duty training weekends, four annual training events, and two brigade warfighter exercises. Additionally, the battalion planned and rehearsed for Mobilization Force Generation Installation operations at Fort Stewart, Ga. Overall, the battalion continues to improve readiness and increase the capabilities of all partner organizations.

4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, **Wolfpack**

The 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, *Wolfpack*, 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 and to the 609th Air Operations Center at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

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 synchronizing air and ground operations within the CENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR) and establish combined joint operating areas.

Fourth BCD facilitated and coordinated integration of Fires in support of air, space and land forces in 2018, across the CENTCOM AOR as the only split-based continuously deployed BCD in the Army. *Wolfpack* Soldiers operated in all divisions of the Combined Air Operations Center located in Al Udeid Air Base, and assisted with the CAOC's transition of the Air Mobility Division to Shaw Air Force Base. The BCD's deployed ground liaison detachments (GLDs) provided support to

air expeditionary squadrons in Turkey, Qatar, Jordan, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and to carrier air wings aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, U.S.S. Theodore R. Roosevelt and U.S.S. John C. Stennis.

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 Combined Joint Task Force-OIR, resulting in over 8,500 close air support (CAS) requests, 17,000 CAS sorties, 30,000 flight hours, 15,500 airstrikes, and the employment of over 35,000 weapons in support of OIR and ORS. Fourth BCD's airlift section completed a seamless transition of operations while moving from the CAOC to Shaw AFB in coordination with the 609th Air Operations Center's Air Mobility Division. Fourth BCD coordinated multiple airlift support missions to include frequent expeditionary advisor packages and troop deployments across the CENTCOM AOR.

Fourth BCD prepared their Soldiers by conducting a rigorous deployment certification program. They also simultaneously provided support to multiple exercises: 3rd Infantry Division's mission ready exercise (Fort Stewart, Ga.), two air missile defense exercises (AUAB), Eager Lion (Jordan), two Lucky Strike joint air defense exercises (AUAB), multiple Warfighters (Hurlburt Air Force Base, Fla.; Quantico, Va.; Camp Lejeune, N.C.) and other training events. In preparation for future warfighter exercises, the BCD executed the Virtual Flag Exercise in partnership with the 609th AOC. The BCD continued a strong partnership with 505th Command and Control Wing (Hurlburt Field, Fla.) to ensure all personnel received proper training and schooling to integrate air power in the CENTCOM AOR. The Soldiers participated in Joint Air Operations Senior Staff Courses as members of the symposium panels, discussing the role of component liaison elements across functions of the CAOC enterprise. BCD members participated in the Regional Fires Conference to discuss air-ground integration and airspace management with Gulf Cooperation Council members, helping strengthen ties with our partner nations within CENTCOM.

Fourth BCD continued to deploy a balanced force generation model in order to prepare Contiguous United States (CONUS)-based ground based liaison officers (GLOs) for deployments across the CENTCOM AOR. To maintain proficiency and share the most current GLO tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) in support of combat operations, 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 Ground Liaison Detachments (GLDs) provided support to multiple Joint Readiness Training Center rotations, Green Flag

exercises, Carrier Strike Group Composite Training Unit Exercises and pre-deployment CAS training events. In total, the BCD supported six Green Flag East rotations (Barksdale Air Force Base, La.), eight Green Flag West rotations (Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.), 11 airlift missions in support of JRTC (Little Rock Air Force Base, Ariz.), over 35 close air support exercises and pre-deployment training missions, and multiple partnered exercises. GLOs coordinated CAS live-fire exercises that recertified over 130 joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs). Fourth BCD GLDs continued pre-deployment training with Air National Guard units at home station and at Green Flag West in preparation for their CENTCOM deployments. GLDs supported over 300 sorties of relief efforts after hurricanes Florence and Michael. Airlift GLDs began coordination with 18th and 75th Field Artillery Brigades to provide expanded aircraft support to High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems Rapid Infiltration training exercises while further developing joint tactics, techniques and procedures for a joint forcible entry in an anti-access/area denial and near-peer environment. 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 2019, 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 Fires during combined air and ground operations in support of mission success.

Wolfpack!

19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

The 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment provides air-ground integration and expertise across all warfighting functions and coordinates operations between U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Air Force Europe/U.S. Air Force Africa from within the 603rd Air Operations Center. When called upon, the 19th BCD remains ready to support multi-component NATO operations.

Blue Flag/Joint Warfighter Assessment 19 served as Team 19's premier training event in 2018. USAFE and USAREUR combined training exercises in a 17-day joint command post exercise. The BCD represented the launch control center with hundreds of air support, electronic warfare, and joint integrated prioritized target list requests, as well as serving as the principle advisor to the air combat command. Fifth BCD, U.S. Army Pacific, travelled from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to provide an Objective-T evaluation and excellent support as observer controllers/trainers.

At the tactical level, the three ground liaison detachments (GLDs) located at Spangdahlem, Aviano and Lakenheath provided outstanding support to USAFE's fighter squadrons. The 547th Ground Li-

aision Detachment at Spangdahlem supported close air support (CAS) for Polish forces, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and 2nd Cavalry Regiment during Saber Strike 2018 and further assisted 40 joint terminal attack controller certifications. The 349th Ground Liaison Detachment, Aviano, provided air-ground integration for over 1,700 CAS sorties as well as a Green Flag rotation. The GLD also provided real-world support to combat sorties in support of Operations Resolute Support and Freedom's Sentinel out of Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the 348th GLD, Lakenheath, deployed to support Operation Inherent Resolve with the 492nd and 494th Fighter Squadrons and standardized several tactics, techniques and procedures used across the area of operation.

Throughout 2018 the 19th BCD developed the concept for a Theater Surface Fires Command with USAREUR Fires, ultimately testing the model during Dynamic Front 18 at Grafenwohr, Germany. The TSFC is a land component Fires element charged with Fires mission command and filling operational gaps in multinational Fires capabilities. Originally a mandate of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the BCD developed and operationalized the TSFC to provide theater Fires across the European continent. During Dynamic Front 18, seven nations assembled to test the TSFC model in concert with a separate live-fire exercise involving over 20 nations. It provided mission command, cross-corps boundary Fires, operational counterfire, and multinational Fires situational awareness. In Dynamic Front, the TSFC concept will expand by incorporating a field artillery brigade headquarters as the TSFC.

Concurrent with TSFC development, the BCD Airspace Team examined challenges of NATO's dynamic and complex airspace environment. Given Europe's 15.4 million square miles of airspace, covering more than 29 nations, NATO should possess the capability to coordinate military and civilian airborne assets with surface Fires in potential Article V scenarios. Each nation's airspace is sovereign and requires significant expertise and engagement with host nation professionals to establish bi-lateral agreements. The BCD refined airspace challenges and capability gaps to four key pillars: Manning, Doctrine, Systems Integration and Training. To shape future capabilities, the team partners with Air Force Communications, USAFE, U.S. Army Europe G3, Joint Multinational Readiness Center, host nation liaison officers and project manager offices. Using a doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities methodology, the team will continue developing recommended milestones for airspace control and integration.

In 2018 the BCD also committed significant resources to improving NATO doctrine in Fires, CAS, and airspace control. Most notably, our planners contributed to multiple doctrine review panels that

continue to develop the new NATO Allied Artillery Publication 1 and 5, which better align NATO doctrine within large scale operations. The 19th BCD additionally supported 7th Army Training Command's development of Allied Artillery Publication 2: Counterfire. The publications are expected for release in spring 2019. The BCD also supported multiple NATO conferences to include the CAS Conference, the Allied Land Command Fires and Targeting Conference, and the Deployable Air Command and Control Centre's Air Land Integration Working Group.

Finally the BCD closed the year by hosting the fourth annual International Fires Warfighter Forum at NATO Air Command with delegates from 20 nations and 31 European commands. This year's theme focused on "increasing lethality through multi-domain effects to meet strategic objectives." Lt. Gen. John Thomson, commander LANDCOM, opened the three-day event followed by a TSFC overview, NATO Fires Doctrine update, and a Fires Center of Excellence update. Other presentations followed with anti-access/area denial defeat (US-AFE), rotational lessons-learned (7th ATC/JMRC), multinational artillery perspectives and an update from Precision Fires. Additional breakout groups allowed for further discussion and problem solving to review two of Europe's largest challenges: the TSFC and European Airspace Control.

<http://www.19bcd.army.mil/>

Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Vampire Team

As part of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center located in Hohenfels, Germany, the Vampires observers continued support to United States Army as well as allied and partnered forces, providing field artillery and fire support expertise during training rotations, engagements with allies and partners, and working groups focused on improving the Fires Warfighting Function (WfF) across the NATO Alliance.

For the *Vampires*, the year began with Dynamic Front 2018, a multi-national artillery live-fire exercise involving 26 nations, designed to test interoperability in the Fires WfF. During this exercise, Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities (ASCA) nations massed eight battalions from five nations. In addition to Dynamic Front 2018, the team supported training rotations throughout Europe, covering U.S. Title X and non-Title X rotations and live-fire exercises during Combined Resolve X, Saber Junction 18 and Dragoon Ready 18. Further, they contributed to the readiness and capability building between allied forces during Allied Spirit VIII. Overall, 2018 witnessed the Vampires observe, coach and train over 3,500 U.S. and multinational Soldiers throughout Europe.

Further, the *Vampire Team* contributed to the improvement of both U.S. and NATO doctrine. The team participated in a series of working groups with the Fires Center of Excellence, providing feed-

back to the re-write of Training Circular 3-09.8 to improve collective training at the battery and battalion level. Team members participated in NATO Procedures Panel Input Working Groups focused on reviewing and ratifying land-based fire support doctrine and introduced counter battery operations doctrine to the alliance, filling a much-needed gap. The team also worked closely with ASCA members, participating in conferences aimed at improving interoperability and subsequently validating ASCA interoperability during training rotations. Finally, at the request of the National Ground Intelligence Center, the team shared lessons learned on peer and near-peer artillery threats at their Threat Coordination Group Conference.

In 2019, the *Vampires* remain committed to supporting United States, allies and partnered forces providing first-rate field artillery coaching supported by field artillery professionals dedicated to Strong Europe. *Vampires, train to win.*

[f facebook.com/JmrcVampires/](https://www.facebook.com/JmrcVampires/)

<https://wss.apan.org/epp/JMRCFSDUS/>

Field Artillery Trainers, Wolf Team, Operations Group, National Training Center

Redlegs of the *Wolf Team* at the National Training Center remained steadfast in providing outstanding support through observing coaching/teaching and spearheading multiple outreach initiatives with touchpoints throughout the officer education system, non-commissioned officer education system, professional publications and the operational force to advance the field artillery. Seven active-duty field artillery battalions, two National Guard FA battalions and associated rotational brigade fire support elements (FSEs) were able to exercise the fundamentals of top down Fires planning as they integrated joint and organic Fires in support of multiple brigade offensive and defensive operations. This training contributed to Forces Command's ability to deploy six trained FA battalions in support of deterrent and combat operations in the United States Indo Pacific Command's, U.S. Central Command's, and U.S. European Command's theaters of responsibility.

Decisive action training at the NTC afforded rotational brigade FSEs and the FA battalions the opportunity to exercise their mission essential tasks against a near-peer threat in challenging and realistic scenarios. Rotational units employed and synchronized their organic weapon systems which included the M109A6, M109A7 and M777, the integration of a M270 General Support Reinforcing unit and joint Fires platforms resulting in the expenditure of 6,327 rounds and the employment of 92 joint Fires munitions over nine brigade live-fire events. Of note, the M109A7 was employed for the system's debut rotation at the NTC displaying the weapons improved survivability and lethality. The observations and lessons learned will greatly contribute to the Army's lethality and successful integration into the joint force.

75th Ranger Regiment Fire Support Element

The 75th Ranger Regiment Fire Support Teams (FISTs) fulfill a unique special operations force mission for the nation's premier direct action raid force. The FISTs are comprised of specially selected and highly trained 13Fs, 13A's, and a 131A. Constantly tested in combat and training, the joint Fires team provides all aspects of joint firepower employment capabilities and some not found in any other special operations or conventional forces. Throughout 2018, the 75th Ranger Regiment Fire Supporters remained resolute with providing terminal control of fires in support of the Regiment's global strategic mission. During this period, the Regiment conducted multiple large-scale joint forcible entry exercises while simultaneously executing surgical special operations raids across the globe with each consisting of more than 50 high performance aircraft. Simultaneously, all Ranger battalions continue to execute a rigorous joint operational readiness training regime in order to maintain proficiency and remain postured for no-notice worldwide contingency operations, all while maintaining a continued forward combat presence in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS). Rangers in OFS continue to produce critical and devastating effects across the battlefield using the full gamut of surface-to-surface and air-to-surface Fires.

1st Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters

In January 2018, 1st Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters began the year by maintaining their training readiness and fire support proficiency. Each company's FIST conducted a close air support exercise (CASEX) at military installations across the continental United States. These CASEXs prepared the FISTs to culminate their January 2018 training with the execution of a two-week special operations graduate-level CASEX with multiple joint air players in Gulf Port, Miss.

During February 2018, the battalion Fire Support Element (FSE) facilitated a staff strike integration exercise at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. This joint exercise allowed the battalion staff to develop and implement systems and procedures to employ

Soldiers of Wolf Team, Operations Group, National Training Center. (Courtesy photo)



joint Fires assets prior to deploying for combat. Following this exercise, the battalion FSE facilitated a CASEX at Pine Castle Bombing Range, Fla., with supporting F/A-18 aircraft. This CASEX focused on ensuring all of the battalion's Army Special Operations joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs) were current and qualified prior to deploying for combat.

Following these training events, the battalion's FISTs deployed in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and OFS. Throughout these deployments, the battalion's fire supporters provided Fires for 350 operations resulting in over 1,400 enemy killed in action. In October 2018, the battalion FSE facilitated a CASEX at Smoky Hill Bombing Range, Kan. The exercise ensured the battalion's JTACs were current for their forthcoming training cycle. The battalion closed out the year by conducting a multi-lateral exercise and the battalion's fire support coordination exercise incorporating mortar, AH-6M, and AC-130W Fires in support of an airborne assault and ground maneuver.

2nd Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters

Second Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters participated in Joint War-Fighter Assessment at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Germany. The participating Rangers, partnered with a platoon of Italian Rangers (Alpini), simulated penetrating behind the forward line of troops while providing Fires in a degraded GPS/communications environment. Their involvement in the highly dynamic exercise highlighted the Ranger Regiment's fire support prowess against a near-peer threat in contested airspace scenario. Additionally, the Soldiers continue to innovate with the employment and usage TrelisWare 400 (TW400) for Fires and digitally-aided close air support. The TW400 interfaces with the end user devices to provide real-time friendly positions and enhance situational awareness.

3rd Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters

Third Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters offer a robust package of eight Army joint terminal attack controllers, and four fire support squads directly aligned with rifle companies consisting of 40 total forward observers and officers. The primary focus of the greater battalion fire support team is to resource and coordinate collective and individual close-air support, rotary wing, surface-to-surface, and naval gunfire training in accordance with our mission essential tasks and core competencies as they associate with the employment of Fires. The Soldiers of the 3rd Ranger Battalion Fire Support Team have three areas of focus: proficiency in the application of all areas of fire support, with a heavy focus on close air support. The precise integration of Joint Fires and Maneuver and the innovation of relevant and modernized fire support equipment will increase our capability to adapt to any mission set we are required to execute.

Our most recent initiative is the Ranger-Combat Observation and Lasing Team. The system is gaining

traction within the special operations fire support and field artillery community as a force multiplier. It is a modular radar/high definition camera sensor mounted on a Polaris M-RZR framed in by FLIR Light Tactical Vehicle-X with the full complement of mounted fire support equipment. Third Ranger Battalion Fires is conducting final live-fire training preparations for deployment in early 2019.

Over the last year, Rangers have expended more than 100,000 pounds of munitions while conducting 1,000 real-world and training, close air support missions. Additionally, Ranger fire supporters accurately and safely employed the full spectrum of special operations forces air assets and conventional surface-to-surface assets. To close out 2018, the regiment saw the addition of making the Stinger weapon system organic to each of the battalions. Looking forward to 2019, the 75th Ranger Regiment fire supporters will continue to lead the way for joint fire-power employment in training and readiness that bridge the gap between special operations and conventional forces.

Soldiers with the 75th Ranger Regiment Fire Support Element. (Courtesy photo)



US Army National Guard Air Defense Artillery Units



Soldiers from the 263rd Army Air Missile Defense Command and 678th Air Defense Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, graduate the Patriot missile training program at a ceremony held in Columbia, S.C., Jan. 6, 2018. The eight month-long training was conducted by the South Carolina Army National Guard to give air defense Soldiers a better understanding of the Patriot missile weapons system and enhance their capabilities to manage this asset. (Sgt. David Erskine/U.S. Army)

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command is one of the Army's four AAMDCs and the only Reserve Component/National Guard AAMDC.

The 263rd AAMDC in its assignment to U.S. Northern Command has the responsibility for training, readiness and oversight (TRO) for the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense System and the Deployable Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS). NCR-IADS has provided air defense of the National Capital since 2003 and continues to provide early warning for Presidential travel and National Security Special Event today.

The 263rd AAMDC led culminating training events for the NCR-IADS Task Force (164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade) and the NCR-IADS Shooter Battalion Training Event (2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery). The AAMDC conducted the required operational readiness evaluation (ORE) of the NCR-IADS Task Force. The certification and ORE events were executed as elements of 263rd AAMDC's TRO responsibilities under Operation Noble Eagle and NCR-IADS.

The 263rd AAMDC completed new equipment training and new equipment fielding of the Air and

Missile Defense Planning and Control System in August. The unit will deploy the newly fielded expeditionary equipment at the end of October for Exercise Vigilant Shield 2019. The unit will also complete an external evaluation (EXEVAL) during that same Vigilant Shield Tier I exercise.

Soldiers in 263rd AAMDC executed Mission Command and Exercise Control of B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery and supporting personnel from 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion and 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (4th Brigade Combat Team Airborne, 25th Infantry Division) during the U.S. Northern Command's Exercise Vigilant Shield 18.7 August through September. VS-18.7 was a proof-of-concept deployment exercise with a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense unit in order to explore possible enhancements to the current homeland ballistic missile defense capability.

Air defenders in 263rd AAMDC conducted EXEVALs for 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in January 2018 and for 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in April 2018.

The 263rd AAMDC operates a Reserve Component Patriot Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officers (ADAFCO) Course and 140E training and screening program. The Patriot Training Program prepares National Guard Air Defenders for the Active Component Patriot ADAFCO Course, Patriot Enlisted Tactical Control Assistants, and Warrant Officers for the 140E Warrant Officer Advance Course (WOAC). The program has successfully prepared four ADAFCOs to graduate from the ADAFCO Course and three graduates of the Active Component Patriot WOAC/140E Transition Course. This unique National Guard resourced program advances the readiness of Reserve Component Air Defenders and closes gaps in qualified Patriot ADAFCOs.

263d AAMDC deployed its 678th ADA Brigade Mission Command Element to Europe. The command also deployed its C Battery, 2nd Battery, 263rd SHORAD to Europe as the first SHORAD Unit to Europe since the post-Cold War draw down of forces. Both of these South Carolina Army National Guard Air Defense elements participated in live fire and mission essential events to lead the way for future units to deploy and be successful.

🌐 <http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1415673/sc-guard-leads-the-way-with-new-missile-training-program/>

🌐 <http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1441252/sc-national-guard-air-defense-unit-validated-for-missions/>



Col. Richard Wholey, Jr., 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander, South Carolina National Guard and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Collins, 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade command sergeant major uncase the colors during a ceremony in the Von Steuben Community Center, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach, Germany, to commemorate the beginning of the brigade's deployment to Europe in support of U.S. Army Europe Operation Atlantic Resolve. (Eugen Warkentin/U.S. Army)

678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

The 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is an air defense artillery brigade of the United States Army, South Carolina Army National Guard. Organized in 2014 and headquartered in Eastover, S.C., the 678th ADA Brigade is the newest air defense brigade in the U.S. Army. The mission of the 678th ADA is to command and coordinate the operations of subordinate air defense artillery battalions and other assigned and attached units in its operational footprint. The 678th ADA Brigade is the only integrated Fires brigade in the Army's inventory and is the first ADA to return to the European Theater since the end of the Cold War. The 678th ADA is stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach on a nine-month rotation in support of U.S. Army Europe Operation Atlantic Resolve and will participate in joint and multinational training exercises throughout Europe with NATO allies and partners. USAREUR forces serve a critical role in advancing U.S. interests and provide a visible symbol of the U.S. commitment to the European regional allies.

🌐 https://www.army.mil/article/202841/678th_air_defense_artillery_brigade_uncases_colors_in_ansbach_germany/

1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery

The 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery maintains mission proficiency through the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test while working diligently through a multitude of firing tables throughout the year. The 1-178th FA is headquartered along the South Carolina coastline and shoulders a heavy workload for the

state's emergency response plan. The 1-178th FA is the Northern Conglomerate lead for Defense Support for Civil Authorities (DSCA) Operations and has responded to state emergencies three of the last four years. Most recently, the 1-178th FA led DSCA efforts for South Carolina in response to Hurricane Florence which proved to be a powerful and long-lived Cape Verde Hurricane that caused unprecedented freshwater flooding throughout the North-eastern landscape.

In response to the impending Hurricane Florence, Task Force 1-178th rapidly mobilized more than 500 Soldiers from seven different units in a coordinated effort that successfully executed 65 missions. These missions included search and rescue, shelter supply, and contractor supply distribution among other traditional support missions. TF 1-178th dispensed 26,000 gallons of fuel across 11 counties that supported nine different emergency operation centers. Additionally, TF 1-178th provided point of distribution security, aided in sand bag operations and supported more than 100 traffic control points.

While conducting traditional DSCA operations, TF 1-178th pioneered the Aqua Dam Project for the state of South Carolina. The Aqua Dam pumped water from the Waccamaw and Black Rivers filling over 2.2 miles of water blivets. The Aqua Dam project was used to redirect water flow around Highway 17 in Georgetown, S.C. enabling the bridges to remain open. The project was an overwhelming success due to the tireless efforts of more than 100 Soldiers from TF 1-178th.

1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Air Defenders from the 1st Battalion, 204th ADA spent this past training year focusing on ADA mission essential task list training and preparing to perform their wartime mission. Avenger crews completed multi-mission mobile processor live-fire certifications and Sentinel Radar teams trained to Table IV standards. The battalion conducted an intensive field exercise during annual training focusing on collective training. Over the past year we have had several Soldiers mobilize in support of other units within the state deployed overseas. Currently the battalion is developing our pre-mobilization training plan as we prepare to support operations in the National Capital Region and U.S. European Command over the next couple of years.

First to Fire, Last to Leave!

1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment began Training Year 18 tasked with the responsibility of being identified as a focused readiness unit (FRU). Beyond this readiness requirement, the battalion was simultaneously assigned missions in the National Capitol Region-Operation Noble Eagle and to Europe as part of the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI). After efforts to accomplish FRU requirements were met, the battalion



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery fire a Stinger missile from an Avenger weapon system during a live-fire exercise. (Courtesy photo)

shifted focus to the two primary mobilization missions, assigning C Battery from Marysville, Ohio, to the EDI mission with the bulk of the Cincinnati, Ohio-based battalion heading to the NCR in Washington D.C.

For the Soldiers and leaders of the reconfigured C Battery, in preparation for their European mission they had just eight months to man the mission, plan air defense design, and conduct Avenger gunnery skills tasks to include ground and air engagements. Soldiers of A Battery, 1-174th ADA Regiment conducted these same tasks for their mission to the National Capitol Region. All this was preparation for the culminating training event at Fort Bliss, Texas, which concluded with the live-fire exercise (LFX) employing the M3P machine gun and the Stinger missile on the Avenger Weapon System. The LFX was a three-phase event beginning with C Battery, 1-174th ADA Regiment conducting ground and air target engagements using the M3P which is an electrically powered .50 caliber machine gun mounted on the turret. Twelve two-person crews successfully qualified in the Fort Bliss desert.

The next two phases were Stinger missile live fire from the Avenger platform for each mission element. Contracted personnel launched Outlaw

remote controlled aircraft for the teams to engage using protocol designed for air defense units appropriate to each mission. The active-duty missions facilitated the allotment of 36 missiles to be fired day and night over a 72-hour period. The battalion achieved an excellent kill rate, earning several coins for air defenders from the leadership of the 1st Battalion (Training Support), 362nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment leadership, Lt. Col. John Redford and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Enoch. While all crews validated in preparation for upcoming missions, the Top Gun Award went to the crew of Staff Sgt. Nicholas Steed (non-commissioned officer in charge), Sgt. Joshua Thomas (team chief), and Pvt. 1st Class Carson King (gunner). The design and concept of operation was planned, prepared and executed by the master gunners of the 1-174th ADA Regiment Sgt. 1st Class Jason Snow (battalion master gunner), Sgt. 1st Class Savannah Dewey (A Battery master gunner), and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Conley (C Battery master gunner).

The EDI mission is heavily maneuver focused which required the EDI "Charlie" Battery to be extensively evaluated with numerous tasks on 24-hour operations over seven days. The environment and operations tempo provided demanding circum-

stances to test the mettle of the unit. While cohesively building a highly capable team, Capt. Christopher Vasquez' EDI Battery successfully certified on all collective tasks to complete all training benchmarks to finalize movement to their European mission.

The EDI "Charlie" Battery is participating in Operation Combined Resolve XI with several future missions scheduled across European countries. The bulk of the battalion mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle, stationed in Washington D.C. They have the unique opportunity to protect the National Capitol Region designed to assess the Continental North American Defense command region's (CONR's) capability to identify and track low altitude, slow speed aerial vehicles. This joint effort includes experts from the Federal Aviation Administration, NORAD, CONR, the Eastern Air Defense Sector, Joint Air Defense Operation Center (JADOC), and other agencies. Soldiers from the battalion relay observation information back to the JADOC. While air defense artillery had its beginnings in the field artillery, this mission engages the Soldiers of the 1-174th ADA Regiment to connect from the past to the present by implementing their capabilities of modern ADA sensor and defense systems within the NCR at the various posts that were on the front lines of the defense of our young nations' capitol centuries earlier.

Headed by Lt. Col. Keith Melson and Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Belding, the 1-174th ADA Regiment looks forward to successful missions on both fronts with well-trained air defenders and forward leaning leadership. The dual missions are led by the following battery leadership: EDI mission C Battery Capt. Christopher Vasquez with 1st Sgt. Scott Ralls; the NCR mission are Headquarters, Headquarters Battery commander Capt. Justin Roberts with 1st Sgt. Matthew Helmes; A Battery 1st Lt. Aaron Smith with 1st Sgt. Benjamin Wenger; and B Battery Capt. Kyle Wilson and Sgt. 1st Class Lydia Morton.

With the steadfast professionalism combined with the demanding pace of duty, the 1-174th ADA Regiment exemplifies their motto of Tried and True.

Tried & True

164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Florida Army National Guard, Blazing Skies

It was a high operational tempo year for the entirety of the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade of the Florida Army National Guard. It included two overseas deployments, one stateside mobilization, a rotation through the National Training Center and brigade-wide, multi-faceted preparations for future deployments and nine annual training events set for what is shaping up to be an even busier 2019.

In early January, Soldiers with B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, Task Force Spartan, were

mobilized to Kuwait in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. This was the first time since World War II a FLARNG Field Artillery battery deployed overseas to conduct field artillery centric missions. In addition to their day and night missions, Soldiers conducted a command post exercise with counterparts in the Kuwaiti Land Forces, in which they executed rehearsals for mission processing. Task Force Spartan returned home, in early November, just in time for the holidays. In April, the battalion mobilized a second firing element to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

In April, over 30 FLARNG Soldiers under Task Force Apollo mobilized in defense of the National Capital Region supporting the Integrated Air Defense Systems mission for Operation Noble Eagle. The Joint Air Defense Operations Center continues to provide 100 percent ground-based air coverage and reinforced defense of the NCR using both Army and Air Force organizations charged with protecting critical assets located throughout the region. For the seventh time since 2003, the brigade is protecting defended assets and enabling air sovereignty; prosecuting over 156 targets of interest; executing over 1,000 crew drills, participating in seven Falcon Virgos, 70 Dull Spears, 40 Amalgam Arrows, one National Special Security Event, two Winchesters, and trained/certified in excess of 15 Airmen and ground-based air defense battalion teams.

In late April, a Battery+ of Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery earned a rotation through NTC at Fort Irwin, Calif., where they focused on fine-tuning their standard operating procedures for line haul operations, air defense operational troop leading procedures, Sentinel Radar placement and integration with the Brigade Combat Team Air Defense and Airspace Management Cell, and convoy and night operations in an austere environment.

To close out the training year, Soldiers with the

Soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade receive mission briefings ahead of their annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla. (2nd Lt. James Lanza/U.S. Army)



164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade remained steadfast during their two-week annual training in the summer to hone their warfighter skills and field craft in preparation for anticipated mobilizations around the world. In May, 1st and 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery executed a variety of field exercises while simultaneously running .50-caliber M3P machine gun ranges and getting their Soldiers reacquainted with their gas masks in the gas chamber. In June, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery also took to the field to execute battle drills and prepare for future theater-level air and missile defense command and control missions.

[facebook.com/164thADABDE](https://www.facebook.com/164thADABDE)

100th Missile Defense Brigade

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (ground-based midcourse defense) engages and destroys intercontinental ballistic missiles in defense of the United States and designated areas. The unit was activated, Oct. 16, 2003, and is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade is a unique, multi-component unit, comprising National Guard and active component Soldiers. The total force of the 100th MD Brigade includes assets in six countries and five states, including the 49th Missile Defense Battalion of the Alaska Army National Guard, Detachment 1 of the California Army National Guard, the Fort Drum Security Detachment, Fort Drum, N.Y., and five globally-located missile defense batteries.

Missile defense relationships were strengthened throughout 2018 via National Guard and active-component cooperation. For the first time, Soldiers of the 100th MD Brigade conducted standardized Gunnery Table VIII certifications and operational readiness evaluations of all five AN/TPY-2 (Forward-based Mode) missile defense batteries. These certifications and operational readiness evaluation/exercises tested the Command and Control Battle Management and Communications Sensor Managers and the AN/TPY-2 radar operators of the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Missile Defense batteries located across U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

Soldiers of the 100th MD Brigade also strengthened partnerships across sister services through participation in joint naval exercises, including several ballistic missile defense (BMD) exercises and Resilient Shield 2018, an annual computer-based exercise focused on BMD training.

Readiness remained a top priority for the 100th MD Brigade, as the Soldiers participated in North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command Exercise Vigilant Shield, U.S. Strategic Command exercises Global Lightning and

Global Thunder, as well as internal exercises Guardian Strike and Guardian Watch.

Soldiers of the 100th MD Brigade hosted distinguished visitors from the U.S. government and military organizations throughout the year. Those visitors included: Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Gen. Mark Milley, Gen. John Hyten, Gen. Robert Brown, Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Lt. Gen. Samuel Greaves, Maj. Gen. Stephen Davis, Maj. Gen. Peter Byrne, Brig. Gen. Richard Kim, Brig. Gen. Angela Cadwell and several congressional staff delegations.

Throughout the year, the 100th MD Brigade welcomed media outlets from American news affiliates such as NBC, as well as hosted the unit's first-ever Media Day at Fort Greely, Alaska, with the support of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. This event included media representatives from local news outlets, as well as Reuters, and Japanese media, due to heightened tensions with North Korea in 2017.

As the Soldiers of the 100th MD Brigade continue to embrace rapidly changing threats and missile defense technologies, the focus remains on defending the homeland and the citizens of the United States from intercontinental ballistic missile attack. *Guard – Engage – Destroy.*

[facebook.com/100thMDB](https://www.facebook.com/100thMDB)

https://www.army.mil/article/213233/none_shall_pass_100th_missile_defense_brigade_marks_15_years_of_homeland_missile_defense

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency, in cooperation with the U.S. Air Force 30th Space Wing, the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense and U.S. Northern Command, and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) successfully intercepted an intercontinental ballistic missile target during a test of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the nation's ballistic missile defense system. A ground-based interceptor was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., and its exo-atmospheric kill vehicle intercepted and destroyed the target in a direct collision. (Leah Garton/Missile Defense Agency)



US Army National Guard

Field Artillery Units



Alabama Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery

Soldiers of Alabama's 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery spent 2018 decisively engaged in aggressive training that not only validated their preparedness, but also demonstrated their ability to execute missions outside of an artillery units' core competencies.

It all began in the first quarter of Training Year 18 when battalion commander, Lt. Col. Wayne Norman, was tasked with bringing 1-117th FA to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., as a part of its higher headquarters the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, to participate in Operation Western Strike. Year-long preparation and training on core mission essential task list, Artillery Skills Proficiency Test and the Field Artillery Safety Test, as well as crew certifications during inactive duty training live-fire exercises (LFXs) at Fort Rucker, Ala., helped prepare the battalion for the challenges in TY18.

Participating in an LFX at a training center within the continental United States is nothing new to any National Guard artillery unit, but when the logistics of Operation Western Strike (an emergency deployment readiness exercise) were detailed, it became clear this was not a typical LFX for annual training (AT). First-117th FA would have to coordinate the transportation of their equipment by rail, as well as their Soldiers by air, from south Alabama to southeast Wyoming in order to participate in Operation Western Strike. Rail-load operations had not been conducted on such a scale as this in the state of Alabama since the Gulf War, in the early 1990s. A couple of key staff personnel, and a senior noncommissioned officer from each battery were placed on Title 10 orders to coordinate the movement and logistics of support for the operation. The battalion received generous support and assistance from the State of Alabama's G4 office when they negotiated arrangements for 1-117th FA's equipment to be rail-loaded at the Anniston Army Depot, an active component Defense Logistics Agency in Anniston, Ala. A 75-Soldier detail was assembled for a week in May to load the rolling stock onto trains, after having been conveyed to, and staged at, ANAD in April. Those same Soldiers arrived in CGWY a week prior to the main body just to unload and stage the battalion's rolling stock.

Meticulous coordination across the 142nd FA Brigade and with the Burlington North Santa Fe Railroad had been exercised in order to allow each of the five battalions participating in Operation Western Strike ample time and space to unload their

equipment from the two rail spurs dedicated to support of Operation Western Strike. Other supporting equipment including section equipment, tentage, and spares which could not be secured in vehicles on the railroad, were transported in one of five dry van trailers delivered to the units, loaded, and picked up for transport to CGWY. They stayed in garrison until their reloading and return to the units at the conclusion of the exercise. One bonded-carry, line-haul transport per battery was also contracted to move weapons and other sensitive items on the same day that the main body departed on three contracted flights from Montgomery, Ala., to Cheyenne, Wyo. Commercial buses were hired to transport the Soldiers the final 100 miles from Cheyenne to CGWY.

Once the exercise was underway, 1-117th FA integrated itself well with the 142nd FA Brigade's battle rhythm and got on with the business of qualifying through Tables XVII and XV, certifying all platoons and batteries. External evaluation was provided by 2nd Battalion, 305th Field Artillery (Red Team) Lt. Col. Kirk Junker, commanding. Red Team worked hand-in-hand with 1-117th FA's staff and battery commanders to evaluate and recommend "best practices" that would enhance the battalion's tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) allowing them to achieve the highest Objective-T rating possible. Also, providing opposing force (OPFOR) aggressing and harassing actions to engaged artillery batteries was a detachment of D Company, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment from Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Delta Company Soldiers helped the artillery batteries improve their protection and survivability TTPs while executing fire missions and convoy operations.

On the final days of the field exercise, 1-117th FA was able to coordinate Fires and qualify the battalion through Table XVIII, fulfilling their greatest requirement. Although Operation Western Strike was primarily an artillery exercise, it was the 217th Brigade Support Battalion and its subordinate support companies, which 117th Forward Support Company was a part of, who were tasked with the most demanding missions. The BSB was established in CGWY's southern training area, while the FA brigade's firing units were all in the north training area. This made support missions long and complex affairs, but the 117th FSC performed brilliantly, delivering the support requested while providing their own convoy security from OPFOR elements.

At the conclusion of the field exercise, 1-117th FA was the first unit to fall back and prepare its equipment for redeployment to home station. Again,

the 1-117th FA excelled at this redeployment logistics exercise, setting the tone for the entire brigade. Feeling like they were well versed in rail-load operations, the battalion wasted no time and had all their equipment cleaned, prepped, staged, and loaded in only three days. The rail-load team flew home immediately after, the equipment was packed and line haul trailers departed that day also. Buses carried the main body to Cheyenne for three return flights a day later, when they met the line-haul trailers at their respective armories to be unloaded. The final elements of 1-117th FA departed two days later. Trains arrived back at ANAD three days after that, where the rail-load team received and unloaded them. The final step was convoy operations back to home station to close out Operation Western Strike and Annual Training 18. All told, 1-117th FA rail transported 213 pieces of equipment, line hauled ten trailers of gear and supplies, and flew 303 Soldiers, all over 1,800 miles ... and back, safely.

The last quarter of Training Year 18 presented another unique opportunity for 1-117th FA. Through the State Partnership Program, the battalion was tasked with providing eight Soldiers to travel to Moldova. Three officers, four NCOs, and one enlisted took the two week trip to Moldova where they observed Moldovan Artillery conduct numerous LFXs. The officers advised Moldovan Artillery staff officers on how to best utilize their assets in order to have the most effective use of Fires on the battlefield, while the enlisted Soldiers got the chance to critique and rehearse battle drills with the actual gun sections. It was great experience that both sides hope can continue in the future.

No National Guard unit would have a complete training year without preparing for, but hopefully not exercising, its Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) plan. 1-117th FA is no different, but given its location in south Alabama, close to the Gulf of Mexico, the frequency of DSCA operations is more often than not.

Battalion staff developed the interstate traffic contra-flow portion of the DSCA plan as directed by the 226th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Mobile, Ala., under Task Force Tarpon, to provide relief for the gulf coast in anticipation of hurricane season. While full-time unit staff were alerted of the possibility of activation, no Soldiers were ordered to act in response to Hurricane Michael, which struck too far east to cause damage in Task Force Tarpon's area of responsibility.

Recently the 1-117th FA was re-assigned under another major command, the 62nd Troop Command, in Alabama. In addition to the 1-117th FA, 62nd TC also commands the 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 173rd Infantry Regiment. The battalion is looking forward to this new challenge and the training possibilities it will bring in years to come.

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Arkansas Army National Guard

142nd Field Artillery

Brigade, Razorback Brigade

The Soldiers of the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade completed an exceptional year of training as a focused readiness unit (FRU). The brigade started the training year at Fort Indian Town Gap, Pa., executing the force field artillery and counter fire headquarters duties for the 42nd Infantry Division at Warfighter Exercise 18-1. This exercise enabled the brigade to focus its efforts in becoming a deployable, qualified and validated operational force, responsive and adaptive to the needs of the combatant commander. The brigade was able to synchronize joint Fires with integrated sensor platforms while exercising airspace management. WFX 18-1 enabled the brigade to refine its tactical standing operating procedure for follow-on operations.

The National Guard Bureau notified the 142nd FA Brigade that Headquarters, 217th Brigade Support Battalion, 142nd Signal Company, 1st Battalion, 142nd FA (Multiple Launch Rocket System), 2nd Battalion, 142nd FA (Paladins), and aligned for training units 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery (M777) and 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) would be conducting an emergency deployment readiness exercise to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., in June. This exercise allowed the brigade to conduct rail operations, moving over 900 pieces of equipment from home station at Fort Chaffee, Ark., Alabama, and Tennessee to CGWY in late May; the first move via rail of this magnitude since Operation Desert Storm nearly three decades ago.

Training consisted of mission command and Table XVIII qualification for the four firing battalions, with an external evaluation conducted by 1st Army with observer controller/trainer support from 169th Field Artillery Brigade while 29th Infantry Division provided the high command support and mission scenario event list injects. During operations, over 2,500 rounds of 155 mm high explosive, practice and special munitions (illumination, smoke and white phosphorus) were fired and tracked by the brigade's two Q-53 Radar sections with all rounds observed safe. Over 100 M28 reduced range practice rocket rounds were fired by the HIMARS and MLRS platforms. Counter-fire operations enabled the brigade tactical air command to practice sensor to shooter with the cannon and rocket battalions, with the fastest live-fire exercise counter-fire time of 78 seconds.

The 217th BSB and battalion forward support companies conducted resupply operations delivering Class I, III, V and Class IX, day and night and multiple times a day while maintaining operational security and contending with a persistent opposing force from the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

from Arkansas. Total miles driven by the BSB and FSCs surpassed 10,000 for this 10-day exercise.

The 142nd FA Brigade safely completed their railroad operations returning to Fort Chaffee. One hundred forty-second Brigade Headquarters supported Operation Northern Strike 18 at Camp Grayling, Mich., with 10 Soldiers supporting the 42nd ID Joint Air Ground Integration Center and Combined Operation and Intelligence Center cells. Operation Northern Strike is a joint combined arms live-fire exercise that is sponsored by the National Guard Bureau with an emphasis on the coordination of close air support, joint fire support, coordinated maneuver with Fires, and air mobility to include command, control, communications, computers and intelligence elements of Theater Air-Ground Systems in decisive action and major combat operations – contested degraded operations scenarios. Operation Northern Strike trains, rehearses and contributes to the overall preparation of participating units and individuals in their wartime mission with an emphasis on operations in a joint environment. An additional four Soldiers were provided to 42nd ID in support of Operation Liberty Hunter at Fort Drum, N.Y. The brigade headquarters was identified to support Warfighter Exercise 19-2 with 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga., with 42 personnel in a response cell mode. For the balance of the training year, the *Razorback Brigade* executed refit and recovery operations from the numerous training events and began

setting the conditions for another high-paced FRU year!

3rd Battalion, 640th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

Third Battalion, 640th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), commanded by Lt. Col. Jason Wilde, started the year under the leadership of 1st Sgt. Shaun Harris and was the first battalion in the regiment to be assessed on the updated U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command accreditation standards. Third Battalion achieved a 95.8 percent on their triennial proponent assessment from the United States Army Fires Center of Excellence Quality Assurance Office at Fort Sill, Okla.

After the assessment, Harris relinquished responsibility for the battalion to Master Sgt. Chris Branch. Branch led the battalion through the new equipment fielding of the M119 Howitzers, the full implementation of the Joint Fires Observer Course, which had been piloted during Fiscal Year 2017, and several community engagements, parades and distinguished visitor events. In September of 2018, Wilde relinquished command to Maj. Shane Day.

Third Battalion employed the services of 23 certified instructors during Fiscal Year 2018, four of which were awarded the Army's Basic Instructor Badge. The battalion teaches three military occupational specialty transition courses (13B10, 13F10 and 13J10), and six professional military education courses (13B30, 13B40, 13J30, 13J40, 13F30 and 13F40).

Soldiers attending the 13B10 MOS re-classification Course conduct a live-fire on the M119A3 howitzer at Camp Williams, Utah, as part of the 3rd Battalion, 640th Regiment (Regional Training Institute). (Staff Sgt. Justin Johnson/U.S. Army National Guard)



Third Battalion also teaches the Joint Fires Observer Course which produces an additional skills identifier (ASI L7) that teaches students to coordinate air to ground Fires. During Fiscal Year 18, 569 of the 574 students input for courses graduated for a completion rate of 99.1 percent.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Henrie, a 13B Instructor said, "Third Battalion had an excellent, very busy year."

Third Battalion shot 986 rounds during four successful and safe live-fire exercises that culminated a combined training event for three MOS courses (13B, 13J, and 13F). The battalion then hosted the first semi-annual Field Artillery Schoolhouse Synchronization Conference which showcased the regiment and battalions capabilities to Fort Sill, as well as other Regional Training Institutes across the country. The battalion is ready to teach more courses, and more students in Fiscal Year 19.

Boom, Artillery.

California Army National Guard

40th Infantry Division, Sunburst

In late 2017 through 2018, the 40th Infantry Division Headquarters, *Sunburst Division* deployed in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel as part

of the NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. Assuming command of Train, Advise, Assist Command-South at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan, the division conducted both advising duties with the Afghan 205th Corps and conducted kinetic strike missions in support of the 205th's subordinate brigades. The division's Fires cell along with Redlegs from 1st Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division and 4th Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division conducted joint targeting. This included combining intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), electronic attack, aviation, surface-to-surface Fires and air assets from U.S. forces as well as integrated joint strikes conducted with Afghan air, aviation and ISR assets.

The 40th Division Headquarters rear element participated in multiple overseas training events including the NATO exercise Citadel Guibert in France, giving the division's Fires team an opportunity to conduct planning in a European environment. One of the training objectives for Citadel Guibert was to demonstrate interoperability between Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System and the French/NATO Fires computers. Additionally the division also participated with the Indiana Army National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade as the first total force partners in Exercise Orient Shield

Brig. Gen. (P) Mark Malanka, 40th Infantry Division commanding general, is seated next to Maj. Gen. Saratani, Japanese Ground Self Defense Force Defense Chief of Staff Operations for North East Army, conducting a bi-lateral targeting decision brief at Ojojihara Training Area, Japan. (Pete Szczepanski/U.S. Army)



2018, which was conducted at Ojojihara Maneuver Area in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan.

In the scenario, the *Sunburst Division* was a U.S. partner to the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces 9th Division, or Northeastern Army. The division planned and conducted deep-strike Fires in a bilateral command environment, as well as Fires in a multi-domain environment which included maritime targets. Additionally the division maintained its readiness for all possible federal contingencies while conducting state civil support missions for wildfires and floods throughout California and as mutual aid partners to other states. Ball Of Fire!

1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, Spartans

Spartans from the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, 40th Infantry Division, California Army National Guard, stood ready to deliver responsive Fires for the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Their leaders had other missions for these capable Red-legs.

First-143rd FA was deployed to three countries in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility: Jordan, Qatar and Bahrain. Their missions ranged

Fire Supporters from the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, California Army National Guard, deployed to U.S. Central Command, to conduct subject matter experts exchanges with Jordanian Army fire support teams on the employment of coordinated illumination missions in the Kingdom of Jordan. (1st Lt. Greg Bloom/U.S. Army)



from fixed-site security to training foreign soldiers on the finer points of fire support planning.

The battalion main was stationed at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, with a mission to secure key terrain, infrastructure and personnel while conducting security forces operations at three sites in Qatar and one site in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Soldiers from 1-143rd FA worked and trained with their Qatari and Bharani counterparts to improve relations and build partnership capacities across the formations. First-143rd FA subject matter expert exchanges trained on medical evacuation, first aid and weapon ranges from 9mm to 240B. Fire supporters from 1-143rd FA trained the basics with their Jordanian counterparts. Improving their call-for-fire tactics, techniques and procedures. This training culminated in the successful joint exercise, Eager Lion.

Soldiers of the 1-143rd FA returned in late August to California ready to get back on their howitzers. In November, the 1-143rd FA was called to duty to support and augment local officials to battle the camp fire in northern California, providing their battalion aid station in support of the displaced members from the local communities.

Facta Non Verba.

1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery, Mustangs

The year 2018 was an exceptionally challenging year for the *Mustang Battalion* as the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery had to simultaneously prepare for their wartime mission of delivering Fires as well as responding in support of the state of California for multiple civil support emergencies.

From the beginning of the training year, the *Mustang's* conducted M109A6 crew certifications up through Table VI and successfully certified all howitzer sections and fire direction centers. Annual training was conducted at Fort Irwin, Calif., in July and

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery, California Army National Guard, conduct hi-angle missions on their M109A6 Paladins during the unit's 2018 annual training at Fort Irwin, Calif. (Sgt. Juan Almanza/U.S. Army)



the *Mustang Battalion* safely fired over 1,800 rounds in general support and reinforcing roles in a decisive action scenario live-fire exercise.

Missions fired included rocket assisted projectiles, hip shoots and direct fire, all while maintaining rapid counter-fire capability and the ability to mass Fires when and where needed. The leaders and howitzer crews were challenged by the aggressive scenario to continuously adjust plans to meet the deep Fires needs of the maneuver commander while operating in a near-peer environment. This experience built proficient leaders and crews, ready to take on missions in today's complex environment.

Additionally starting in late September of 2017 and throughout 2018 the *Mustangs* were activated to serve as Type II Wildfire hand crews and formed Task Force 144 in support of civil support firefighting operations in Central and Northern California including the deadly Carr Fire.

The Redlegs performed their missions with gusto working the line building fire breaks, attacking hot

spots, laying and picking up hoses in steep terrain for 29 straight days. Once the fires were defeated, the civil support mission did not end as the 1-144th FA was activated once again to support multiple flooding and mud slide recovery operations from the heavy winter rains. *Allons!!*

251st Battlefield Coordination Detachment, First to Fire

The 251st Battlefield Coordination Detachment, California Army National Guard, completed its first year of activation by participating in several international exercises as well as providing defense support to civilian authorities in response to wildfires throughout the state of California.

The *First to Fire BCD* participated in exercises Citadel Guibert in France, Orient Shield in Japan as well as PANAMAX in support of U.S. Southern Command. On the domestic front, the 251st BCD served as the California Army National Guard's liaison element to the California State Office of Emergency Services, coordinating operations between

Soldiers from 251st Battlefield Coordination Detachment work in the California State Emergency Operations Center in response to the federal disaster declared for the Camp and Woolsey fires in Northern and Southern California in November 2018.



the National Guard and state and federal agencies in response to the Camp and Woolsey fires that destroyed more than 12,000 homes and burned more than 250,000 acres. Overseas and at home, the 251st Battlefield Coordination Detachment brought true meaning to the term Citizen Soldier.

Colorado Army National Guard

169th Field Artillery Brigade, *Liberators*

In 2018 the *Liberators* of the 169th Field Artillery Brigade completed their re-integration process after returning home in September of 2017 from a historic nine-month deployment serving as the U.S. Army Central Command Force Field Artillery Headquarters. The brigade headquarters worked tirelessly to account for all of their returning equipment, rotate personnel and complete all re-integration activities through March of 2018.

Simultaneously the brigade pivoted the baseline operating environment from training to fighting a near-peer competitor with credible multi-domain threats. This drove our need to refocus on the basic Soldier skills of shoot, move, communicate, medicate and decontaminate. Additionally, the brigade established an expeditionary command post. The large cumbersome Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter system was replaced by four expansible vans. This expeditionary design was exercised during annual training 2018 at Fort Carson, Colo. with resounding success. The brigade is carrying this design into Training Year 2019 and will continue to refine and improve.

The brigade leveraged its deployment experience by providing expertise to multiple events throughout 2018. Small teams with air space clearance and targeting expertise provided support to three State Partnership events, two in Poland and one in Slovenia, providing invaluable assistance to our NATO partners as they establish the processes to integrate air and surface-to-surface Fires.

The 169th Field Artillery Brigade is poised for Training Year 2019. The brigade has begun to develop solid relationships with the 28th Infantry Division and is moving forward with the road to Warfighter 21-3 in Fiscal Year 21.

147th Brigade Support Battalion

The 147th Brigade Support Battalion continued to execute its unique dual mission set throughout 2018. While the 147th BSB serves primarily as the 169th Field Artillery Brigade support battalion, in 2018 it was focused on the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) enhanced force package (CERFP) for Region VIII under the National Guard Bureau CBRN Response Enterprise mission set.

September 2018 saw the 147th BSB culminate its CERFP mission set with an external evaluation conducted by a joint integrated evaluation team from National Guard Bureau and the Joint Interagency

Training and Education Center. Personnel in 147th BSB achieved a trained rating across all six sections in all but one decontamination task, and received a practiced rating on that task. Overall it was a phenomenal effort and the Soldiers of the battalion stand ready to answer any domestic operations call-up in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. While the evaluation was thorough, the Soldiers were most proud of the statement by the incident commander, "I wouldn't hesitate to have the Colorado CERFP assisting first responders in any type of disaster response."

Looking ahead to 2019 the 147th BSB will transition back to a modification table of organization and equipment mission focus of providing direct-support level logistics to the 169th FAB through planning, coordinating, and synchronizing the flow of throughput into the brigade's operational area. The capstone event will be a rotation through the Sustainment Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa. This is the premier training venue for sustainment units and the 147th BSB is excited to get back to maintenance and logistics missions in a high operational tempo environment. The support operations shop of the BSB has been, and will continue to be, heavily linked with the brigade S-4 shop in military decision making processes and planning for an upcoming Warfighter.

The Soldiers of the 147th BSB are consummate professionals who stand ready to answer the nations call either in a domestic capacity or for a federal mission.

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

Redlegs from 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, *Lightning*, conducted mission essential task list relevant training during Prepare Year One and supported various components to meet their training objectives while the battalion also supported domestic operations in Colorado. The battalion was able to reset all 11 launchers that were forward deployed. Concurrently, A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 157th FA sent one platoon of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) with personnel in support of Tennessee Army National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment to the National Training Center rotation from April 29 to May 20, 2018.

Elements of the battalion provided observer controller/trainers (OC/Ts) in support of 142nd Field Artillery Brigade in preparation of their upcoming deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield. Following the OC/T, the battalion conducted its annual training. During annual training 2018, while in Prepare Year One, the battalion successfully qualified 16 launcher crews. The battalion as a whole exercised command and control processes in an expeditionary environment. The battalion continued its relationship with the Air Force 29th Weapons Squadron by conducting two separate HIMARS airlift operations in support of mutual training objectives.

Post annual training, members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3-157th FA and 188th Forward Support Company, totaling 20 personnel and 10 HMMWV with organic equipment, were mobilized in support of the Spring Creek fire in Southern Colorado. This fire was one of the largest wildfires in Colorado history. Additionally, A Battery, 3-157th FA sent four M142 HIMARS launchers to Fort Bliss, Texas in support of 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery's (Wisconsin National Guard) pre-mobilization training. The battalion provided OC/Ts to Northern Strike at Camp Grayling, Joint Maneuver Training Center, in support of the 201st Field Artillery Brigade.

The battalion also participated in the Trident Juncture 2018. During the NATO exercise, the Soldiers integrated HIMARS with the 1st German and Netherland Corps by providing general support Fires in support of the land component commander for their validation command post exercise in a computer-assisted exercise. The battalion had one element embedded with the training audience in Jorstadmoen, Norway, and six Soldiers with exercise control at the NATO Joint Warfare Center in Stavanger, Norway.

Soldiers of B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment pose for a photo with Kuwaiti Land Force 23rd Smerch Battalion. (Courtesy photo)

In conclusion, the *Lightning Battalion* was able to accomplish core field artillery training during various mission sets in support of many components at home and abroad. Once again 3-157th FA showcased the capability National Guard Soldiers bring to the total force as we execute missions across the globe. Currently, the battalion is in Prepare Year One as they re-integrate Soldiers, prepare and begin the journey onto the next mission.

Eager for Duty.

Florida Army National Guard 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment

The 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment began the year by mobilizing B Battery, 3-116th FAR plus in January to conduct artillery missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, an anti-ISIS coalition offensive, and Operation Spartan Shield, the defense of the Arabian Gulf against Iranian aggression. The battery was distributed across three countries at five locations with its headquarters at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

B Battery supported U.S. Army Central's operations by regularly training with the Kuwaiti Land Force 22nd and 23rd Smerch Battalions. Additionally, the battery was the 65th Field Artillery Brigade's



primary Fires response element (FRE) expected to be able to deploy either a Light High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Package (LHP) consisting of two M142 HIMARS launchers, or a Heavy HIMARS platoon consisting of four M142 HIMARS launchers anywhere within the U.S. Army Central Command area of responsibility within 72 hours. They performed a validation which consisted of flying eight vehicles, 23 personnel and supplies to United Arab Emirate, then set up a firing point. The successful operation validated that they were capable of actually executing the FRE Mission.

Soldiers in 3-116th FAR assembled again in Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., at the end of February through the beginning of March to support a platoon plus of A Battery, 3-116th FAR preparations for mobilization to support Operation Freedom Sentinel. The extend drill culminated with the platoon conducting fire direction center operations for a live-fire exercise. In April, the platoon plus mobilized through Fort Bliss, Texas, and began operations in Afghanistan.

Third Battalion wrapped up the year by performing state active duty. With short notice, Hurricane Michael built into a Category 4 hurricane and bore down on the panhandle of Florida. As the hurricane's strength escalated the size of the Florida National Guard response increased resulting in the last minute activation of the remaining strength of the battalion. The battalion, short-staffed and undermanned, saw the attachment of the 715th Military Police Company and 100 Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery. The battalion began moving Soldiers up the Gulf Coast assuming missions (shelter operations, points of distributions, presence patrols, site security) in the secondary effort areas. As the days moved on, 3rd Battalion proved capable, despite being short-manned on battalion staff, and was moved in the main effort area conducting missions in Panama City, Fla.

The battalion is looking to the future and has currently begun coordination with 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Ky., to take part in Wester Strick 20 in Wyoming and supporting Breakthrough 19 in Hungary. *Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum!*

2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment

During Training Year 2018, 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment reorganized from a battalion consisting of two M119 artillery cannon batteries to a composite battalion of two M119 batteries and one M777 battery. The battalion accomplished this transition during a single training year by filling the new M777 battery with organic personnel, and training the new gun crews.

During the composite battalion transition, 2-116th FAR supported its higher headquarters, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Warfighter Exercise 18 (WFX 18) at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. This 10-day training event allowed the battalion to exercise its battalion staff in coordination with its adjacent units

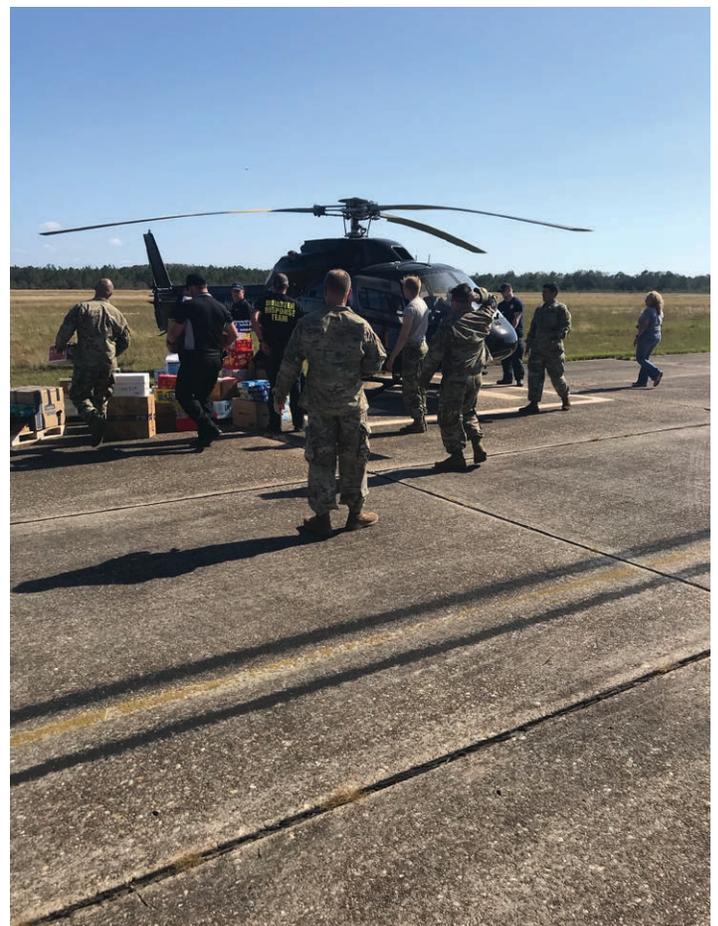
within the brigade, promoting visibility of the field artillery, and demonstrating the capabilities of its new M777 battery.

WFX 18 also provided the battalion leadership an opportunity to evaluate standard operating procedures and re-write them using best practices learned at the exercise. Leading up to the unit's annual training period, 2-116th FAR conducted a change of command ceremony, bidding farewell to Lt. Col. Adam Calderon and welcoming Lt. Col. Jeffrey Harvey.

The battalion successfully qualified at the platoon level, completing Artillery Table XII at annual training in preparation for the upcoming eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) rotation. In October, 2-116th FAR was among the first units in the state of Florida to activate in support of Hurricane Michael response, completing two weeks of state active duty (SAD). During that time, 2-116th FAR completed over 60 SAD missions, bringing much needed aid to the citizens of Florida in Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Calhoun and Gulf counties.

The battalion is currently preparing and training for XCTC at Camp Shelby Joint Training Center in

First Lt. Brian Riedel, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Corteney Callis, Sgt. Joshua Perez, and Spc. Ivan Ruiz from 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment, help during Hurricane Michael response operations. (Maj. Butler Strain/U.S. Army)



Mississippi in training year 2019 and a successful Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in training year 2020.

**Hawaii Army National Guard
1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment,
29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Hiki No!***

Artillery Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery Regiment, *Hiki No*, conducted a 12-day artillery live-fire exercise (LFX) in a decisive action training environment (DATE) at the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island of Hawaii from the

end of May through mid-June, 2018. This was the culminating training event for Training Year 2018.

Redleg Soldiers of the 1-487th FA conducted Table XII qualification for both M119A3 (105 mm) and M777A2 (155 mm) platoons in the composite battalion. Firing over 1,000 total rounds, including high explosive, white phosphorus, smoke canister, illumination and rocket assisted projectile, during the LFX, the platoons completed complex battle-drill lanes in the DATE environment, while firing missions in support of a constructive infantry brigade

Members of Task Force Hawaii, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, conduct area operations overflight in a UH-60 Blackhawk from C Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation Regiment, Hawaii Army National Guard, June 2018, to conduct aerial survey of damage caused by the volcanic eruption in the lower Puna district of the Big Island, Hawaii. (Lt. Col. David Hatcher/U.S. Army)



combat team attack and defense. External evaluations were provided by Team Field Artillery of the 196th Infantry Brigade (Training Support Brigade) out of Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Upon successful completion of the LFX and re-deployment to Oahu, the command element and a large number of *Hiki No Soldiers* remained on the Big Island and assumed command of Task Force Hawaii. As TF Hawaii, 1-487th FA Soldiers conducted National Guard domestic operations in support of civil authorities responding to assist the victims of the volcanic eruptions and lava flow that ravaged the lower Puna district of the island and displaced hundreds of families.

The 1-487th FA is currently conducting pre-deployment training in preparation for mobilization and deployment to Afghanistan in early 2019. The *Hiki No Battalion* will serve as the Counter-Rocket Artillery Mortar Task Force for the Afghanistan theatre.

Unit Motto: *Hiki No!* (Hawaiian translation: “Surely it can be done!” or “Can Do!”)

**Idaho Army National Guard
1st Battalion 148th Field Artillery Regiment,
Whenever Wherever**

The 1st Battalion 148th Field Artillery Regiment, *Whenever Wherever*, provided accurate and responsive Fires to the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team during Exportable Combat Training Capability Rotation 18-02 in June of 2018. During this as-

essment batteries A, B and C greatly increased their lethality and readiness rating and focused on shoot-and-scoot operations. In August, the battalion staff participated in a brigade warfighter exercise to hone its skills in providing Fires across the multi-dimensional near-peer fight. In November, the battalion participated in the Leadership Training Program at Fort Irwin, Calif., in preparation for a National Training Center rotation in 2019.

During 2018, the 148th FAR certainly lived up to the *Whenever* part of its motto by sending Soldiers to eight foreign countries in support of training events. In June, the 1-148th FAR hosted seven Soldiers from the U.K. and in September, sent eight of its Soldiers to England and Denmark to participate in the Military Reserve Exchange Program. Two 1-148th FAR officers mentored and facilitated training for Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets, in support of the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program – one in Romania, and one in Paraguay. Additionally this year, the 148th FAR took part in overseas training missions to Cambodia, Thailand, Morocco and Tunisia.

**Illinois Army National Guard
2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery Regiment**

Training year 2018 was an exciting and busy year for the 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery as we prepared for the future and honored our past. This year the battalion prepared for and executed the 33rd Division Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s first

Soldiers in A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery fire an M119A3 during a Joint Readiness Training Center live fire exercise July 25 at Peason Ridge, La. (Courtesy photo)



decisive action Joint Readiness Training Center rotation setting the stage for our Training Year (TY) 19 available year. Additionally, the Redlegs took time to remember and take stock of our history as a battalion and regiment.

The Redlegs execution of JRTC Rotation 18-09 as the culmination of three years of preparation and training, starting with a warfighter exercise in 2016 and an Exportable Combat Training Center rotation in 2017. In TY18, the battalion conducted an aggressive training plan that included multiple live-fire exercises, situational training exercises, and field training exercises focusing on survivability and providing FA Fires. While challenging and requiring significant support from employers and family, our reward was the battalion's excellent performance during the JRTC rotation.

The battalion's rehearsed tactics of constant night movement, use of terrain for cover and concealment, and unit defense allowed the Soldiers to avoid detection from the enemy for the first eight days in the box, while providing Fires. The ability of the battalion to move the main and tactical command posts, nearly every 18 to 24 hours, while maintaining mission command, received high praise from the observer, controller/trainers and set the new standard for command post operations at JRTC. The battalion also excelled during the reception, staging, onward-movement and integration and redeployment process helping the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct the most efficient entrance and exit from the box by any unit to date. The successful 2018 training year has prepared the battalion for future success in training year 19 as we look to participate in Pacific Pathway.

In 2018 the 122nd Field Artillery Regiment marked the 100th anniversary of its participation in World War I and 10th anniversary of the battalion's deployment to Afghanistan. The battalion paused to recognize our participation in Saint Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and Lorraine Campaigns, while also remembering our fellow Soldiers who fell in Afghanistan. This reflection on our past reminds us of the persistent readiness required of members of the regiment as we look to the forward.

Kansas Army National Guard

130th Field Artillery Brigade, Kansas Redlegs

The 130th Field Artillery Brigade, *Kansas Redlegs*, completed its 2018 collective training event with a 72-hour force field artillery headquarters exercise in conjunction with its active duty partner, the 1st Infantry Division Artillery and Mission Command Training Support Program.

Special training emphasis was given to the 130th FA Brigade's targeting process using lessons learned from 1st ID DIVARTY's Warfighters Exercise 18-3 process and the 130th FA Brigade's response cell

role. The 130th FA Brigade continues to collaborate with 1st ID DIVARTY and Mission Command Training Support Program to build training opportunities in which the active component - reserve component partnership is pushed to new levels of integration.

The exercise sets the stage for 1st ID's Warfighter Exercise 19-4 where the partnership will continue with the 130th FA Brigade playing a counter-fire field artillery headquarters. The ultimate objective is the 130th FA Brigade's ability to serve as the 35th Infantry Division's Force Field Artillery Headquarters or as the 1st ID's counter-fire FA headquarters in order to destroy, neutralize, or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket and missile fire and to help integrate all fire support assets into combined arms operations.

997th Brigade Support Battalion

The 997th Brigade Support Battalion had a fast-paced training year that encompassed multifunctional logistics missions, high-tech signal operations and numerous domestic support operations for the state of Kansas. The 997th BSB is comprised of the Headquarters and Service Company (Hays, Colby), the 330th Brigade Signal Company (Wichita), the 250th Forward Support Company (Ottawa, Clay Center), the 1161st Forward Support Company (Wichita, Pratt), the 170th Support Maintenance Company (Wichita) and the 995th Support Maintenance Company (Smith Center, Concordia, Norton).

The 997th BSB activated three of its subordinate units in support of the two major winter storms, Xanto and Jaxon, to strike Northwestern Kansas in 2018. In partnership with the 169th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the 997th BSB delivered 26 pallets, or 44,928 bottles of water to Norton and Natoma, Kan., who lost water due to contaminated water sources and power issues.

In the months leading up to annual training, the 997th BSB signal sections established secure communications between Hays, Fort Riley and Wichita simultaneously via a Harris High Frequency Radio, an accomplishment that has never been done before in the Kansas Army National Guard. This accomplishment enabled the 997th BSB to successfully conduct their annual training missions.

The 997th BSB headquarters and the 330th Signal Company split forces July 23 through Aug. 4 during annual training to cover the mission requirements of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters located in Fort Riley. Subordinate units, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery and 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery conducted Fires missions in Camp Guernsey, Wyo. Also in Camp Guernsey were the 250th and 1161st Forward Support Companies who provided direct logistical support functions to the FA battalions.

The 170th Support Maintenance Company conducted their annual training at Fort Riley June 2-16 and worked critical equipment maintenance for units identified for potential mobilizations. July 14-

28, the 995th SMC traveled to Camp Dodge, Iowa, where the unit received maintenance evaluations and training from the Sustainment Training Center of Excellence.

Lt. Col Gillock is proud to announce the following new commanders of the 997th BSB units:

Capt. Jeremy Brolhorst, 330th Brigade Signal Company

1st Lt. John Chambers, 250th Forward Support Company

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Western Kansas Redlegs

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, 130th Fires Brigade, kicked off the year by conducting pre-mobilization training in preparation for the deployment of C Battery as part of the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery from Mississippi. April 6, 2018, C Battery departed the state of Kansas to Fort Bliss, Texas, for Table XVIII. Then they deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The remainder of the battalion went on to conduct annual training at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

In the months leading up to the deployment, the battalion conducted multiple pre-mobilization training events. In February, the battalion participated in Table VI and Precision Guidance Kit new equipment fielding in which over 300 precision guided rounds were fired. Afterward, C battery successfully completed Artillery Tables VII-XV firing over 600 rounds. In final preparation for deployment, the battalion conducted a periodic health assessment and Soldier readiness processing inactive duty training weekend.

Following the deployment, the rear battalion had two gun sections conduct annual training at Camp Guernsey July 20 through Aug. 4. The M109 A6 Paladin gun crews conducted 27 fire missions during the two-week exercise, firing over 250 rounds including 10 M549A1 rocket-assisted projectiles. C Battery deployed as part of the 2nd Battalion 114th Field Artillery Mississippi Army National Guard to Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

C Battery maintained readiness by conducting certifications through Artillery Table XV in addition to the following training events: security force operations, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) Raven operations, and counter-UAV operations. C Battery participated in multiple live-fire exercises to include a combined arms multi-national exercise (Iron Union 8) with a platoon in a partnership effort with the United Arab Emirates Army, and a live-fire exercise with the Kuwait Army.

The rear elements of the battalion finished off the year with a focus on community engagements across the state. Units conducted Pack 75 mm Howitzer shoots at local high school football games, community colleges, festivals and parades. The effort was followed up with a focus on recruiting and retention in a continual effort to grow the Kansas Army National Guard.

[facebook.com/1-161-Field-Artillery-Battalion-Kansas-Army-National-Guard-138173279555954](https://www.facebook.com/1-161-Field-Artillery-Battalion-Kansas-Army-National-Guard-138173279555954)

2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment, Knights of Fire

It was an exceptional year for 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment, *Knights of Fire*. The focus of the battalion was the redeployment of two elements from the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) while maintaining the proficiency of the Rear Detachment Soldiers. With over 60 percent of the battalion mobilized as two separate firing batteries with elements of the supporting Forward Support Company, all Rear Detachment Soldiers consolidated into Headquarters and Headquarters Battery to accomplish challenging training plan and maintain a high state of readiness. The HHB conducted a rigorous training plan leading up to a very successful annual training, certifying three M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System sections while expending 66 M28 Reduced Range Practice Rockets. A Battery with additional Soldiers HHB, B Battery, and the 250th Forward Support Company, redeployed in March 2018 from the CENTCOM AOR where they conducted operations in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve, delivering nearly 1,000 rounds on enemy combatants. The unit's efforts were a critical part in the defeat of ISIS in both Iraq and Syria. B Battery with elements of the Forward Support Company, redeployed in July 2018 from Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel, where they fired almost 400 rocket and missile missions. The unit played a significant role in the continuing actions against the Taliban and other insurgent groups.

[facebook.com/2ndBattalion130thFieldArtillery/](https://www.facebook.com/2ndBattalion130thFieldArtillery/)
Kentucky Army National Guard

138th Field Artillery Brigade, Kentucky Thunder

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 138th Field Artillery Brigade's year began with renewed focus on readiness and lethality throughout the brigade. The capstone training event was participation in Dynamic Front 18 (DF18) as the force field artillery headquarters. DF18 provided HHB, 138th FA Brigade with the opportunity to operate in a multinational environment while working with the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and multiple NATO and allied countries. Building on experience gained in training year 2017 during Warfighter Exercise 17-02, HHB 138th FA Brigade continued to refine tactics, techniques and procedures and improve interoperability across the formation while working with our European partners.

Upon completion of DF18, HHB quickly turned its attention to fielding Q-53 radars, preparations for Warfighter Exercise 19-05, and support of subordinate battalions' annual training. This included sending a tactical action center to Camp Grayling, Mich.,

in support of 103rd Brigade Support Battalion, Kentucky Army National Guard; 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Kentucky Army National Guard; and 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery, Indiana Army National Guard annual training and live-fire exercises. The 138th FA Brigade also continued to develop the training relationship with the 101st Division Artillery, specifically between each unit's radar sections and utilization of their forward observers.

There is no decline in operational tempo as the brigade ramps up for Training Year 2019 with staff preparations and command post reconfiguration for Warfighter 19-05 with the 36th Infantry Division as a training audience and Warfighter 20-01 with HHB 138th FA Brigade providing a robust response cell.

[f facebook.com/KentuckysThunder/](https://www.facebook.com/KentuckysThunder/)

138th Signal Company, 138th Field Artillery Brigade

Soldiers from the 138th Signal Company remained unwavering in providing network support. In April, the 138th Signal Company deployed to Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., supporting JRTC Rotation 18-07. This was the unit's second JRTC rotation within a three year period. The unit signalers skillfully utilized the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical to provide a digital network backbone for all 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team missions.

1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, Morgan's Men

First Battalion, 623d Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) spent the past year focusing on its field artillery flexibility and worldwide readiness by participating in Saber Strike 2018 in order to enhance its ability to provide accurate, timely and decisive rocket and missile Fires in support of multinational operations. The battalion was able to deploy with its modification table of organization and equipment (MTOE), to include the 203rd Forward Support Company, for the exercise.

During the training year, Soldiers of the 1-623rd prepared in multiple aspects of readiness for Saber Strike. From crew-served weapon qualifications, night vision goggle driver's licensing, European driver's training to crew and section field artillery certifications, the 1-623rd FA left no powder unused in preparedness for their Soldiers.

Sending the battalion's MTOE by sea vessel to Klaipedia, Lithuania, required specialized training and tested the boundaries of unit equipment and personnel deployment readiness. The 1-623rd linked with active duty counterparts, 1st Infantry Division, 7th Army Training Command and 2nd Cavalry Regiment during the exercise and ultimately convoyed over 1,000 miles across Poland and Lithuania, providing shaping Fires for the exercise.

The capstone event was a HIMARS Rapid Infiltration mission, when U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command flew four HIMARS by C-17 from Powidz, Poland, to Rukla, Lithuania, to conduct an ar-

tillery raid. The battalion utilized their Harris AN/PRC long-range communications, sending high frequency fire missions over a distance of 675 kilometers spanning two countries. This was the first time the 1-623rd FA participated in this type of mission. The exercise culminated with a battery certification live-fire exercise at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, firing 60 rockets.

In addition to focusing on field artillery tasks, *Morgan's Men* continued to excel in providing outstanding support to other units by Soldiers of the 1-623rd participating in Dynamic Front 18, Northern Strike 18 and Joint Readiness Training Center rotations. The local communities and the Commonwealth of Kentucky were not left out through the performance of a wide-range of state active duty missions. *Morgan's Men* achieved all established goals for training year 2018 and is positioned to *Seize the Opportunity* as it moves into training year 2019.

[f facebook.com/MorgansMen/](https://www.facebook.com/MorgansMen/)

2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Long Rifles

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, *Long Rifles*, completed a tremendously successful year of training in 2018. The battalion executed a rigorous training schedule in order to increase overall lethality and readiness throughout the battalion. Focus was on core mission essential task list tasks, fielding of the Precision Guidance Kit (PGK), and completing mounted machine gun qualification (2138th Forward Support Company). The battalion developed a plan to complete these tasks in addition to executing a movement to Camp Grayling, Mich., for annual training. Planning for the mission to Camp Grayling provided valuable training for key leaders at all levels, allowing them to conduct military decision making process in an unfamiliar environment.

The battalion operations section worked with the PGK new equipment testing team from Fort Sill,

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery fire the Paladin during a direct-fire mission during the unit's 2018 annual training. (Courtesy photo)



Okla., to ensure that their systems were mission capable. The battalion executed an aggressive plan to conduct safety exams, artillery skills proficiency tests, and FA Tables I-VI prior to annual training to meet the requirements for fielding PGK. Key to this success was the 138th Field Artillery Brigade Q-53 section (fielded this year) and the partnership that has been developed with the 101st Airborne Division Artillery, which provided two Fires support teams and a lightweight counter-mortar radar section. These units were integrated into all elements of planning and training leading up to annual training, and the capabilities that they provide enhanced their ability to verify the accuracy of their fire missions in a timely manner, saving valuable time and allowing them to shoot into the night.

The culminating event for the year was annual training at Camp Grayling. The battalion safely conducted a tactical movement over 500 miles and executed all training in an unfamiliar environment. The battalion successfully fielded the PGK, becoming one of the first National Guard Field Artillery units to do so. The battalion master gunner and fire direction officer captured the knowledge in a step action and after action report to incorporate this skill into the training plan in the future. The battalion trained all three mission essential task list tasks, completing FA Tables VII-XII (platoon qualification) during the live-fire exercise while implementing the variables of the operational environment in a real-world scenario. The staff developed a new tactical operations center layout and utilized the joint capabilities release to conduct battle tracking. All 12 howitzer crews conducted live-fire direct-fire missions for the first time in 15 years.

The 2-138th FA met all aim points for Training Year 2018, achieving unprecedented success. The 2138th FSC completed Mounted Gunnery Gate 3 Table VI on the Multipurpose Range Complex at Camp Atterbury, Ind., also a first, and was done in addition to conducting fuel, ammo and maintenance operations for the battalion. The battalion serves as the Kentucky's National Guard Reactionary Force.

In addition to multiple state active duty missions, battalion Soldiers supported Dynamic Front 18 and multiple Joint Readiness Training Center rotations. The brigade Soldier of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and Senior NCO awards of the year were all achieved by Soldiers of the battalion. Morale is high, and this year's experiences have set a foundation to build upon for the future as the battalion continues to provide responsive and accurate Fires.

[f facebook.com/TaskForceLongrifles/](https://www.facebook.com/TaskForceLongrifles/)

103rd Brigade Support Battalion, Thunder Support

During training year 2018, the 103rd Brigade Support Battalion provided direct support to the 138th Field Artillery Brigade and 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery during annual training at Camp Grayling,

Mich. The battalion staff created the transportation plan for the movement of over 200 vehicles over 1,000 miles, with four fuel teams, 11 fuel stops and two overnight rest stops, which resulted in the successful deployment and redeployment of assigned units.

The training conducted during annual training 2018 exercised all mission essential task list tasks and supporting collective tasks. The 103rd BSB developed the Concept of Support for all Class I and ice in excess of \$200K, along with internal Class III (B) and Class V for gunnery. Finally, the battalion conducted Gate III Table VI live-fire exercise, qualifying four out of five teams. The 2123rd Transportation Company fully implemented the Associated Unit Pilot Program with the 101st Sustainment Brigade conducting their annual training event at Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La., with the 129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The unit conducted troop transport, logistics package missions and base defense.

In June 2018, Capt. Shannon Price, 2123rd TC commander, received the 2017 Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for the Army National Guard.

For the 11th year in a row, the 103rd BSB completed 100 percent of the brigade's S-Services, totaling 69 pieces of equipment, and 85 services complete between the two palletized load system companies. In addition to the aforementioned training events during Training Year 18, the 103rd BSB has assisted the local community by participating in 10 state active duty events.

[f facebook.com/103RDBSB/](https://www.facebook.com/103RDBSB/)

1st Battalion, 238th Field Artillery Regiment, Regional Training Institute

The 1st Battalion, 238th Field Artillery Regiment continued to provide Redlegs from across the nation with top quality professional military education (PME) courses for 13J, 13F and 13M; and military occupation specialty (MOS) courses for 13J and 13M. This year the 1-238th FAR was again successfully accredited, conducted 10 courses qualifying 75 Soldiers in their MOS and 114 noncommissioned officers in their respective PME requirements.

Additionally, our instructors supported Regional Training Institutes in North Carolina and South Dakota. The importance of what these instructors do cannot be overstated as the seeds of knowledge they present spread and grow throughout the artillery community. Knowing this and appreciating the value of the experiences our students bring with them, our instructors pride themselves on facilitating their courses to maximize shared learning, which allows students to learn as much from one another as they do from the instructors.

Massachusetts Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, Warlords

The 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment is the oldest field artillery regiment in the Unit-



Soldiers of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 101 Field Artillery Regiment perform air assault operations with a M119A3 during an artillery air raid in support of the eXportable Combat Training Capability 2018. (Jimmy Lok/U.S. Army)

ed States of America since its inception Dec. 13, 1636. Throughout its rich and storied history, the 101st Field Artillery Regiment is one of the most decorated organizations in the United States Armed Forces.

The year 2018 was no exception, filled with achievements, training gates, and a continuing improvement upon a composite battalion made up of a headquarters element, forward sustainment company, and three firing batteries (consisting of 105 mm M119A3 and 155 mm M777A2 howitzers). Improvement came in the form of dynamic training and operations dramatically increasing lethality on the battlefield in accordance with higher headquarters at the state and federal level.

As Training Year 2018 unfolded, Maj. Gen. Gary Keefe, Massachusetts National Guard adjutant general, shared his three priorities: Field winning teams, invest in our people and build enduring relationships.

“If our team is going to be recognized as the premier provider of unified land, air and cyber forces at home and abroad, each and every Soldier, Airman and civilian employee must challenge themselves and each other to become critical thinkers with strategic vision; innovators who find and exploit untapped opportunities; risk takers that seize and retain the initiative; leaders who do whatever it takes

legally, morally and ethically, to achieve mission success around the world and here in the homeland.”

Keefe continued, “I know very well the caliber of character and level of talent the members of the Massachusetts National Guard possess. I’m certain we’ve assembled a team that will not only succeed, but set a pace and example, doing whatever it takes to show the world why the nation’s First is the nation’s best. Our future depends on it.”

First Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment accepted the challenge of the adjutant general. Under the guidance, direction and leadership of battalion commander, Lt. Col. Peter Fiorentino, the battalion has developed and executed an aggressive training plan, remained a steadfast pillar of support within the community, augmented training and live-fire exercises, and worked tirelessly in support of our assigned and associated parent units, the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Mountain*, Vermont National Guard, and the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

In September 2017, Fiorentino, faced with a rapidly changing force structure and an overly aggressive operations tempo, took command of the 1-101st FA. Recently entering into an active component Army Associated Unit Pilot Program (or AUP) where the 86th IBCT was aligned with the 10th MTN Division testing the resolve of an Army National Guard organization as a force multiplier on the modern

day battlefield, Fiorentino knew the challenges that awaited him. He asked one simple thing of the Soldiers in his formation to *RISE UP*. It's an acronym defined as: retention, individual readiness, safety, employment of Fires, uncompromising values, and partnerships. It is now engrained in our leadership and values. It is our hallmark, to RISE UP and we have, not in spite of the whirlwind training year, but because of it.

We entered the year honing our skills at section and platoon level with the expectation of getting to battery level and preparing for an adversary different than those in Iraq and Afghanistan. The overall vision for the year was simple: grow our unit, and create the most lethal "Fires" battalion in the United States Army. The accomplishments of this battalion have been unprecedented and incredible. To say the least, the men and women have exceeded expectations. Rather than settling for mediocrity they chose to push themselves, they chose to "*Climb to Glory*" to "*Rise Up*" to excellence. Among the myriad of successes, and there has been many, three numbers in particular stand out, 9.1 percent, 109 percent and 0, three numbers that were imperative to our successes and will be going forward.

Just over nine percent was our attrition rate. To put it into perspective, National Guard Bureau gave us 15 percent as a mission, the battalion commander asked for 10 percent, we beat both. This number is exceptional. Even more remarkable, was that we did it in a year where our training operations tempo was one of, if not the highest in our state. One hundred and nine percent was our retention rate, we overdrove the overall mission by nine percentage points. The final number was zero. Zero Sexual Harrassent/ Assault Response Program, Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity complaints, incidents, or issues. Zero. This metric is a clear indicator of the professionalism in this battalion. Second to none. We have created a culture of inclusivity, caring, high morale and uncompromising values.

While our training has been extraordinary, none of that would be possible without the numbers posted above. What is training without dedicated and motivated Soldiers to train? Throughout this unprecedented training year, the battalion managed to improve retention through diversity and equal opportunity, creating a boost in morale and esprit de corps. We have managed to increase motivation and find our "mojo," something the battalion has coined as "mojo-tiv-ation."

Focusing on the strength of our formations we rolled into Training Year 2018, prepare year three (PY3) of the Sustainable Readiness Model cycle. Throughout the training cycle we aggressively moved through inactive duty training periods from individual to collective artillery tasks, beginning with the "Big 3," Artillery Skills Proficiency Tests, and safety certifications, culminating with Table XV battery live-fire qualification. The battalion conducted

55 unit training assemblies throughout the training year finishing with a three-week annual training period, the eXportable Combat Training Capability Exercise (XCTC) at Fort Drum, N.Y. During XCTC and through completion of artillery tables platoons executed FA tactical movement on situational training exercise (STX) lanes and battery defense. Our focus was on survivability.

The training was intense and realistic with an opposition force and observer controller cadre that pushed us to conduct survivability moves daily throughout the area of operations. We conducted a series of artillery air assault raids with our M777 and M119 howitzers using Chinook-47 and Blackhawk helicopters, supported by the Pennsylvania and Connecticut National Guard. As a battalion we fired over 1,200 rounds of mixed munitions both day and night in support of the entire 86th IBCT maneuver STX lanes using embedded fire support teams to assist in the incorporation of Fires. We were able to do so seamlessly as throughout the training year our 13F's were tasked (in some cases in addition to their regular IDT schedule) to conduct fire support missions in support of the 86th IBCT. Forward observer teams traveled all over the country to places like Fort Carson, Colo.; Wyoming; Maine; New York; New Haven, Conn.; Fort Dix, N.J.; Vermont; and Fort Knox, Ky. just to name a few.

The aggressive nature of our training was important as we rapidly change the principles of how we fight from a forward operating base-like mentality to a near-peer adversary and a shoot, move, and communicate mindset. From a training perspective we have generated lethality in this battalion which has never been seen before. Our very own Colonial Battery was lauded by civilian technical advisors and support teams as a "unit worthy to be placed against ANY battery in the Army, Army National Guard, Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve."

Each firing battery, the Forward Support Company and the Headquarters Battery have dramatically improved capabilities, have identified strengths and weaknesses and continue to sharpen their craft.

While the training has been grand and nonstop, it is important to highlight the battalion's mission and role in the domestic setting and our support within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts this year alone, support that has been nothing short of extraordinary. In addition to our field artillery tasks we participated in multiple state active duty missions, in support and relief efforts, during blizzards, hurricanes, micro bursts and most recently a series of gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley that rocked the state of Massachusetts to its core, drawing national attention.* We were a focal point in the Salem Muster where we gather each year on the Salem Commons, to commemorate the militia's first assembly in 1636.

We sent Soldiers to Fort Polk, La., to act as observer controllers, and supported not one, but two

major joint operations exercises within the State in Regional Cooperation (a multi-national joint exercise), and Vigilant Guard (a natural disaster response exercise). We conducted over 50 military support missions ranging from static displays, Veterans Day, 4th of July, Memorial Day parades, to ceremonial howitzer salutes such as rendering honors to the USS Constitution.

USS Constitution, also known as Old Ironsides, is a wooden-hulled, three-masted heavy frigate of the United States Navy named by President George Washington after the United States Constitution. She is the world's oldest commissioned naval vessel still afloat. Currently based at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston. Several times a year the USS Constitution sails out of the harbor to stretch her legs where the 1-101st Field Artillery ceremonial cannon crew renders honors in the form of a howitzer salute. The ship returns a salute of her own before proceeding back to the harbor.

In more solemn occasions, over the past year it was our esteemed privilege to provide ceremonial howitzer honors for two retired general officers to include the former Adjutant General of Massachusetts, father of the current Adjutant General of Massachusetts, Maj. Gen. Gary Keefe. In honor of our active duty counterpart and the Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division (past and present) we conducted a rededication at Mount Wachusett in Princeton, Mass. Closer to home we rededicated a local armory in Quincy, Mass., to a fallen 1-101st Field Artillery Regiment Soldier, Sgt. Michael Kelly, first Massachusetts Army National Guard Soldier to be killed in action while serving in Iraq.

To say the least, it has been an extremely busy year for our regiment, yet we remained steadfast and focused on our objective and will continue to do so. The *Warlords* will not rest on our laurels as we enter FY19. This will be another high op-tempo year with Joint Readiness Training Center, 55 plus multiple unit training assemblies and three to four weeks of annual training. As the 1-101st FA prepares for TY-19 and all that it brings with the focused readiness unit designation, a JRTC rotation, and numerous AUP training events with the 86th IBCT and 10th Mountain Division, we reflect back on our extraordinary success and remind our Soldiers and their family members they are appreciated for their work, sacrifice, and dedication to this great battalion, the Massachusetts Army National Guard, and the United States Army. *Rise Up!*

The 1-101st FAR participated in a critically important State Active Duty mission this fall in Support of Operation Lawrence Relief after the Sept. 13, 2018, excessive pressure in natural gas lines caused a series of explosions and fires occurred in as many as 40 homes, with over 80 individual fires, in the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts towns of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover. One person was killed and 30,000 were forced to evacuate their homes.

This operation provided residents with electric burners and space heaters handed out by Soldiers as temporary relief from lack of natural gas.

Michigan Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, Sudden Death

The 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Sudden Death Battalion*, continued to increase its lethality during the 2017/2018 training years. The battalion endured several calendar changes, remaining flexible while planning to accomplish our mission essential training and fill our Army Early Response Force (AERF) role. Once relieved of AERF requirements the *Sudden Death Battalion* switched focus to planning for Exercise Northern Strike 2018 (NS18) and beyond.

During NS18, the *Sudden Death Battalion* conducted an 11-day field training exercise with 1st Army evaluating all planned training objectives with the 197th Field Artillery Brigade. All available M142 (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) launchers qualified on Artillery Table XII and fired over County Road 612 for the first time. This holds high significance in the Michigan Army National Guard in that more training space has now been made available for HIMARS to live fire at Camp Grayling, Mich. During the LFX, the Soldiers in the battalion had the unique opportunity of meeting Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel Dailey, and he presented several coins of excellence to our young leaders. As a rite of passage, Soldiers from A Battery fired Dailey's patrol cap off of the launcher and are sending it back to him as a memento of his time with the Gators.

In order to foster healthy competition within the battalion, the inaugural "launcher pull" for the Olympia Cup was conducted on the Camp Grayling parade field and the B Battery, Bulldogs, took the trophy back to Bay City Armory.

In June of 2018 the 1-182nd FAR conducted a battalion change of command, welcoming Lt. Col.

Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment had the unique opportunity of meeting Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel Dailey, and he presented several coins of excellence to our young leaders. (Courtesy photo)



Jeff Austhof and bidding farewell to Lt. Col. Greg Cooper. As a command team we have planned a demanding 2019 training year and will accomplish training objectives never before achieved by the battalion. During Northern Strike 2019 the 1-182nd FAR will provide live and constructive Fires qualifying up to Artillery Table XV with the 142nd FAB. Additionally we will conduct HIMARS Rapid Infiltration missions into the Upper Peninsula to support the constructive deep Fires fight. The 1-182nd FAR has taken the lessons learned from its 2016 deployment and are building upon the readiness and training in the event we are called up again.

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1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Lions

The 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, *Red Lions*, continued to maintain a high-operational tempo throughout 2018. The Soldiers of the 1-119th FAR continued training and preparations to answer the call domestically and in response to contingencies around the world. These efforts to remain a perennial organization and deliver devastating effects on the battlefield were easily observed through the robust training plans.

Annual Training 2018 was the culminating training event for C Battery and Forward Support Company of the *Red Lion Battalion*. Soldiers and sections were challenged to meet qualifications standards in both howitzers and crew-served weapons. These skills were demonstrated by C Battery executing howitzer direct-fire ranges. The Soldiers of C Battery were motivated seeing first-hand the effects of a 155 mm round slamming into armored threats. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and FSC were submersed in a decisive action training environment. The HHB and FSC Soldiers were tested when the Combat Trains Command Post was attacked by opposing forces (OPFOR) employing indirect Fires and direct Fires. The resulting mass-casualty event involved multiple medical evacuations by air and ground. All battalion command post sections exercised their battle drills in response to this attack. The battalion met training objectives in all weapon systems and proved they are ready to receive the call to action.

A Battery and B Battery were tasked to provide OPFOR in support of two Joint Readiness Training Center rotations. During these rotations, the Soldiers of the 1-119th FAR demonstrated tactical soundness and flexibility. They provided a near-peer adversary in command and control and lethality. This caliber of OPFOR provided stress and challenges to the Blue Force which ultimately provided a solid understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.

The 1-119 FAR assumed the additional role of ready reaction force for the state of Michigan. In doing so, the *Red Lion Battalion* remains ready to answer the call in support of the governor of the state



Soldiers of Forward Support Company, 119th Field Artillery conduct medical evacuation training. Pfc. Andrew Wells, FSC/119 FA, was MEDEVAC'd by 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment Michigan Army National Guard June 10, 2018, utilizing Special Equipment Hoist to evacuate from the pick-up site. (Sgt 1st Class Terry Pickett/U.S. Army)

of Michigan in direct support to civil authorities for a myriad of tasks.

The 1-119th FAR maintains strong bonds with our Latvia Ground Forces counterparts, continuing to sustain a cooperation through the U.S. State Partnership Program. Members of the 1-119th FAR participated in a series of Fires capabilities workshops with the goal to cultivate a sustainable Fires warfighting function within the Latvian ground forces.

The batteries and Forward Support Company were busy throughout this time supporting their communities in numerous recruiting and retention events.

Moving forward under the leadership of Lt. Col. Matthew LeaTrea and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Hahn, the *Red Lion Battalion* will continue to be a “go-to” organization the Michigan National Guard can trust to answer the call and deliver results.



The guardsman in 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery prepare for their battalion fire mission. (Spc. Arielle Lugtu/U.S. Army)

Minnesota Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment

With the Sustainable Readiness Model enacted for 2018, the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment utilized Prepare Year 1 (PY1) to establish requirements for direct support to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team.

PY1 brought us the ability to focus on our artillery proficiency skills at Camp Ripley, Minn., under a newly established partnership with 1st Army Training Division's 2nd Battalion, 307th Field Artillery. Primary focus for the training year was the conduct of Field Artillery Tables I-V in the first through third quarters, FA Table VI in the third quarter and the battalion's culminating training event (CTE) of a Table XII lane during fourth quarter. The unit also maintained focus on personnel and readiness unit status report ratings with quarterly medical/dental events and a minimum of 25 percent of designated training time planned for maintenance of our vehicles and equipment.

During the CTE, 1-125th FA fired 1,476 rounds in support of qualifying 17 Paladin crews through Table VI and conduct of howitzer/fire direction center Table XI training lanes. The battalion also conducted collective training in support of mission essential task list requirements for the combat training command post, field trains command post, six firing platoons, six fire direction centers, 10 Bradley Fires support crews, four Q50 radar sections, one Q36 radar section and new equipment training for the Q53 radar. Batteries conducted lanes training on various tasks to include battery defense, react to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive attack, react to indirect attack, logistical release points and react to ambush, as well as battery mass casualty events including a CH47 medical evacuation.

In preparation for Prepare Year 2 in 2019 with an Exportable Combat Training Center rotation at Fort Hood, Texas, the battalion attended a Concept Development Conference. The conference provided

opportunities to build training plans and integrate Fires with brigade maneuver elements as well as coordinate logistical preparations with Fort Hood.

With a constant focus on decisive action, the 1-125th FA, enabled by a vigilant training battalion in 2-307th FA, stands to meet all PY2 requirements in 2019 with a combat training center rotation scheduled at National Training Center in 2020.

1st Battalion 151st Field Artillery, Thunder

From Jan. 25 to Feb. 5, 2018, Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery joined up with other units in support of Task Force Legion of Thunder. Soldiers provided support and assistance to local and federal law enforcement agencies in and around the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metropolitan area in support of Super Bowl LII at U.S. Bank Stadium. The task force, consisting of 454 personnel, was responsible for 14 different mission sets. The Minnesota Army National Guard was a major contributing factor to the success of the event and the safety of the fans.

From May 13 to May 30, 2018, Soldiers from the battalion operations section supported the 34th Infantry Division Warfighter held in Camp Atterbury, Ind. Soldiers from the battalion operated in different echelons including: the support area command post Fires cell, the division Fires cell and the response cell of 1st Brigade. The event was considered a great success and the Soldiers that participated were awarded a coin from Brig. Gen. Charles Kemper.

The battalion also served as the sponsoring National Guard organization for the 2018 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift. Service member employers and supporters of the Minnesota Army National Guard received CH-47 flights from Owatonna, Minn., and Alexandria, Minn., to the Fagen Fighters Museum located in Granite Falls, Minn.

Second Lt. David Henry Ballard, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, discusses operations with a Bloomington Police Department Officer at the Mall of America in support of Super Bowl 52 security operations. Ballard and his team were tasked with providing security to the participating teams at their hotels near the Mall of America in Bloomington Minn. (Sgt. Luther Talks/U.S. Army)



Employers local to the 1st Battalion, 151st FA area of operations received 30-minute flights from the museum to Montevideo and back. The employers were treated to lunch and refreshments and visited the museum free of charge. Fulltime staff members of the battalion manned an M777A2 static display and fielded questions from the civilian attendees. The event was considered to be a great success and the 1-151st FA has been requested to support the event on an annual basis in the future.

From Sept. 26 to Oct. 10, 2018, the battalion sent four Soldiers to Camp Atterbury, to support 115th Field Artillery Brigade at Warfighter Exercise 19-1. As part of the response cell, Thunder Soldiers executed hundreds of fire missions and provided valuable fire direction center knowledge on cannon artillery. Calls for fire were received and processed from numerous maneuver brigades under 38th Infantry Division to include air assets. Staff Sgt. Daryl James Broesder, A Battery, 1-151 FA, was one of five Soldiers in the division to be recognized by the external evaluation team for his excellence.

Mississippi Army National Guard 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, Dragons

After an aggressive training year in 2017, including a National Training Center rotation, the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery (a direct support FA unit to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team) mobilized in early 2018 to support Operation Spartan Shield (OSS).

The battalion's post-mobilization training included a rigorous 90-day field exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas. The exercise enabled the 2-114th FA to focus on crew-level gunnery during the first month. The second month of training introduced scenario-driven

Soldiers of F Company, 106th Brigade Support Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, distribute ammunition in the Kuwaiti desert in support of a live-fire exercise. (Courtesy photo)



en, platoon-level tables that were observed and controlled by 1st Army observer, controller/trainers. The final month of training included battery and battalion-level scenarios that exercised not only the cannon batteries, but also all target acquisition assets, fire support, counter-fire cell, and the FA battalion staff. Additionally, 2-114th FA supported four fire control exercises, and two combined arms live-fire exercises at Fort Bliss.

Upon completion of all training gates at Fort Bliss, the *Dragon Battalion* deployed to Kuwait with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team to support the OSS mission. From there, the 2-114th FA deployed batteries to conduct partnership exercises such as Operation Bright Star in Egypt, Operation Iron Union in United Arab Emirates, and Operation Desert Observer in Kuwait. These exercises included complex live-fire scenarios shared with host-nation land forces as part of U.S. Army Central and Central Command's ongoing efforts to increase partnership capacity in the region.

Additionally, the *Dragon Battalion* deployed Soldiers to multiple locations in the CENTCOM area of operations in support of OSS and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). The 2-114th FA conducted an array of dynamic Fires-centric missions including information collection through target acquisition in the fight against ISIS; targeting process advising and collateral damage assessment; and security force protection operations at multiple strategic locations across the OIR-S and OIR-I areas.

The 2-114th FA *Dragon Battalion* is a direct support M109A6 battalion assigned to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi Army National Guard. The *Dragon Battalion* is commanded by Lt. Col. Rodney Bowman and Command Sgt. Maj. Lonnie Griffin. *Steel Rain!!*

🐦 twitter.com/2114fa

📘 facebook.com/2114thFA/

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

During 2018, the 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment focused on achieving all objectives of comprehensive unit level readiness while increasing artillery proficiency in delivering accurate and timely Fires.

In June, the battalion deployed to Fort Carson, Colo., via rail and fixed-wing aircraft for annual training. The battalion fired 1,105 rounds to include high explosive, smoke, white phosphorous and illumination missions that culminated with Table XVIII certification and a battalion continuous smoke mission. The battalion also conducted a reenlistment ceremony where 15 Soldiers took the Oath of Enlistment on top of Observation Post Hot.

Notable achievements this year include the announcement of Battery A winning the 2017 Alexander Hamilton Award, earning recognition as the best field artillery battery in the entire Army Na-

tional Guard, and Headquarters, Headquarters Battery winning the Region V Supply Excellence Award where the unit is now a semifinalist for the Chief of Staff of the Army's Supply Excellence Award.

The battalion had numerous accomplishments in 2018, and looks to continue the trend in 2019.

New Hampshire National Guard

197th Field Artillery Brigade

The 197th Field Artillery Brigade, New Hampshire National Guard, deployed to Camp Grayling, Mich., as the main training audience for Northern Strike 2018 (NS18). In preparation for NS18, the 197th *Granite Thunder Brigade* worked closely with Michigan National Guard planners to transition from a traditionally maneuver-focused to Fires-centric exercise that challenged the 197th FA Brigade to conduct mission command and synchronize joint Fires in a decisive action/major combat operations environment. In this scenario, the 197th FA Brigade fought as a heavy artillery brigade with three rocket battalions (1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, Michigan Army National Guard; 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery, New Hampshire Army National Guard; and 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery South Dakota Army National Guard) and two cannon battalions (1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery, Rhode Island National Guard; and 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery, West Virginia Army National Guard), with the 3643rd Brigade Support Battalion (New Hampshire Army National Guard) providing support.

The 197th FA Brigade worked closely with Army, Air Force and Marine elements to synchronize airspace clearance and Fires in this complex environment while maintaining mission command during multiple brigade tactical operations center (TOC) movements. In addition, the brigade's target acquisition platoon employed the Q-53 Radar to accurately track live rockets, demonstrating this capability to

Camp Grayling leadership as an acceptable live-fire observation method. The 197th *Granite Thunder Brigade* will continue to refine its mission command, joint synchronization and expeditionary TOC tasks from Northern Strike 18 when it participates in Dynamic Front 19 in Grafenwoehr, Germany, in March 2019.

3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, Granite Steel

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment continued to lead the way in High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) operations. We began the year sending some of our best and brightest to serve as adjunct instructors at the Royal Canadian Field Artillery School for a portion of their Captain's Career Course. That was followed by planning and executing a communications exercise for all New Hampshire units within the 197th Field Artillery Brigade, which greatly improved our high frequency communications knowledge and capability. Our battalion fire direction center supported XVIII Airborne Corps at Warfighters Exercise 18-4, providing digital fire mission capability to our British partners.

Annual training consisted of participating in Northern Strike 18 at Camp Grayling, Mich. There, the battalion conducted its external evaluation in a rigorous joint training event that included HIMARS rapid infiltration flights, multiple chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive training events and opposing force attacks which culminated in night live-fire qualifications.

New Jersey Army National Guard 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment

The 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment – *the First New Jersey Artillery* – spent 2018 focusing on field artillery core competencies and the battalion's mission essential task list. Spring was filled with howitzer, fire direction center, fire support and ra-

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery, fire a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a live-fire raid during Exercise Northern Strike at Camp Grayling, Mich., Aug.2018. (Courtesy photo)



dar Tables I-VI, a staff exercise, and a rocket, artillery, mortar-warn new equipment testing which set the battalion up for later success.

The battalion continued to exercise the full sensor-to-shooter digital loop, while working to reestablish tactical operations center operations in just a few hours after a jump. The training year culminated with Artillery Table XIII, as part of a 72-hour live-fire exercise at Fort Drum, N.Y.

À Outrance – To the utmost!

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**New York National Guard
1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment,
Washington Greys**

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, *Washington Greys*, executed a rigorous training year focused on composite conversion, howitzer fielding and fire support reintegration. Soldiers remained vigilant, motivated and capable, proving again that the battalion is *Ready and Faithful*.

The battalion doubled in size under the new modified table of organization and equipment, officially standing up C Battery. The firing batteries focused on retention and individual readiness prior to howitzer fielding, allowing the battalion to achieve more than 85 percent manning by the end of the fiscal year. During annual training, the batteries executed M119A3 and M777A2 new equipment fielding/new equipment training. The training culminated with the battalion's first M777A2 round being fired by Pvt. 1st Class Charlie Brown, a 94-year-old World War II veteran of the battalion's march across Europe. His service from Utah Beach to Magdeburg, Germany, is inspiring, and he has continued to help preserve unit history. Brown has been a major force in the battalion's recruiting and retention efforts. Brown will receive a well-deserved induction into the Ancient Order of St. Barbara this year.

Headquarters Battery improved proficiency in establishing and executing mission command while certifying its fire direction and radar sections. The battery's biggest challenge came in the standing up of the fire support detachment and the reintegration of 13F personnel back into the battalion. By executing consolidated certification events, the unit was able to provide certified fire supporters to maneuver units from Buffalo, N.Y., to Boston, Mass. The unit partnered with the 174th Air Support Operations Squadron joint forward observer recertification, culminating in live air-to-ground close-air-support training.

The battalion's forward support company, F Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, has performed well above standard. The company provided seamless sustainment to all batteries, ensuring that they achieved and maintained mission readiness. Through tireless tactical training, the mess section won the state-level Phillip A. Connelly Cup for Excellence in Army Food Service. The mess section is currently preparing for regionals. These Soldiers



Charles Brown talks with Soldiers of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery after firing the unit's first M777A2 round as part new equipment training May 23, 2018, at Fort Drum, N.Y. (Capt. Steve Kerr/U.S. Army)

continue to play a critical role in the battalion's success.

Ready and Faithful!

**North Carolina Army National Guard
1st Battalion, 139th Field Artillery Regional
Training Institute, Steel Dragons**

Instructors from the 1st Battalion, 139th Regional Training Institution, *Steel Dragons*, located at Fort Bragg, N.C., successfully conducted another year of training. They instructed 13B, 13F, 13J, and 13M 10, 30 and 40 level courses in 2018 for a total of 20 classes. This resulted in 280 artillerymen successfully trained and graduated with a 97 percent passing rate for all courses. There were a total of 576 155 mm and 260 105 mm projectiles fired and observed safely.

Redlegs from all over the world and all Army contingencies attended courses at the 1-139th RTI to receive the technical, tactical and procedures for the use of fire support systems in combat. Each student is sent back to their unit ready to destroy, neutralize or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket and missile fire and to help integrate all lethal and nonlethal fire support assets into combined arms operations.



The 1st Battalion, 139th Field Artillery Training Battalion guidon is carried by all classes. Here it is flying at the firing point during the 13B30 Class 001-19 Advanced Leaders Course live fire exercise Oct. 29, 2018. (Sgt. 1st Class Dean Joyce/U.S. Army)

**Oklahoma Army National Guard
45th Field Artillery Brigade, Red Thunder**

This proved to be another busy and dynamic training year for the 45th Field Artillery Brigade. Soldiers at every level of the *Red Thunder Brigade* participated in multiple field and command post exercises that tested their individual Soldier skills and honed their field artillery craft, culminating in a successful rotation at Warfighter Exercise 18-5 in July 2018.

The brigade headquarters conducted two field exercises at Fort Sill, Okla., in March and April, honing their mission command skills for two subordinate battalions, the 158th Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System), and the 271st Brigade Support Battalion.

Later in the spring, brigade staff participated in a command post exercise (CPX) at Camp Ripley, Minn., as well as a Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The CPX and MDMP Course were part of the robust train-up for WFX 18-5, a complex, continuous command and control exercise at Camp Atterbury Training Center, Ind.

The WFX 18-5 exercise served as the brigade's annual training and presented a unique training opportunity for the FA brigade, allowing the Soldiers to execute the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Infantry Division's artillery mission. The guidance and interaction of working with the 34th ID allowed the brigade to maximize its resources, prioritize capabilities, and apply field artillery training.

In addition to the rigorous train-up for WFX 18-5, Soldiers within the brigade participated in joint training with Air Force loadmasters out of Altus Air Force Base, Okla., to learn the basics of loading and

securing High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and vehicles in a C-17 aircraft.

As the year closed, Soldiers conducted one more field exercise at Fort Sill, and began training on newly fielded Q-50 and Q-53 radar systems to increase their proficiency for real-world missions. Looking to the future, the *Red Thunder Brigade* will continue to train vigorously and increase readiness in anticipation of any mission 2019 brings.

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**Pennsylvania Army National Guard
2nd Battalion, 166th Field Artillery Regiment,
Regional Training Institute, Matadors**

The 2018 training year was incredibly successful for the noncommissioned officers of the 2nd Battalion, 166th Regiment, Regional Training Institute of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. The modular training battalion is comprised primarily of a small group of seasoned 13-series noncommissioned officer instructors. This exemplary group of professionals successfully trained over 450 Soldiers in military occupation specialty-transition (MOS-T), the Advance Leader Course (ALC), the Senior Leader Course (SLC) and several additional skill identifier (ASI) producing courses.

The battalion also executed four field artillery live-fire exercises and delivered over 1,400 rounds safely and accurately. This was all achieved with howitzer sections and forward observers primarily comprised of students attending the courses under the careful oversight and tutelage of the experienced NCO instructors.

The 13F NCO instructors were at the tip of the spear in the Army National Guard's effort to implement and accredit the Joint Fires Observer (JFO)

In heavy rain, 13B instructors from 2nd Battalion, 166th Regiment and Soldiers attending the 13B40 Senior Leaders Course fire the M777A2 howitzer while providing Fires in support of the call for fire event during the Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition hosted by the Pennsylvania Army National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. (Staff Sgt. Rafael Navarro/U.S. Army)



Course; now offered at select RTIs (Wisconsin, Utah and Pennsylvania). At the same time, phase three of the 13F10 MOS-T Course focused on JFO training objectives. Collectively, the execution of these two courses resulted in several Soldiers from active component and Army National Guard receiving the L7 ASI. This JFO effort also strengthened and matured the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's training relationship between the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 148th Air Support Operation Squadron and their tactical air control parties. The battalion was also successful in adding 13F30 ALC and successfully implemented the first iteration of the course.

The 13B instructors continued to deliver multiple iterations of 13B10 MOS-T, 13B30 ALC, and 13B40 SLC courses that each provided the students with in-depth exposure to all three U.S. howitzer platforms (M109A6, M777A2 and M119A3). Most notably, the battalion successfully executed a live-fire exercise during the Army National Guard's National Best Warrior Competition, hosted at Fort Indian-town Gap, Pa., in July. Students from a 13B40 SLC class were integrated with the unit's 13B instructors to comprise howitzer crews that delivered Fires during the competition's call-for-fire event. Fourteen select competitors from different states and of various ranks and MOSs were each provided the opportunity to request a call for fire and receive live high explosive effects under the careful supervision of the 13F instructors.

The battalion continues to aggressively seek opportunities to expand its training capabilities and hone the field artillery competencies of its instructors. This includes participation in multiple new equipment trainings and overseas deployment training exercises. The NCOs of 2nd Battalion, 166th FA remain agile, adaptable and relevant leaders with an undeniable passion for training the future Redleg leaders of the United State Army and Army National Guard.

Rhode Island Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery Regiment, Rhody Redlegs

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery, Rhode Island Army National Guard spent the past year executing an aggressive training plan focused on battalion-level operations. The battalion's first live-fire exercise of the training year in May 2018 exemplified the 1-103rd FA's continued ability to accomplish a variety of training objectives in a relatively short period of time. Over the course of an extended drill weekend, elements of the battalion successfully conducted convoy operations of over 500 miles to and from Camp Ethan Allen, Vt., where they successfully completed Table V certification and Table VI qualifications. In recognition of the battalion's distinguished legacy, members of the 1-103rd FA conducted a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the battalion's service in World War I.



Redlegs from 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery conduct sling-load operations as part of a field artillery raid during Exercise Northern Strike. (Courtesy photo)

The major event of the training year was the battalion's participation in Exercise Northern Strike at Camp Grayling, Mich. The exercise allowed the battalion to work in conjunction with its sister battalions of the 197th Field Artillery Brigade and conduct training with both joint and international forces. Batteries of the 1-103rd FA fired in general support-reinforcing of U.S. Marine Corps maneuver units and in general support of the 197th Brigade, concurrently.

In addition, the battalion successfully executed the first two artillery raids in its history, each time utilizing CH-47 and UH-60 aircraft to transport two howitzers and approximately 40 Soldiers more than 80 miles north of the training area. Once on the ground, Soldiers secured their landing zone, which had previously been cleared of obstacles by Soldiers from the 402nd Engineer Company (U.S. Army Reserve), and conducted dry fire missions against a scenario-based target. Upon completion of the mission, they quickly re-rigged and inspected their howitzers and were subsequently extracted from the area.

In the upcoming year, the battalion will continue to expand its capabilities to conduct sling-load operations and deliver accurate and timely Fires. The training year will culminate in the unit's participation in Exercise Maroon Raider in Gagetown, Canada.

"Play the Game!"

South Dakota Army National Guard 2nd Battalion, 196th Modular Training Regiment

Twelve Soldiers of the Wisconsin, North Carolina, South Dakota, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas Army National Guards graduated from the 13M military occupation specialty – training (MOS-T) course at the 2nd Modular Battalion, 196th Training Regiment (Multiple Launch Rocket System/High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) in April 2018. The 196th Regiment Headquarters and 1st Battalion (Officer Candidate School) is headquartered at Fort Meade in Sturgis, S.D. It is command-



Sgt. Ryan Renon, Wisconsin National Guard, and Pfc. Richard Noom, Michigan National Guard, conduct reload procedures during the hands-on examination of the equipment during the 13M Multiple Launch Rocket System/High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Crewmember Course at the Regional Training Institute in Sioux Falls, S.D., April 14-28, 2018. (Cpt. Becky Linder/U.S Army)

ed by Col. Joseph Eining and Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Konechne. The 2-196th RTI is headquartered in Sioux Falls, S.D., and is commanded by Lt. Col. LeeJay Templeton and Chief Instructor, Master Sgt. Mark Goldammer. The primary missions for the 2-196th RTI in Sioux Falls are 13M MLRS/HIMARS MOS-qualified (MOSQ), 13M30 Advanced Leaders Course and 13M40 Senior Leaders Course, managed by Senior 13M Instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Neal Stratman. Stratman's assistant instructors for the April 2018 course were Sgt. 1st Class Jay Pipes, Staff Sgt. Kurt Jensen, Staff Sgt. Mike Magorian and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Brady of RTI-SD.

The 13M course presents lessons and exercises that allow students hands-on experience to become qualified and skilled crewmembers, increasing training readiness levels of their units and units throughout the Department of Defense. The students grasped the concepts of MLRS and HIMARS operations at the individual and crew levels extremely well and enjoyed the hands-on training that was part of the course. The students also appreciated and were receptive to the hands-on demonstrations and training implemented in the course by the instructors to create critical thinking skills and increase individual physical and mental rigor. In the eyes of the instructors, this class was a success due to the character and proficiency of the class as well as the instructors. The diverse backgrounds, experience, technical and tactical expertise, administrative correctness and logistical soundness created a great learning environment in relation to the understanding of "why" with any task covered, ultimately helping each student understand the 13M operating environment, understanding the intent of all the major individual tasks that lead to end results.

As with every course, this MOS-T course started

with the Preventive maintenance checks and services evaluation rotation on the first day of hands-on vehicle familiarization. The students enjoyed the one-on-one, student and instructor driver's training with both HIMARS and MLRS. The instructors were able to get the students on track to set up a "round-robin" type training with reload points, hide points, fire points, ammo resupply points, ammo holding areas and a simulated battery operations area. The students enjoyed the flow, organization and hands-on time that the instructors were able to provide them. Having all the equipment and weapons systems available created great communication between instructors to self-develop instructional habits as well as have each instructor with assigned tasks during evaluations and repetitious style of training.

As many classes have stated in the past, the students' expectations weren't anywhere near the outcome in reference to what they learned. Like many MOSQ or Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System courses, students are typically under the impression that most courses are a classroom training environment with minimal hands on and some PEs. The students commented that going above and beyond their expectations and learning the amount of hands-on 13M skills as they did added the right ingredient for them to grasp. Class 001-18 enjoyed the course and all 12 students stated that they would go back to their unit to highly recommend the RTI and encourage their units and commands to send their Soldiers to South Dakota to be trained.

The 2-196th RTI 13M instructor, Staff Sgt. Kurt Jensen, received Konechne's coin of excellence for the course's most "Inspirational Soldier" by class nomination. Students nominated Jensen based on his outstanding character, intellect, organization, professionalism and NCO leadership and demeanor. The students said they enjoyed learning from the RTI instructor staff and applauded the manner in which the course was conducted and facilitated.

Texas Army National Guard 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Gunslingers

Service Members of the Texas Army National Guard, 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, *Gunslingers*, responded to the presidential directive to assist the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency in getting "badges back to the border," in April 2018. Texans helping Texas deployed to the edge of the U.S. for Operation Guardian Support (OGS).

Texas shares over 1,200 miles of environmentally diverse border with Mexico, much of it open. To assist with securing the border, troops on OGS act as force multipliers, added eyes and ears. Service members perform non-enforcement duties such as maintenance, vehicle transport, camera operators and administrative tasks at ports of entry in the vehicular secondary inspections area.

Lt. Col. Javier Rosales, *Gunslinger* commander, and more than 300 citizen Soldiers and Airmen are spread from El Paso to Eagle Pass, Texas, as part of the mission that officially was given the green light to continue through 2019.

Unit readiness is paramount to 3-133rd FAR, even while providing assets and capabilities to CBP personnel, Soldiers must train to maintain their basic Soldier skills. Through comprehensive readiness action plans, Soldiers can train at or near their designated CBP locations.

Field artillery Soldiers require hands on training with their actual weapon to stay sharp. A book cannot duplicate muscle memory or be a surrogate for esprit de corps. Having access to the expansive McGregor ranges just west of El Paso is one marked advantage of deploying in or near their duty station.

Community involvement for National Guard units and members is quite different from their active duty counterparts because the citizen Soldier still retains one foot on that civilian side of their life. The importance of communication and support between the Guardsmen and the local community cannot be emphasized enough.

Rosales understands the dynamics of, and the need for, strong relationships. Relationships that go beyond the key leaders of a city and get to the understanding of the neighbors. Local law enforcement officers, firemen and nurses as well as school teachers, plumbers or store clerks have ties back to the armory and the citizen Soldiers within it.

Rosales and the command staff of the 3-133rd FAR have systematically held or attended over 20 key leader engagements from CBP officials and city mayors to judges, including police and fire department leaderships and members of the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Throughout the *Gunslinger's* 600-mile area of

Texas Guardsmen from El Paso's 3rd Battalion, 133 Field Artillery Regiment support firearms safety at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol Del Rio sector's only indoor weapons range at the Comstock station. (Courtesy photo)



operation, service members have and will continue, supporting the numerous community events like parades and community clean-up projects. The bond between community and Service members will only strengthen from their participation in OGS and increased accessibility.

[facebook.com/3-133-Field-Artillery-750158378390536/](https://www.facebook.com/3-133-Field-Artillery-750158378390536/)

4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Deepstrike

Redlegs from the 4th Battalion, 133d Field Artillery Regiment, *Deepstrike*, remained steadfast in providing predictive and accurate Fires, and defense to civilian authorities in support of the 45th Fires Brigade, Texas Army National Guard, and the state of Texas.

Four-133rd FAR deployed 187 Soldiers to various locations along the Gulf Coast to help Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. Missions varied from operating point of distribution sites, dispensing bottled water and other non-perishable subsistence to civilians, to assisting in search and rescue efforts, to operating a logistical node providing rest, recovery and refit to other National Guard elements moving forward into the affected areas.

Also this year, the battalion was identified as a focused readiness unit which required an external evaluation conducted by First Army to validate our ability to perform our wartime mission. In July we completed a 21 day scenario-driven exercise culmi-

Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 133d Field Artillery Regiment help displaced civilians during Hurricane Harvey. (Courtesy photo)



nating in Table XVIII certification and we received an external evaluation from 2nd Battalion, 305th Field Artillery.

🔗 twitter.com/deepstrike_4133

Utah Army National Guard

65th Field Artillery Brigade, America's Thunder

Nearly 130 Soldiers of the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, *America's Thunder*, are spread out over 700 miles in the Central Command area of responsibility supporting three operations, to include Operation Spartan Shield, Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. In Operation Spartan Shield, the brigade serves as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for U.S. Army Central. The 65th FA Brigade employs the all-weather, all-purpose High Mobility Artillery Rocket System platform and works to build field artillery capacity with eight Middle Eastern partner nations. The brigade participates in bilateral and multilateral exercises with host nations to include Exercise Bright Star 2018 in Egypt, Exercise Lion Flight and Exercise Black Oryx in Jordan and Exercise Tropic Thunder in the United Arab Emirates. *America's Thunder* also conducts subject matter exchanges and senior leader engagements with their Middle Eastern field artillery counterparts. In Operation Inherent Resolve and Freedom's Sentinel, the brigade provides Fires support and target acquisition assets to defeat ISIS and counter other violent actors in the region, set-

A Q-53 radar with the 65th Field Artillery Brigade's Target Acquisition Platoon scans to determine the point of origin of enemy indirect fire (IDF) during Operation Inherent Resolve, Aug. 14, 2018. Detection of IDF serves as an early warning against attack, and also provides coalition forces counter fire capabilities. Combined Joint Task Force-OIR works by, with, and through partner forces to defeat ISIS in designated areas of Iraq and Syria, and sets conditions for follow-on operations to increase regional stability. (Staff Sgt. Jacob Roy/U.S. Army)



Soldiers with A Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment and the Jordanian Army's 29th Royal High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Battalion load a HIMARS onto a C-17 Globemaster III for a rapid deployment during Lion Flight, a bilateral live-fire training exercise on July 23, 2018. (Staff Sgt. Ashley Clingerman/U.S. Air Force)

ting conditions for follow-on operations to create regional stability.

📘 facebook.com/65FAB/

🔗 twitter.com/65thFA_BDE.

1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery

The 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery operated as a field artillery brigade in support of Yama Sakura providing counter-fire operations for the 17th Field Artillery Brigade. In April 2018, the battalion also participated in Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint (18-72) in Coronado, Calif., again operating as a brigade headquarters.

In June, the battalion deployed approximately 100 Soldiers of E Battery in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. This was the second rotational deployment for the battalion. In July the battalion welcomed home approximately 100 Soldiers from D Battery from the same operation. The battalion has trained hard in preparation for an external evaluation (EXEVAL) of their Homeland Response Force requirements (decontamination and command and control) including several collective training events, simulating nuclear and chemical attacks. The EXEVAL will take place in the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2019.

2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Golden Boys, Triple Deuce

The *Golden Boys* of southern Utah enhanced technical and tactical proficiency, gaining joint warfighting experience through a robust 2018 training year. In June, the *Triple Deuce Redlegs* fired 2,080 rounds in support of Operation Rocketman, the battalion's dynamic annual training event, at Dugway Proving Grounds. The exercise included robust and dynamic opposition forces injects and external evaluations from 3rd Battalion, 358th Field Artillery. Joint training opportunities included supporting the U.S. Navy



in Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint in Coronado, Calif., as well as joint service joint terminal attack controllers in the Air Force driven, Operation Violet Storm in Dugway, Utah. *Triple Deuce* cannoneers provided live suppression of enemy air defenses and supported myriad close air support missions in the first live air-to-ground ordinance drops at Dugway Proving Grounds in decades.

In October, battalion leadership was invited to participate in a re-dedication ceremony of the U.S. Soldier Memorial in Gapyeong County, South Korea. The memorial is near where A Battery and Headquarters, Headquarters, Battery were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and the moniker, the *Golden Boys*, for their heroic efforts on May 26, 1951. Utah and Korean citizens still refer to this day as the "Miracle of Gapyeong." November found a large contingent of the *Triple Deuce* in Fort Bliss, Texas, supporting 1st Armored Division in Warfighter Exercise 19-2. Many of the *Golden Boy* artillerymen will support Yama Sakura in Japan and Fort Lewis, Wash., in December of 2018. Second Battalion, 222nd FA stands ready to serve our state and nation in any way required.

5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery

A Battery, *Outlaws*, of 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, North Carolina Army National Guard conducted training throughout 2018 to prepare for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Led by Capt. Earle Pope and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Richards, the battery fired a combined 76 rockets over the course of two separate training events, certifying 14 crews in the process. The battery pushed itself physically and mentally operating at night and under high-stress conditions within a limited timeframe. A Battery successfully completed pre-deployment training and certification at Fort Pickett, Va., which qualified the unit on all required weapons and basic Soldier skills prior to mobilizing in January of 2019. The battery has exceeded expectations in every event and has proven their combat readiness time and again.

B Battery, *Battle Axes*, of 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, North Carolina Army National Guard spent 2018 preparing to mobilize in support of Operation

Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield out of Kuwait. Led by Capt. Adam Paschal and 1st Sgt. Jason Nichols, they mobilized Soldiers from all of the battalion's organic elements and the 732nd Forward Support Company to achieve the assigned mission strength of 120 Soldiers, consisting of 12 different military occupational specialties. They executed two live fire exercises by firing over 60 rockets in preparation for their combat mission in April at Fort Bragg, N.C., and September at Fort Bliss, Texas. They mobilized through Fort Bliss, Texas, and deployed 100 percent of the Soldiers they brought with them. The battery deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility, using air and sea transportation. The battery was reunited in country with the 65th Field Artillery Brigade two years after executing a brigade exercise in Camp Guernsey, Wyo., and was attached to 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, Wisconsin Army National Guard. Upon assuming its mission, 5th Battalion executed its first combat fire mission against ISIS in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The battery is tasked to deter aggression in the Middle East and conduct Theater Security Cooperation activities with the Kuwaiti Land Forces.

Virginia Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, Thunder

The *Thunder Battalion*, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, executed an aggressive training plan to continue to develop their proficiency in composite field artillery battalion operations to exceed expectations in any assigned federal or state mission. In January, the battalion supported the Special Operations Command at Camp Shelby, Miss., during Operation Jaded Thunder with organic joint Fires observers, a fire direction center and two howitzer sections.

In February, the battalion worked with Fort Lee to hold a Sling Load Inspector Course at Camp Pendleton, Va. The training facilitated loading M777A2s and a FTMV onto CH-47s and M119A3s and a HMMWV onto UH-60s in April and again in August during annual training.

In July, Soldiers from the *Thunder Battalion* participated in the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion 222nd Field Artillery take a battalion photo during annual training at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah, June 12, 2018. (Courtesy photo)





Soldiers from B Battery, 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery fire a Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. (Courtesy photo)

Stonewall Brigade War Fighter Exercise at Fort Indian Town Gap, Pa. The battalion was recognized for firing more missions and dropping more steel than any other battalion supporting a warfighter in over three years.

The battalion continued its partnership with the 82nd Infantry Division Artillery as part of the U.S. Army's Total Force Partnership Program. This relationship culminated with the *Thunder Battalion's* annual training at Fort Bragg, N.C., in August 2018. The battalion conducted joint training with section-level certification, air raids and fielding/firing Precision Guided Mmunition Kits. Throughout the year, the battalion prepared and mobilized Soldiers along with specialized equipment in support of state active duty for multiple weather events to include winter storms and hurricanes.

**Washington Army National Guard
2nd Battalion 146th Field Artillery, Vikings**

Redlegs of 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, *Vikings*, completed a rigorous training year in preparation for Exportable Combat Training Capability training in 2019 and rotation to the National Training Center in 2020. Second-146th FA completed its conversion from the M109A6 to the M777A2 in 2017, finalizing the shift from a self-propelled to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Additionally, in conjunction with the M777A2 fielding, 2-146th FA fielded and fired Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) equipped rounds. This marked the *Vikings* as not only the first

National Guard unit to shoot PGK, but also the first unit in the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery to do so.

During 2018, 2-146th FA conducted annual training at Yakima Training Center, Wah., where they safely fired over 1,200 rounds, leading to the successful completion of two Table VI's and five Table XII's. In addition, the training period allowed the *Vikings* to fully exercise shoot, move and communicate with their new equipment outside of the new equipment fielding setting. In another first for the battalion, they conducted sling-load and aerial movement operations with their M777A2s. Second-146th FA was also identified as an Associated Unit Pilot Program unit and worked in concert with 2nd Infantry Division DIVARTY, participating in a DIVARTY live-fire exercise alongside two active duty battalions: 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, and 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery. Second ID DIVARTY also provided master gunners to facilitate and refine the *Vikings'* training, greatly improving the battalion across the board. Second-146th FA stands poised for another year of tough training, laying the groundwork for eventual success at NTC.

[f facebook.com/groups/545636648814460/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/545636648814460/)

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

Redlegs from the 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, *Red Fox*, worked diligently to provide accurate fires for the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Red Arrow, and stand ready to support the people of Wisconsin in times of need.

The firing season for the *Red Fox* Battalion began in April with a live fire exercise at Ft. McCoy, Wis, certifying on Table VI. We continued our tables into May and June while also preparing for our multi-day, 450-mile convoy to Camp Grayling, Mich., for our eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC). The convoy began at each unit's armory, driving

Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery and B Battery, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment slingload an M777 onto a CH-47 April 7, 2018 at Fort Pickett, Va. (Lt. Col. Shawn Talmadge/U.S. Army)



through central and northern Wisconsin, crossing into Michigan via the Upper Peninsula, and arriving at Camp Grayling for in-processing. After reception, staging, onward-movement, and integration, we immediately began our training cycle while being supervised by observer/controller trainers from 1st Army.

We began our XCTC certifying new crews on tables V-VI as 42 Soldiers, including several of the battalion's experienced chiefs, volunteered and were selected for the mobilization of our sister battalion, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, *Dark Skies Battalion*, earlier in the year. Upon completion of our Table VI qualifications, we completed tables VII-XII and transitioned into scenario-driven, collective training in order to integrate Fires into the brigade plan. The battalion began defensive operations focusing on platoon survivability, eventually transitioning to hasty and then deliberate defense while being tested by opposing forces, learning how to effectively defend firing points from enemy dismounts. As the brigade plan changed to offensive operations, the focus shifted to mobility and ensuring *Red Arrow* maneuver elements could be supported at all times by the guns of the *Red Fox* Battalion. The exercise culminated in full digital sensor-to-shooter missions, with the brigade commander calling for fire through unmanned aerial system assets down to the battery level. Upon completion of the brigade mission, the battalion was able to have each certified crew rotate through the direct fire range. This was the first time the battalion had completed a direct fire range in a decade and allowed our 13Bs and 13Js to see the destructive force of their cannons up close. XCTC ended with the entire brigade celebrating "Red Arrow Day" in honor of the activation of the 32nd Division in July of 1917.

The *Red Fox* Battalion's observers spent their field time with the infantry and cavalry units of the *Red*

Soldiers in 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery conduct operations with the , 168th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion) Washington Army National Guard at the Yakima Training Center, in June 2018. (Capt. Eric Flowers/U.S. Army)



Arrow, calling both artillery and mortar missions. The observers have also begun to solidify their joint Fires observer skills, attending both JFO qualification and recertification courses at Fort McCoy, Wis., as well as calling in aircraft at Hardwood Air-to-Ground Weapons Range.

At the end of the training year, the weather in Wisconsin worsened as many areas faced weeks of heavy rains that caused flash floods, closing roads and causing property damage. Gov. Scott Walker declared a state of emergency and The Wisconsin Army National Guard, eager to provide assistance, began domestic operations. Members of C Battery out of Oconomowoc, Wis., were the first to respond, assisting in sandbagging operations near the capital city of Madison. As the rain continued, more Soldiers from the *Red Fox* Battalion volunteered to assist in flood relief. Trucks normally used for artillery rounds were instead filled with sandbags and used to traverse roads closed to smaller vehicles. The response helped limit road closure in the area and protected both public and private property from damage. The ability and willingness of the Soldiers in the *Red Fox* Battalion to rapidly prepare and deploy in the support of others truly exemplifies the battalion's motto, *Eager to Assist*.

1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment

Soldiers of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), also known as the *Dark Skies Battalion*, received notification of sourcing in late 2017 for a full modification table of organization and equipment deployment to U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., the 1-121st FAR and the 108th Forward Support Company conducted premobilization training at home station armories, Marseilles Training Center, Ill., and post-mobilization training requirements at Fort Bliss, Texas. First-121st FAR and the 108th Forward Support Company deployed in August 2018, with over 350 Soldiers in order to provide precision rocket and missile Fires in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Free-

Soldiers of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery perform an at my command fire mission in July 2018 at Grayling, Mich. (Sgt. Korey Kuehn/U.S. Army)



dom Sentinel with simultaneous Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) activities throughout Operation Spartan Shield.

Once deployed, the battalion's overall area of operations spanned five countries and over 13 locations. Led by Lt. Col. Paul Gapinski and Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Grundel, the *Dark Skies Battalion* received two additional batteries via attachment: B Battery, 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment (HIMARS) from the North Carolina Army National Guard and E Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment (155 mm SP) from the Utah Army National Guard. In total, the *Dark Skies Battalion* executes operations with approximately 600 Soldiers.

The 1-121st FAR, provides Fires for an immense geographical area by utilizing non-doctrinal Light HIMARS Packages (LHPs). Instead of traditional platoon configuration of four HIMARS and fire direction elements, 1-121st FAR divided each platoon in half and augmented sustainment and operational reach by adding medical, signal and maintenance Soldiers as well as their complementary equipment. LHPs are essentially miniature firing batteries used in general support roles which increases lethality, flexibility and capability of ground commanders. The *Dark Skies Battalion* manages six firing unit locations with six LHPs in general support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS), three firing unit locations with six LHPs for TSC responsibilities in direct support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) and seven liaison team locations to facilitate sustainment operations. All units not in general support roles remained fully mission capable at all times in order to fulfill obligations under assigned contingency operations.

In support of OSS, the battalion integrated HIMARS and nested operations with multiple TSC major training events. The battalion partnered with the United Arab Emirates, 79th Heavy Rocket Regiment to conduct Operation Tropic Thunder in September of 2018 and in December 2018, the battalion will conduct Operation Golden Eagle. In October 2018 the battalion partnered with the Jordanian, 29th Royal HIMARS Battalion to conduct Operation Black Oryx V. The operations set the tone for bilateral live fire exercises (LFXs) for the duration of the OSS deployment. Utilizing the crawl-walk-run methodology, the LFXs primarily serve to maintain operational readiness, successfully re-qualify all participating HIMARS crews, and validate interoperability with the 79th HRR and 29th RHB, establishing a foundation for future exercises to build in operational complexity and depth of training objectives.

As the HIMARS artillery unit responsible for precision strike Fires in support of OFS the battalion significantly degrades Taliban and ISIS-K operations giving our partners the ability to maintain continuous pressure against a weakened enemy. In October 2018, the battalion executed a rocket artillery

raid with one LHP to support an aggressive, short duration operation against high priority targets. In doing so the LHP gained rapid deployment experience and demonstrated the global reach to provide timely, precision, long-range artillery Fires anywhere in the world. As the HIMARS artillery unit responsible for shaping the Combined Joint Task Force-OIR deep fight, 1-121st FAR coordinated and processed HIMARS Fires with Force Field Artillery Headquarters, 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 transitions in operations against ISIS. Since August 2018, the 1-121st FA executed over 130 fire missions and collectively delivered approximately 250 precision-guided munitions.

Wyoming National Guard 115th Field Artillery Brigade, Cowboy Thunder

In 2018, The 115th Field Artillery Brigade, Wyoming Army National Guard, ramped up training in preparation for the 2019 deployment as the U.S. Central Command Force Field Artillery Headquarters. Wyoming's Redlegs participated in multiple training events including Yama Sakura and Warfighter 18.3. However, the culminating training event of the year was Warfighter 19.1 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., with troops from 115th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters; 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery; 960th Brigade Support Battalion; 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery; and 148th Signal Company.

During the three-week exercise, Soldiers served as the force field artillery headquarters, providing accurate and lethal Fires for the 38th Infantry Division, Indiana Army National Guard. The warfighter evaluated Soldier's adaptability and proficiency as they reacted to various battlefield scenarios. The exercise was a valuable opportunity to work with 38th ID, who they will support in theater. The training event provided a strong foundation for this relationship, allowing for the development of processes and procedures, as well as the building of trust and confidence as the mission approaches. Morale is high as Soldiers continue to prepare for mobilization next year.

[f facebook.com/115FIB/](https://www.facebook.com/115FIB/)

Soldiers in 115 Field Artillery Brigade at Warfighter 19.1 Nov. 11, 2018. (2nd Lt. Alyssa Jeran/U.S. Army)



US Army Fires Support Organizations

Army Multi-Domain Targeting Center

The Army Multi-Domain Targeting Center remains focused on increasing targeting capability across the force and modernizing the Army's Targeting Enterprise. The AMTC's way ahead will continue to build on the tactical Army targeting process of "decide, detect, deliver, and assess" and add the operational/strategic processes of joint intermediate and advanced target development.

In 2018, the AMTC secured funding and began the development of the Army's Target Material Production (TMP) and the Army's Joint Intermediate Target Development (JITD) Courses. Following accreditation of the JITD course by the Defense Intelligence Agency, the AMTC expects to execute the first pilot class in 2019. The National Geospatial Agency will accredit the TMP course and the first pilot will also occur in 2019. As a result of these new courses, ground force commanders will have joint qualified crews and staffs that can effectively plan, integrate and execute cross-domain maneuver and Fires in support of multi-domain operations.

The AMTC is postured to ensure the Army plays a dominant role in multi-domain operations. To synchronize the Army's initiative to build joint multi-domain targeting capacity across the Army Targeting Enterprise, the AMTC will host the Army Targeting Committee on a quarterly basis. This committee will provide operational units with a forum to identify targeting issues from their respective commands. In coordination with the Combined Arms Center, the AMTC will facilitate a targeting table top exercise (TTX) to provide Army senior leaders with a targeting framework for planning, integrating and synchronizing lethal and non-lethal multi-domain capabilities. The TTX will demonstrate how the targeting process integrates all capabilities for multi-domain operations.

[f facebook.com/JointFires/](https://www.facebook.com/JointFires/)

Field Artillery Branch Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate, Human Resources Command

Field Artillery Branch Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate provides Field Artillery Soldiers to active duty U.S. Army field artillery formations all over the world. Responsible for more than 19,000 Redlegs serving in the Army, there are more than 12 to 15 percent of Soldiers on assignment at any given time. In 2018, the team of civilians and Soldiers that work at FA Branch EPMD ensured that United States Army Forces Command units deploying to overseas operations (field artillery units training in support of combat training center rotations), FA formations serving in Korea (Training and Doctrine Command units that train and develop field artillerymen), Army Special Operations Forces requiring artillery-

men with special skills (Recruiting Command), and security forces assistance brigades had the Soldiers necessary to man howitzers, launchers, fire direction centers, fire support teams, radars and headquarters in our field artillery.

FA Branch monitors all components of the career management field 13 manning enterprise including accessions, training, promotions, retention, separations and retirements and assigns noncommissioned officers and Soldiers to meet Army priorities. The FA Branch supports structure growth of field artillery organizations by providing Soldiers to those units and is positioned to assign NCOs and Soldiers to future requirements. Currently, the branch is at 96 percent aggregate strength for all requirements. Thirteen B (cannon crewmember) is the most balanced military occupational specialties within the branch. Mid-grade NCOs (staff sergeants and sergeants) for 13M (Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember) and 13F (joint forward observer) are the two most glaring shortages within the branch.

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/Enlisted/Field%20Artillery%20Branch%20Directory>

Fire Support Test Directorate, Truth in testing!

Since 1902, Fire Support 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 test organization. FSTD 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 2018, FSTD personnel continued that mission to provide world-class, trusted, and independent operational testing as they planned, conducted and reported on tests of fire support and field artillery systems.

In January, FSTD conducted an Electronic Warfare Planning and Management Tool (EWPMT) Customer Test (CT) at Fort Sill, Okla. The CT used selected active Electronic Warfare Officers and Electromagnetic Spectrum Managers to represent the operational field. The Soldiers participated in a month-long exercise that consisted of train up on the new equipment and a two-week simulated brigade-sized operation using the EWPMT. Specifically, the tool assists the operator in leveraging joint and national spectrum databases and real-time sensing to synergize effects within the area of operations. EWPMT also provides the warfighter with situational awareness in support of offensive and defensive electromagnetic operations. For the two-week simulated battle, Soldiers equipped with the EWPMT were connected to a closed-circuit network

where both friendly and enemy forces were pitted against one another in simulation. With the help of the EWPMPT, Soldiers integrated data elements from live and simulated mission command and intelligence systems to provide an operational picture of the electromagnetic environment and create various courses of action to combat the environment. FSTD created an operational environment, which allowed the gathering of near real-time data used to improve and evaluate this tool.

In March, FSTD near-simultaneously conducted three operations tests (OTs), which included the Joint Effects Targeting System-Target Laser Designation System (JETS-TLDS), Army Tactical Missile System Modernization (ATACMS MOD), and the M109A7 Family of Vehicles (FOV).

FSTD conducted an initial operational test (IOT) of the JETS-TLDS at the Cold Regions Test Center located at Fort Greely, Alaska. Soldiers from D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment and Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment teamed up to participate in this rigorous operational test throughout Alaska's rugged terrain. 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 IOT event gathered operational data to verify whether a Soldier using this system could accurately detect, recognize, and identify targets at various extended ranges.

FSTD conducted the ATACMS MOD OT at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Soldiers from B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery conducted multiple training events that led to the firing of two ATACMS-MOD missiles. For most Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) crewmembers, firing an ATACMS-MOD is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The existing ATACMS inventory contains cluster munitions, which will be replaced with enhanced and more reliable munitions in accordance with the Department of Defense Policy on Cluster Munitions.

FSTD conducted the M109A7 FOV IOT 2 with Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery at Fort Riley, Kan. The M109 FOV consists of the new M109A7 FOV 155 mm/39 caliber Self-Propelled Howitzer (SPH) and the M992A3 FOV Carrier Ammunition Tracked (CAT). The purpose of the IOT was to test the effectiveness, suitability and survivability of these vehicles in a full operational environment under various tactical scenarios. Soldiers received training, which included collective training at both platoon- and battery-level, beginning with new equipment operations and maintenance training for both the SPH and the CAT. The SPH provides the primary indirect fire support for full spectrum operations. It has the ability to support armored brigade combat teams, infantry brigade combat teams and Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. The CAT provides armored ammunition supply support to the

SPH operating in support of full spectrum operations. The battalion, known as *Hamilton's Own* was the first unit equipped with this new capability, deploying with the systems to the National Training Center.

In December, FSTD conducted a user accreditation exercise (UAE) of the Extensible Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence Instrumentation Suite, Fire Support Application (ExCIS FSA) in support of upcoming Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) software testing. The ExCIS FSA provides an integrated test instrumentation suite that supports event planning, preparation, operations, data collection and analysis. Additionally, ExCIS reduces the number of Soldiers, systems and command posts required for test and training events at multiple echelons while providing realistic and robust testing of mission-critical systems, and supports systems' developers with early problem identification.

Concurrently with the UAE, FSTD hosted the product verification test (PVT) of the latest AFATDS software version. A PVT is a system-level developmental test conducted post-FRP (full-rate production) to verify that the production item meets critical technical parameters and contract specifications, to determine the adequacy and timeliness of any corrective actions indicated by previous tests, and to validate the manufacturer's facilities, procedures, and processes.

In 2019, FSTD is scheduled to continue testing improvements to the AFATDS software. These tests will help ensure that Soldiers are equipped with systems that meet their operational needs in support of multi-domain operations.

Joint Readiness Training Center Task Force Fire Support

Observer-controller/trainers from Task Force Fire Support at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., continued to provide world-class coaching, teaching and mentoring to numerous active duty and National Guard units throughout the 2018 calendar year. The rotational calendar was laden with back-to-back training events that found the task force supporting a total of nine units to include readying 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade from Fort Benning, Ga., for deployment to Afghanistan in January of 2018, six active-duty infantry brigade combat teams, and two National Guard infantry brigade combat teams.

Fire support OC/T's at the JRTC have been steadfast in their commitment to improve the Fires war-fighting function at echelon by teaching and coaching current doctrine. Specific training emphasis has been placed on the utilization of unobserved Fires as well as providing coaching on the latest tactics, techniques and procedures to gain and maintain fire direction in GPS-jammed environments. Additionally, Task Force Fire Support conducted video teleconferences, teleconferences and leader ride-alongs



Soldiers from the Joint Readiness Training Center Task Force Fire Support pose for a unit photo. (Courtesy photo)

during rotations in order to inform and spread best practices. All of these efforts are reversing negative trends observed at the JRTC. The task force is looking forward to facilitating pre-deployment training with the 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade from Fort Bragg, N.C. beginning 2019.

Mission Command Training Program, Operations Group Bravo, Vikings

Throughout the year, the *Vikings* observer coach training teams across all Warfighting Functions (WfF) delivered unwavering coaching and teaching to six field artillery formations. In total they trained over 2,000 Soldiers from five of the Army's 11 division artilleries (DIVARTYs) and one field artillery brigade (FAB) through Mission Command Training seminars and warfighter exercises (WFXs).

These exercises were fast paced, and offered a

Lt. Col. Chris Brown from Operations Group Bravo coaches majors Lina Vanessa Perez and Jeremy Coates from 1st Armored Division Artillery during Warfighter Exercise 19-2 at Fort Bliss, Texas. (Jason Sweet/U.S. Army)



contested near-peer environment to sharpen the atrophied skills of delivering timely and accurate Fires. Units exercised a myriad of assigned tasks ranging from Counterfire Headquarters to Force Field Artillery Headquarters, while providing input into the division and corps targeting cycles.

The *Vikings* strived to increase the Army and field artillery community's awareness and education on observations, trends and best practices witnessed during the course of previous warfighters. Establishing an operational approach aimed at educating the force helped narrow the organizational focus and amplified outreach opportunities. This approach brought the problematic intricacies of airspace management and control to the forefront of artillery units, resulting in an increased appetite for vertical and lateral coordination of the unit airspace plan. Airspace management, increased DIVARTY/FAB input to the division targeting process, and effective cross-boundary coordination are the primary focus areas for the Fires WfF based on exercise trends. To help improve airspace management, Ops Group Bravo incorporated a workshop in MCT Academics, and shared lessons learned across the force. The emphasis is on synchronization in lieu of deconflicting missions via the Division Joint Air Ground Integration Cell. This is accomplished by incorporating airspace coordination measures into field artillery support plans (FASPs), and integrating all airspace users during planning to enable a permissive environment for Fires. Two consistent improvements over the past several exercises are the increased level of detail in the FASP, and the employment of command posts that are leaner and more lethal.

The *Vikings* participated in several local initiatives to improve the education of field grade officers at the Command and General Staff College. Additionally, the team initiated outreach visits with the Field



A Soldier from the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Fire Support calls in a combat air support mission. (Courtesy photo)

Artillery School, Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, and the Warrant Officer Basic and Warrant Officer Advance Course.

In the summer of 2019, the *Vikings* will assume responsibility of training all field artillery units involved in WFXs. Consolidating experienced leaders with an emphasis on the Fires WfF will better enable MCTP to help reverse the current FA trends, and establish enduring relationships across the force with doctrinal reachback capability at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. The *Vikings* remain committed to delivering the most realistic and demanding training to the force. This unique team of senior Army professionals remain postured to support the artillery community in its mission to dominate large-scale combat operations and prove its might as the *King of Battle!*

U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Backbone!

The United States Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, *Backbone*, provided Redlegs from across the Army area of responsibility with leadership education grounded in the Army leadership requirements model, focusing on team, section and platoon-level leader attributes, presence, intellect, leads, develops and achieves. At the same time, sergeants and staff sergeants promotable attending the Advanced Leader Course (ALC) or Senior Leader Course (SLC) received between four weeks and 10 weeks of progressive and sequential doctrinal education in their respective military occupational specialties at the 20 and 30 level. All ALC and SLC

graduates validated their applicable learned knowledge by either completing a 72-hour cannon and rocket live fire exercise, or through a 24-hour simulation exercise at I-See-O Hall or the Jared C. Monti Hall. In 2018, the NCOA graduated 2,263 students of 2,334 students, denying enrollment or dismissing 80 NCOs, for a 96.59 graduation rate.

U.S. Army Special Operations Command Fire Support

Redleg Fire Supporters of the Army's premier Special Operations units: 75th Ranger Regiment, the 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, spent another year on the frontline of America's real world conflicts. Thirteen A's, 13F's and 131A's assigned to USASOC continued to support Rangers, Green Berets and Special Ops Aviation in ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Africa; delivering Fires in the form of close air support, close combat attack, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System fire, electronic attack and precision guided artillery and mortar fires from joint, Army and coalition ground and air units achieving critical effects against the enemy. Special Forces and Ranger battalions have also begun regular rotations to Joint Readiness Training Center and National Training Center and are now fully supporting various exercises such as the Joint Warfighter Assessment and the upcoming Defender Exercise in Europe. Army Special Ops Force fire supporters will continue to represent the field artillery with the utmost professionalism among the Army's elite forces.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 8
Founders Day Retreat Ceremony
& Night at the Museum

MAR
Fort Sill Trivi
Jack Dani

FEBRUARY 4 | 11 | 25
Military Movie Marathon
At Fort Sill Sheridan Theater



MARCH 15
A Night at the
Officers Lounge

MAY
Armed Forces Day Parade

APRIL
Special Olympics

For our latest calendar updates visit sill-www.army.mil/fs150

In the next issue of Fires

Mar.-Apr. 2019, Fires strong. How is the field artillery and air defense artillery staying fit for undetermined warfare? This issue will discuss the role of the joint forward observer in cross domain Fires, the need for rapid capabilities, the redesign of FA/ADA military occupational specialties, changes in doctrine, and include historical articles about the field artillery and air defense artillery.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 1, 2019. Send your submissions to usarmy.sill.fcoe.mbx.fires-bulletin-mailbox@mail.mil or call (580) 442-5121 for more information.

Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, incorporated simulated chemical attacks, area security and ambush threats into M119 Howitzer gunnery qualification Table XII, January 15, 2019, at Fort Drum, N.Y. About half of the 'Commando' brigade is deployed as Task Force Courage, while the rear elements comprise Task Forces Honor and Hale. 'Allons' leadership in TF Honor invited TF Hale Soldiers to observe this gunnery qualification as a learning opportunity for artillery integration in future operations. (Staff Sgt. Paige Behringer/U.S. Army)

