

November - December 2011

Fires

A Joint
Publication
for U.S.
Artillery
Professionals

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Red Book

2011



Fires CONTENTS

November-December

3 **Lessons learned during ten years of persistent war**
By MG David D. Halverson

4 **Fires change of command ceremonies**

5 **Locations of Active US Army and Marine Corps FA and Army ADA OCONUS Units**

6 **Locations of Active US Army and Marine Corps FA and Army ADA CONUS Units**

8 **Locations of US Army National Guard FA, ADA, and US Marine Corps Reserves FA Units**

10 **Fires on Target: US Army Air Defense Artillery Units**

22 **Fires on Target: US Army Field Artillery Units**

53 **Fires on Target: US Marine Corps Active and Marine Forces Reserve Field Artillery Units**

58 **Fires on Target: Army National Guard Air Defense Artillery Units**

62 **Fires on Target: Army National Guard Field Artillery Units**

On the cover:



(Photo by CPT Angela Chipman, U.S. Army)



(Photo by SGT Peter Kresge, Ohio Army National Guard)



(Photo by Lance Cpl. Garry J. Welch, U.S. Marine Corps)

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PURPOSE: Founded in 2007, *Fires* serves as a forum for the professional discussions of all Fires professionals, both active and Reserve Component (RC); disseminates professional knowledge about progress, developments 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, both active and RC, all of which contribute to the good of Army, joint and combined forces, and our nation. **REPRINTS:** *Fires* is pleased to grant permission to reprint; please credit *Fires*, the author(s) and photographers.

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Fires

Commanding
General's
Forward

Lessons learned during ten years of persistent war

By MG David D. Halverson

Commanding General of the Fires Center of Excellence

There are no short cuts and sadly no easy ways to selfless leadership. Leadership is to be learned from experience and from study, toil, trial and error. The good things in life are worth striving for and nothing is more rewarding than leading soldiers.

— GEN Robert Kingston

This year we had the privilege of commemorating 100 years of the Field Artillery School and the Fires Bulletin (formerly the Field Artillery Journal). While this was certainly a celebratory occasion, we marked the milestone with the somber understanding that the mission of Fort Sill and the Artillery Schools are to produce Fires Soldiers and leaders who win the nation's wars, often at a high price. Marking the 100th anniversary of the Fires Bulletin reminds us of the professional obligation to study our craft. We must view our history through a scholarly lens to learn from the collective wisdom of past generations of Soldiers and leaders. Doing so honors the sacrifices of those who have come before us. In the process, we also discover that some lessons are global and span the entire history of modern warfare. Today the Fires force is 60,000 strong and spread throughout our globe and all states of the republic. We are truly Fires strong.

Unfortunately, we have a history of continually forgetting hard-learned lessons, forcing us to re-learn them at an unacceptable price. Today's leaders must understand that the wisdom and insights of previous Fires leaders remain valid today, regardless of the technological advances that could scarcely be imagined centuries ago. This becomes strikingly apparent when one notes that the inaugural edition

of the Field Artillery Journal contains an article entitled, "The cooperation of the arms in battle." This was a German military document translated by CPT Oliver L. Spaulding. The essay cites examples dating as far back as the Napoleonic wars with the ultimate principle that, "it is essential... not to allow the action of the infantry and artillery to be separated, either in space or time."

Though today's environment is significantly different from when the article was originally published in 1910, this assessment clearly parallels the lessons we have learned in the last 10 years of persistent war. Further, our current lessons are clearly noted throughout the last century of warfare, with varying details. As stated in the last publication of the Fires Bulletin, TRADOC published a new version of our Army's capstone warfighting doctrine in October. The revised title of Army Doctrine Publication 3-0, *Unified Land Operations*, indicates a distinct shift in how we will fight and win our nation's wars.

The technological advances during the last century and the current operating environment require us to re-examine how we fundamentally train and operate; however, the lessons are not entirely new to students of our profession. Whether we are integrating the effects of the artillery

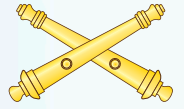


and infantry, as Spaulding noted 100 years ago, or synchronizing the efforts of land and air powers, as was the focus of the late GEN Donn A. Starry's AirLand Battle, we must embrace the reality that no branch of the armed services fights alone. It is not only cooperation among all the armed forces with which we have to concern ourselves but also with all components of the Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational environment.

As GEN Robert W. Cone relayed in his August essay, "Laying the Groundwork for the Army of 2020," the newest version of FM 3-0 "incorporates the lessons of 10 years of war with the broader lessons from history. If we successfully implement and internalize this doctrine, we will achieve an adaptable Army." Fires leaders and Soldiers have demonstrated throughout our history that we are adaptable. In the last decade, our innovative and multi-talented Soldiers have trained for and executed a wide variety of missions well



Fires change of command ceremonies



outside of their normal Fires skill sets, while still remaining experts in their craft.

It is our obligation as a Fires force to win today and be better poised to confront future adversity. This edition of the Red Book is offered to you as a tool to further your understanding of our Fires history. It additionally celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of our force, evoking awe of the outstanding adaptability and dedication of our Soldiers. It will give you an appreciation of what the Fires community does for our Army and the United States.

We remain a nation at war. Most discussions about Iraq and Afghanistan today seem focused on draw-downs and eventual transfers of authority to host nations. We must always be cautious of complacency. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen are in harm's way across the globe, many of them from our Fires force. We have learned many difficult lessons in the last 10 years, and we will continue to learn as we finalize the transfer of security to the Iraqi government and begin shifting security responsibility to the Afghans.

Finally, this Red Book edition enables Fires Soldiers throughout the world to tell each other their stories. We share collective wisdom and celebrate individual and team accomplishments. The U.S. Army Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery are a single community brought together by a shared history. But we are also part of a larger, American community. As you connect with and engage in your local communities, tell the Army story. Share your accomplishments and your pride as a member of our all-volunteer force. The 38th chief of staff of the Army has it right, "The strength of our Nation is our Army, the strength of our Army is our Soldiers, the strength of our Soldiers is our families." Our Army is the most capable, adaptable and agile force in history. Be proud of your service to country. I am proud to serve among you, the best our country has to offer.

Fit to Fight—Fires Strong!

January 2012

5th BN, 25th FA, Fort Polk, La.

Outgoing: LTC William Chlebowski

Incoming: LTC Matt Condry

February 2012

1st BN, 5th FA, Fort Riley, Kan.

Outgoing: LTC Keith Casey

Incoming: LTC Scott Nolan

Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Soldier Media Center



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Germany

01 Bamberg

4th BN, 319th FA, 173rd BCT

02 Kaiserslautern

357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment

5th BN, 7th ADA

02 Ramstein Air Force Base

19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

01 Vilseck

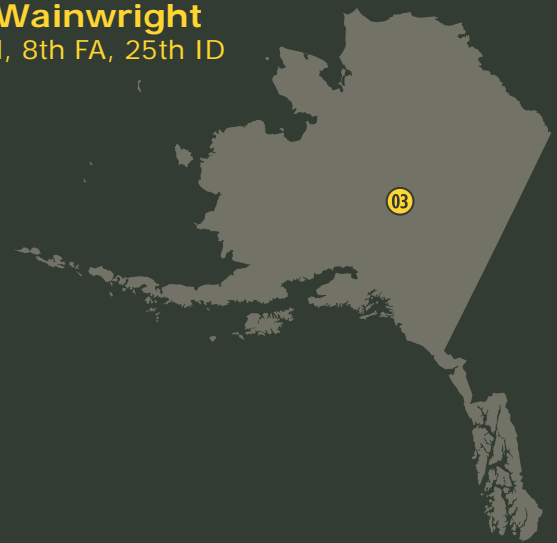
2nd Stryker Cavalry Fires Squadron



Alaska

03 Fort Wainwright

2nd BN, 8th FA, 25th ID



Japan

04 Kadena Air Force Base

1st BN, 1st ADA

04 Okinawa

12th Marine Artillery Regiment

1st Battalion
3rd Battalion



South Korea

05 Camp Casey

1st BN, 15th FA, 2nd ID

210th Fires Brigade

1st BN, 38th FA
6th BN, 37th FA

06 Osan Air Force Base

3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment

35th ADA Brigade

2nd BN, 1st ADA
6th BN, 52nd ADA



Hawaii

07 Hickam AFB

5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

07 Fort Shafter

94th Air and Missile Defense Command

07 Scholfield Barracks
25th Infantry Division

3rd BN, 7th FA
2nd BN, 11th FA
2nd BN, 37th FA



01 Camp Lejeune, N.C.

10th Marine Artillery Regiment

- 1st BN, 10th Marine Artillery Regiment
- 2nd BN, 10th Marine Artillery Regiment
- 3rd BN, 10th Marine Artillery Regiment
- 4th BN, 10th Marine Artillery Regiment

02 Camp Pendleton, Calif.

11th Marine Artillery Regiment

- 1st BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment
- 2nd BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment
- 3rd BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment
- 4th BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment

03 Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment

04 Fort Bliss, Texas

1st Armored Division

- 2nd BN, 3rd FA
- 2nd BN, 29th FA
- 4th BN, 1st FA
- 4th BN, 27th FA

11th ADA Brigade

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

**32nd Air and Missile Defense Command
212th Fires Brigade**

05 Fort Bragg, N.C.

18th Fires Brigade

- 3rd BN, 27th FA
- 1st BN, 321st FA
- 3rd BN, 321st FA

82nd Airborne Division

- 1st BN, 319th FA
- 2nd BN, 319th FA
- 3rd BN, 319th FA
- 3rd BN, 321st FA

108th ADA Brigade

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

06 Fort Campbell, Ky.

- 2nd BN, 44th ADA, 108th ADA BDE

101st Airborne Division

- 1st BN, 320th FA
- 2nd BN, 320th FA
- 3rd BN, 320th FA
- 4th BN, 320th FA

07 Fort Carson, Colo.

4th Infantry Division

- 2nd BN, 77th FA
- 3rd BN, 16th FA
- 3rd BN, 29th FA
- 4th BN, 42nd FA

08 Fort Dix, N.J.

402nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army

09 Fort Drum, N.Y.

10th Mountain Division

- 2nd BN, 15th FA
- 3rd BN, 6th FA
- 4th BN, 25th FA

10 Fort Hood, Texas

1st Cavalry Division

- 1st BN, 82nd FA
- 2nd BN, 82nd FA
- 3rd BN, 82nd FA
- 4th BN, 82nd FA

3rd Armored Cavalry Fires III Corps

41st Fires Brigade

- 2nd BN, 20th FA
- 1st BN, 21st FA

69th ADA Brigade

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

11 Fort Irwin, Calif.

- 1st BN, 1st ADA

12 Fort Knox, Ky.

- 1st BN, 6th FA, 1st ID

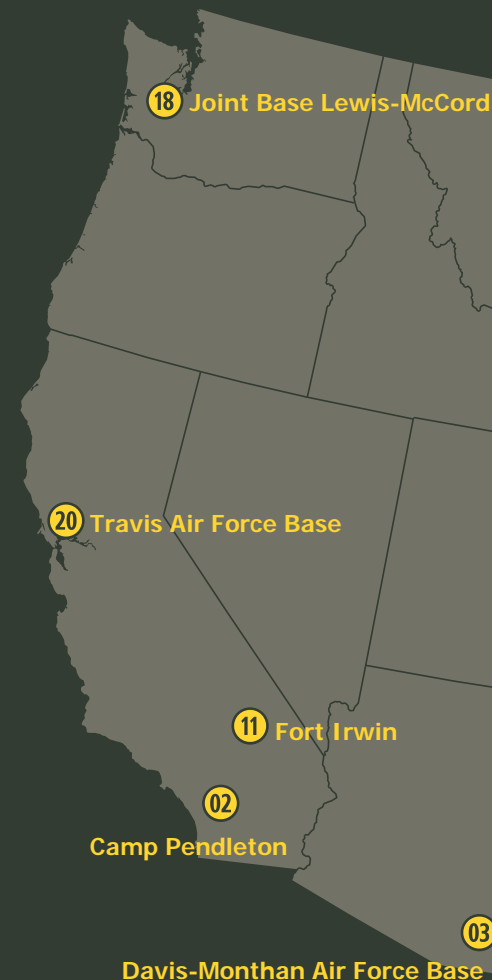
13 Fort Polk, La.

- 5th BN, 25th FA, 25th ID

14 Fort Riley, Kan.

1st Infantry Division

- 1st BN, 5th FA
- 1st BN, 7th FA
- 2nd BN, 32nd FA



15 Fort Sill, Okla.

6th ADA Brigade

- 1st BN, 56th ADA
- 2nd BN, 6th ADA
- 3rd BN, 6th ADA

31st ADA Brigade

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

75th Fires Brigade

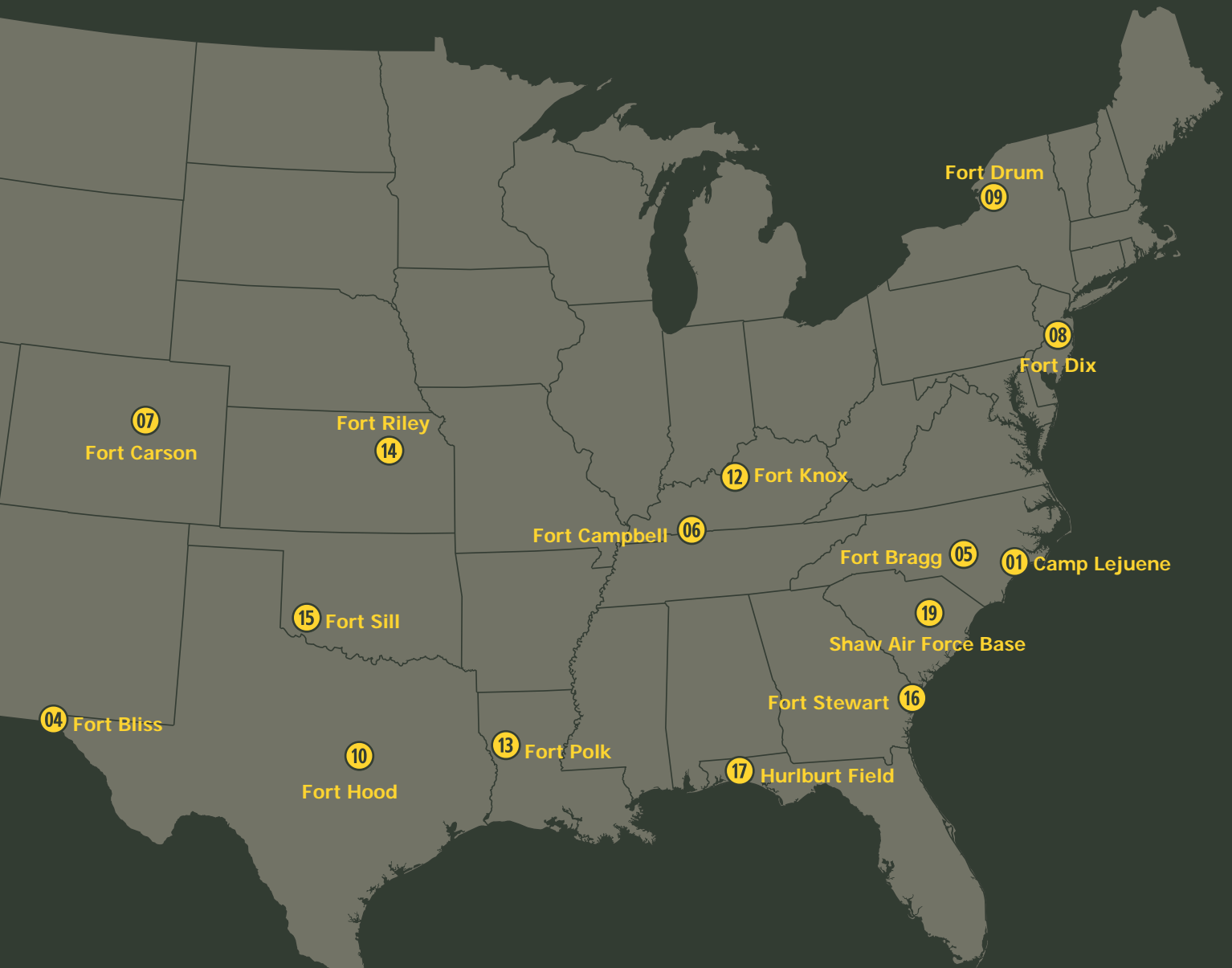
- 1st BN, 17th FA
- 2nd BN, 18th FA
- 3rd BN, 13th FA

214th Fires Brigade

- 1st BN, 14th FA
- 2nd BN, 4th FA
- 2nd BN, 5th FA

428th Fires Brigade

- 1st BN, 30th FA
- 1st BN, 78th FA
- 2nd BN, 2nd FA



434th Fires Brigade

- 1st BN, 19th FA
- 1st BN, 31st FA
- 1st BN, 40th FA
- 1st BN, 79th FA
- 1st BN, 355th FA
- 95th Adjutant General Battalion
- 434th Support Detachment

479th FA Brigade, First Army
Marine Artillery Detachment

16 Fort Stewart, Ga.

3rd Infantry Division
 1st BN, 9th FA

- 1st BN, 10th FA
- 1st BN, 41st FA
- 1st BN, 76th FA

17 Hurlburt Field, Fla.

2nd Battlefield Coordination Detachment

18 Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash.

2nd Infantry Division
 1st BN, 37th FA
 2nd BN, 12th FA
 3rd BN, 17th FA
 5th BN, 5th ADA, 31st ADA BDE

17th Fires Brigade

- 1st BN, 94th FA
- 1st BN, 377th FA
- 5th BN, 3rd FA

19 Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

20 Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

402nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army

Alabama

- 01 1st BN, 117th FA, 142nd Fires BDE

Arkansas

- 02 1st BN, 206th FA, 36th ID
- 03 2nd BN, 233rd Regional Training Institute
- 04 **142nd Fires Brigade**
1st BN, 142nd FA
2nd BN, 142nd FA

Alaska

- 05 **49th Missile Defense Battalion**

California

- 06 1st BN, 14th Marine Regiment
- 07 1st BN, 144th FA, 11th ACR
- 08 5th BN, 14th Marine Regiment
- 06 1st BN, 143rd FA, 40th ID
- 09 **Missile Defense Element (Forward)**

Colorado

- 10 **100th Missile Defense Brigade**
- 10 **117th Space Battalion**
- 10 **169th Fires Brigade**
3rd BN, 157th FA
- 10 **USNORTHCOM Missile Defense Agency**

Georgia

- 11 1st BN, 118th FA, 35th ID
- 12 1st BN, 214th FA, 65th Fires BDE

Florida

- 13 2nd BN, 116th FA, 28th ID
- 13 3rd BN, 116th FA, 138th FA BDE
- 13 **164th ADA Brigade**
1st BN, 164th ADA
3rd BN, 265th ADA
- 14 211th Regional Training Institute

Hawaii

- 15 1st BN, 487th FA, 40th ID

Idaho

- 16 1st BN, 148th FA, 116th CAV

Illinois

- 17 2nd BN, 122nd FA, 35th ID
- 18 2nd BN, 123rd FA, 169th Fires BDE
- 19 2nd BN, 129th Regional Training Institute

Indiana

- 20 2nd BN, 150th FA, 138th Fires BDE
- 21 1st BN, 163rd FA, 38th ID

Iowa

- 22 1st BN, 194th FA, 34th ID

Kansas

- 23 1st BN, 161st FA, 169th Fires BDE
- 24 2nd BN, 130th FA, 169th Fires BDE
- 25 235th Regional Training Institute

Kentucky

- 26 1st BN, 238th Artillery Regiment, Regional Training Institute
- 27 **138th Fires Brigade**
1st BN, 623rd FA
2nd BN, 138th FA

Louisiana

- 28 1st BN, 141th FA, 36th ID

Massachusetts

- 29 1st BN, 101st FA, 42nd ID
- 29 1st BN, 101st Regional Training Institute

Michigan

- 30 1st BN, 119th FA, 197th Fires BDE
- 31 1st BN, 182nd FA, 197th Fires BDE

Minnesota

- 32 1st BN, 125th FA, 34th ID
- 32 1st BN, 151st FA, 115th Fires BDE

Mississippi

- 33 1st BN, 204th ADA
- 34 2nd BN, 114th FA, 36th ID

Missouri

- 35 1st BN, 129th FA, 45th Fires BDE

New Hampshire

- 36 195th Regional Training Institute
- 36 **197th Fires Brigade**
1st BN, 172nd FA

New Jersey

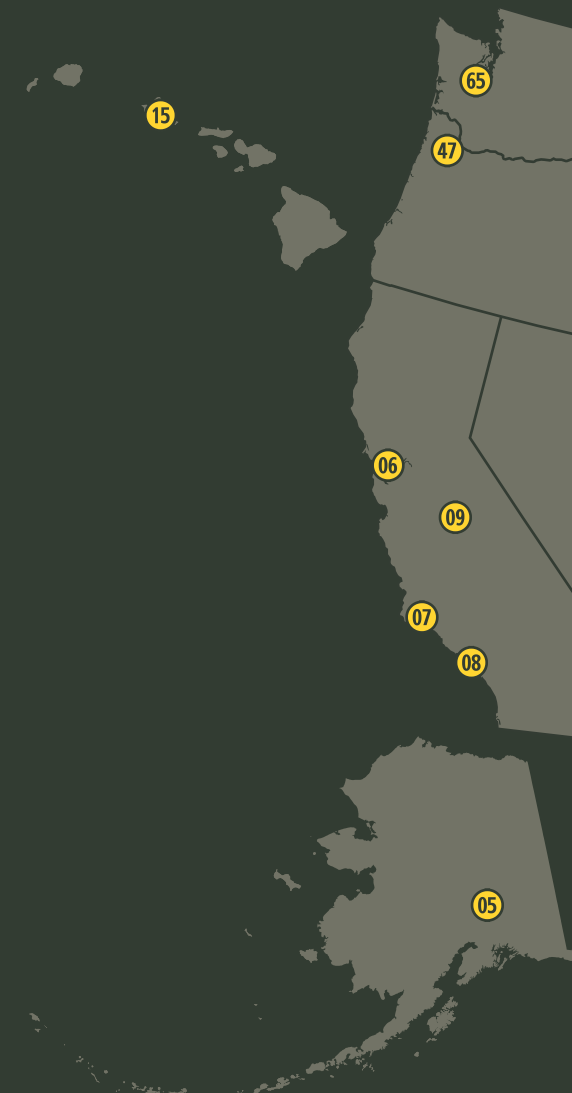
- 37 2nd BN, 254th Regional Training Institute
- 38 3rd BN, 112th FA, 42nd ID

New York

- 39 1st BN, 258th FA, 40th ID

North Carolina

- 40 1st BN, 113th FA, 29th ID
- 41 1st BN, 139th Regional Training Institute
- 42 5th BN, 113rd FA, 65th Fires BDE



North Dakota

- 43 1st BN, 188th ADA

Ohio

- 44 1st BN, 134th FA, 38th ID
- 44 **174th ADA Brigade**
1st BN, 174th ADA (AMD)
2nd BN, 174th ADA (AMD)

Oklahoma

- 45 1st BN, 160th FA, 35th ID
- 45 1st BN, 189th Regional Training Institute

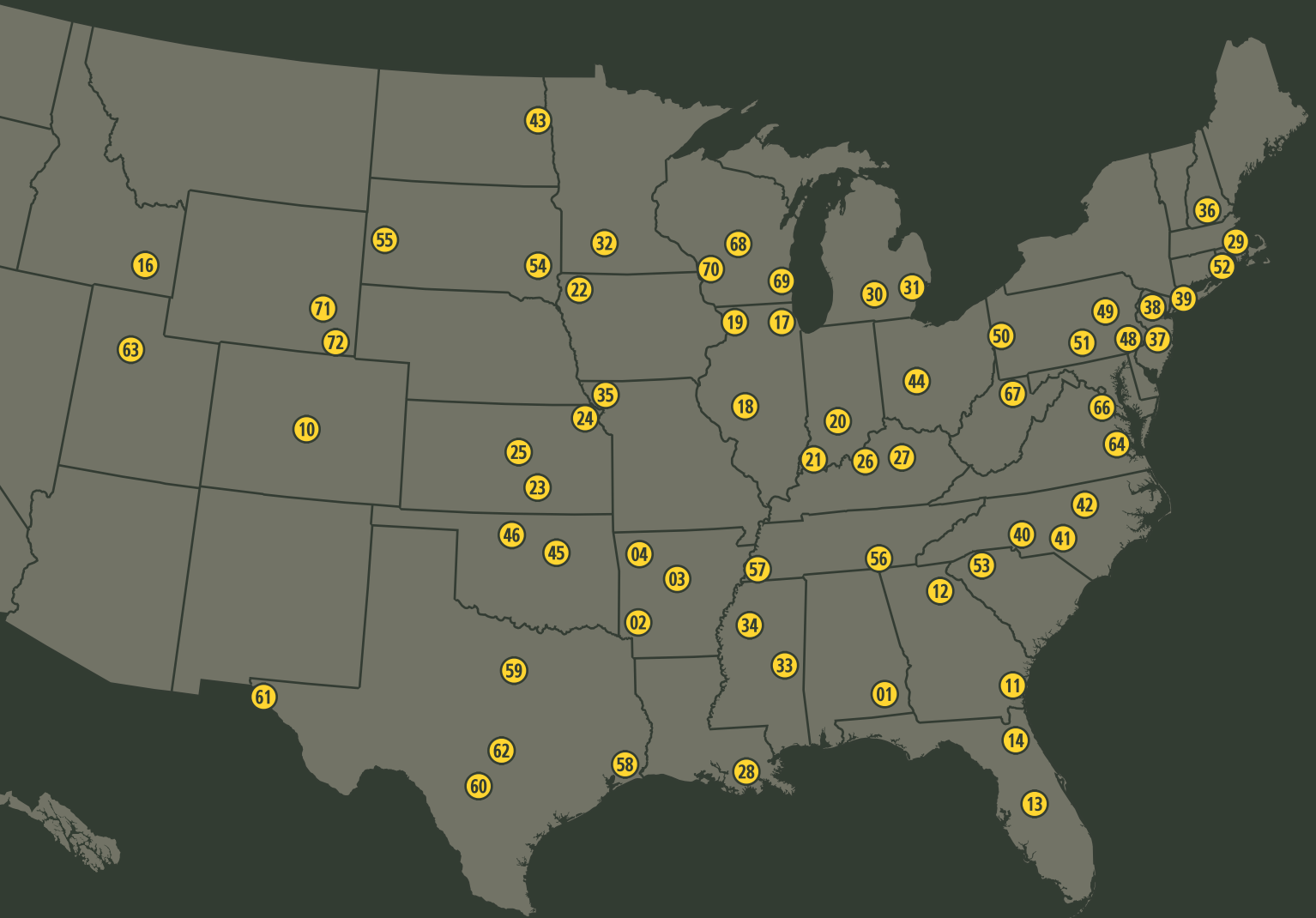
- 46 **45th Fires Brigade**
1st BN, 258th FA

Oregon

- 47 2nd BN, 218th FA, 40th ID

Pennsylvania

- 48 3rd BN, 14th Marine Regiment



49 4th BN, 166th Regional Training Institute

50 1st BN, 107th FA, 28th ID

51 1st BN, 108th FA, 28th ID

49 1st BN, 109th FA, 28th ID

Rhode Island

52 1st BN, 103rd FA, 197th Fires BDE

South Carolina

53 1st BN, 178th FA, 65th Fires BDE

53 **263rd Air and Missile Defense Command**
2nd BN, 263rd ADA

South Dakota

54 1st BN, 147th FA, 115th Fires BDE

55 196th Regional Training Institute

Tennessee

56 1st BN, 181st FA, 142nd Fires BDE

57 3rd BN, 115th FA, 38th ID

Texas

58 1st BN, 133rd FA, 36th ID

59 **14th Marine Regiment**

2nd BN, 14th Marine Regiment

60 2nd BN, 131st FA, 45th Fires BDE

61 3rd BN, 133rd FA, 36th ID

60 4th BN, 133rd FA, 45th Fires BDE

62 136th Regional Training Institute

Utah

63 3rd BN, 640th Regional Training Institute

63 **65th Fires Brigade**

1st BN, 145th FA

2nd BN, 222nd FA

Virginia

64 1st BN, 111th FA, 29th ID

Washington

65 2nd BN, 146th FA, 40th ID

Washington, D.C.

66 **National Capitol Region-Integrated Air Defense System HQ**

West Virginia

67 1st BN, 201st FA, 197th Fires BDE

Wisconsin

68 1st BN, 120th FA, 34th ID

69 1st BN, 121st FA, 115th Fires BDE

70 1st BN, 426th Regional Training Institute

Wyoming

71 1st BN, 213th Regional Training Institute

72 **115th Fires Brigade**
2nd BN, 300th FA

Red Book 2011

Fires on Target

US Army Air Defense Artillery Units

32nd U.S. Army Air and Missile Defense Command/FORSCOM, Fort Bliss, Texas, *Blackjack*



BG John G. Rossi, commanding general of 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, shakes hands with 2LT Steven Jaskowiak, tactical control officer from B Battery, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and other fire team members during his visit with Soldiers after their successful joint live-fire exercise held July 30, on McGregor Range, N.M. (Photo by SSG Brandon Little, U.S. Army)

The 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, *Blackjack*, is a theater-level air and missile defense command headquarters with the mission to rapidly deploy forces worldwide to conduct joint and combined and coalition air and missile defense operations in support of Central Command

and other combatant commanders in order to provide AMD protection to critical assets and support regional security. The 32nd AAMDC serves as the U.S. Forces Command executive agent for all theater air and missile defense operations and force management, and executes training and readiness authority of four continental U.S. based air and missile defense brigades and 13 battalions stationed at six different installations.

Warfighting readiness is the command's number one priority. Soldiers of the 32nd AAMDC are forward-deployed to six different countries in the CENTCOM area of responsibility. The 32d AAMDC headquarters maintains a coordination element in both the CENTCOM and Air Force Central Command forward headquarters to facilitate planning and execution of joint and combined AMD operations. A brigade headquarters and three battalions, consisting of approximately 2,000 Soldiers continue to provide air and missile defense for critical U.S. and partner nation assets to deter aggression and enhance regional security and cooperation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Subordinate units conducted more than 60 theater security cooperation engagements with members from more than 20 nations around the globe.

This past year, *Blackjack* Soldiers continued to successfully perform non-standard missions throughout the Middle East. The 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Soldiers protected critical assets throughout Iraq while performing a joint Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar mission. The Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery trained Afghan security forces at more than 30 locations across the country in support of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan. The 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Soldiers also provided critical Sentinel radar aerial surveillance in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Prepared AMD forces continue to meet combatant commanders' requirements as an integral component of warfighting readiness. The 32nd AAMDC manages the AMD Army Force Generation model for FORSCOM. Throughout the reset and train/ready phases of ARFORGEN their AMD units conduct full spectrum operations training strategy, culminating with a mission rehearsal exercise before units enter the available phase. Collective training includes not only Army training and certifications, but participation in joint training such as U.S. Air Force Red Flag, Blue Flag, and Virtual Flag exercises; Navy Fleet Synthetic Training Exercises, Atlantic and Pacific; and Marine Corps Weapons Tactics Integration exercises. These exercises enable essential integration training with their joint and coalition AMD partners. The *Blackjack* team also participates in operational and strategic exercises such as the AFCENT Air and Missile Defense exercise series in support of U.S. CENTCOM, Global Defender and Assured Response exercises in support of U.S. Strategic Command.

The 32nd AAMDC's number two priority is enhancing the strength of the command. Their people are the foundation of the current and long-term readiness of the AMD force. This year's *Blackjack* Warrior Excellence Competition recognized the best of the best from more than 9,500 Soldiers from across the 32nd AAMDC. SFC Class Aaron Barnes and PFC Jonathan Woodfield, 31st ADA Brigade, won the III Corps NCO and Soldier of the Year honors.

The 32nd AAMDC is reinvigorating its efforts to eliminate deferments and get its leaders to officer and noncommissioned officer education system courses on-time. The 32nd continues to train and prepare the best and brightest for advanced skills courses such as Top Gun, Air Defense Artillery Fire Coordination Officer, and Master Gunner courses. The 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade set the standard this year with more than 15 leaders graduating from the Patriot Master Gunner course. Leaders throughout the brigade are fully engaged in a myriad of Soldier and family well-being programs.

The 32nd AAMDC's number three priority is transformation and modernization to ensure it continues to adapt to the changing global environment. This past year, 31st ADA Brigade activated the Army's 14th Patriot battalion, and 69th ADA Brigade will activate the 15th battalion in early FY12. The 11th ADA Brigade Soldiers completed the year-long new equipment training for the Army's second Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery, and the unit, A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, has begun collective training. The 11th ADA Brigade continues to support the Headquarters Department of the Army Test mission for Patriot hardware and software upgrades. The brigade has also successfully completed the Army's Surface Launched Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile testing, and continues THAAD testing in support of materiel release decisions. The

test mission is critically important to the development and fielding of future AMD capabilities.

The bottom line is the *Blackjack* team is trained and ready to deploy and execute joint and combined AMD operations anywhere in the world. Simultaneously, they continue to shape the future of the AMD force by enhancing the strength of the command (its people) and by incorporating and mastering new technologies.

11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, *Imperial*

The 11th Air Defense Artillery *Imperial* Brigade is the largest air defense brigade in the Army. The *Imperial* Brigade is composed of two Patriot and Avenger battalions, 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery and 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, two pure Patriot battalions, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery and 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, two Terminal High Altitude Area Defense batteries, Alpha Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery and Alpha Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery, with a third scheduled for activation, and the brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. Of the battalions at least one is forward deployed at all times. This constant rotation of deploying battalions keeps the brigade in all phases of Army Force Generation as the units are redeployed, reset, trained, and deployed. In addition to the rotational deployments of the Patriot battalions a portion of the brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Battery deploys in turn with the other air defense brigades to provide theater air and missile defense command and control in the Central Command, area of responsibility. Platoon sized and smaller elements are also deployed by the brigade for missions ranging from Sentinel radar operations to individual liaison officers to foreign militaries. The brigade is tasked with the Department of the Army Test mission for air defense systems. These tests may come in the form of software tests, live-fires, or complete testing of new weapon systems from conducting preventative maintenance checks and services to engaging targets. The THAAD batteries are handling the dual roles of training for future deployments and testing the new weapon systems.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, *Backbone*

The job of controlling and supporting the units in the brigade, with their varied missions falls on the shoulders of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. While the majority of the battery remains on Fort Bliss, Texas, theater air and missile defense operations in the Central Command area of responsibility necessitate the projection of a command and control element downrange. HHB last redeployed in 2009 and is currently training for an upcoming deployment next year. From test to new unit

activation, deployment to reset, and every shade of mission in between, the *Imperial* Brigade does it all, and HHB is the *Backbone* that supports it.

Alpha Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, *Gunslingers*



Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, emplace a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, launcher. (Photo courtesy of 11th ADA BDE)

Alpha Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery is one of only two batteries in the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery to support the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense weapons system. Located at Fort Bliss, Texas, A-2 ADA completed a year of intense THAAD new equipment training with 78 Soldiers graduating from 16 various THAAD new equipment training courses. THAAD NET is designed to provide first-time operators with the requisite knowledge and experience to operate and maintain the THAAD weapons system in the absence of institutional training.

Since completing the NET, A-2 ADA began a period of extensive collective training to prepare the unit for full spectrum operations and THAAD gunnery tables. The unit completed various training events to include a successful range density and organizational inspection. The battery conducted a joint system integration and checkout of the battery's THAAD system with the missile defense agency's THAAD project office. During the SICO the unit proved their ability to integrate and operate the highly complex THAAD system during 24-hour operations and validated its operational capability.

Training will continue to intensify for the Soldiers of A-2 ADA throughout the year, as the unit strives to increase proficiency in both Soldier tasks and THAAD gunnery tables in preparation for THAAD's wartime mission to defend combatant commander's critical assets against the ballistic missile threats.

Alpha Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery, *Grave Diggers*

Alpha Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment was the first operational Terminal High Altitude Area Defense unit.



Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery await the arrival of launchers to provide ground-guides for emplacing the equipment. (Photo courtesy of 11th ADA BDE)

Since the battery stood up, it has conducted several flight tests and mission directed tests resulting in the progression of material release. This year marks another commemorative flight test. Flight Test THAAD 12 is the first THAAD flight test to be conducted by A-4 ADA Soldiers with limited Missile Defense Agency or contractor involvement. Since January 2011, A-4 ADA has prepared itself for FTT-12 ultimately moving itself forward to a much desired deployment.

Alpha Battery's busy journey began with a mini-emergency deployment readiness exercise in February 2011, showcasing A-4 ADA's ability to successfully conduct a rapid deployment. In April of 2011, A-4 ADA deployed their equipment to Tactical Site 19 at McGregor Range, N.M., for several weeks. This resulted in the unit's Table VIII certification, which certified A-4 ADA to conduct its wartime mission. Further preparing itself for deployment and FTT-12, A-4 ADA continued with its first ever successful air load validation resulting in the completion of a minimum engagement package in May 2011. As A-4 ADA prepares for its Reliability Confidence Test, it continues to build upon lessons learned from past exercises to improve future performance. The THAAD RCT is an event designed to gather data for reliability assessment and evaluate fixes and improvements incorporated into the THAAD system during the development program. Concurrently, A-4 ADA prepares itself for FTT-12 at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii. FTT-12 is conducted as a real-world deployment under operationally realistic conditions with Soldiers planning, deploying, emplacing, and operating the system using their tactics, techniques, and procedures.

With more than one billion dollars invested, the Army and associates have dedicated much time and effort to creating this highly capable system. With so much at stake, FTT-12 is a very important factor in determining if the Army will purchase the system from MDA. With no shortage of requests from every



major combatant commander, THAAD will deploy soon after its material release.

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

Unique to 11th Brigade is the Department of the Army Test Mission. Accomplishing this mission for the brigade is the 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery. These tests are varied and can range from the regular testing conducted at our local training areas to the unique and interesting conducted at unusual locations such as San Nicolas Island, as part of United States Flight Test 4. Soldiers from Alpha Battery, Echo Company, and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery were tasked with collecting data from a missile intercept. The intercept was performed by the ARROW II Missile Defense System and operated by the Israeli Air Force.

They began by preparing equipment for an air-load. The island is 61 miles from the California coast and there were two ways to get the equipment to the island, by either air or barge. The C-17 Globemaster III arrived, and after the load master checked the equipment and plans, the vehicles were transported onto the aircraft. It would take three trips to get everything to the island.

After the Soldiers emplaced the equipment, the Soldiers arrived at ‘Nick Town,’ the local name for San Nicolas Island Naval Base, to inspect their home for the next five weeks. They quickly started on intensive equipment evaluation and launch-readiness tests. As launch day approached, the Soldiers manned the equipment 24-hours a day to ensure it would be mission capable. As the countdown clock began, the level of excitement rose with every passing second. Finally, after all systems had been checked and rechecked, the clock indicated zero and the target was away. Shortly thereafter, there was a

Soldiers from Alpha 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery accompany their radar system as it is flown from Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Calif. to San Nicolas Island, Calif., for joint systems testing in January 2011. (Photo courtesy of 11th ADA BDE)



slow rumble and flash, the Arrow II missile was away and the intercept was successful. Additionally, the Patriot had collected data that will be used to enhance Patriot software/hardware development and design.

2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Strength and Honor*

The 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in the second quarter of FY11. While Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, four Patriot batteries, and a maintenance company were forward deployed, Echo Battery remained at Fort Bliss, Texas. For months Echo Battery augmented the pure Patriot test battalion by providing personnel and equipment for the final testing of the Surface Launched Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile system. Echo Battery deployed a Sentinel platoon to Afghanistan to support the airspace control mission.

3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Courage and Honor*

In Feb. 2010, the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery successfully redeployed from the U.S. Central Command area of operations, where it had spent the last 12 months protecting the combatant commander’s critical assets in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Once redeployed the Soldiers of the *Courage and Honor* Battalion faced a new kind of challenge; how to reintegrate themselves with their families and the Fort Bliss, Texas, community while adapting to the loss of a majority of the battalion leadership as the unit entered into reset.

Focused on initiatives to develop junior leaders, while simultaneously rebuilding unit cohesion and individual resiliency, the battalion turned to the Warrior Adventure Quest program, a high-adventure, outdoor recreation program designed to help Soldiers reintegrate back into their home station and become more resilient through activities that serve as alternatives to potentially destructive behaviors. Specifically, the program took place within 90-days of redeployment to help Soldiers reintegrate back to their home station, become more resilient, and build camaraderie. Throughout the training, leaders received overwhelming positive feedback from everyone that participated.

As one of the first units at Fort Bliss to utilize this relatively new Army program, the *Courage and Honor* Soldiers found that through teamwork, inner strength and a few sore muscles, there are a multitude of outlets that can provide a safe alternative to relieve the stresses of redeployment. In the months following, the unit has indeed seen a significantly reduced number of incidents and the program has left the Soldiers asking “When can we do it again?”



SGT Dawayn Gibbs, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, prepares his Soldiers to replace a Patriot missile. The 3-43 ADA provides defense of the base's critical assets and forces against aircraft, cruise missiles and tactical ballistic missiles. (Photo by Master Sgt. Ken Stephens, U.S. Air Force)



Echo Battery, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery conducts Avenger Table VIII and X certifications during a unit field training exercise in April 2011. (Photo courtesy of 11th ADA BDE)

5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *The Fighting Deuce*

The 5th Battalion, 52nd Air and Missile Defense began 2011 preparing to deploy. While a platoon from Echo Battery trained for a Sentinel radar mission to Afghanistan, the rest of *The Fighting Deuce* Battalion began posturing for a split-based deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility. In the spring of 2010, 5-52 AMD began air battle management training at the Drive Up System Trainer facility and participated in Virtual Flag 11-2. Before fully completing the criteria for the mission readiness phase of the Army Force Generation process, 5-52 AMD assumed Contingency Expeditionary Force II status in April 2011. The battalion implemented battalion readiness battery certifications to ensure the Patriot firing batteries were qualified for their monthly CEF II assumption.

The battalion set a high standard for Soldier and unit excellence in 2011 while encouraging friendly competition during several events throughout the year. For the Best Range Competition, the battalion strove to qualify 50 percent or more of all Soldiers as expert on their assigned weapon. The unit running the best overall range was awarded the Best Range streamer. Another streamer was awarded for the Fit to Fight competition, which involved each battalion unit taking the Army Physical Readiness Test during a five-day time frame. The last major event, the first-ever *Fighting Deuce* week, consisted of a week of sports tournaments and other competitions and activities, such as the Light Medium Tactical Vehicle pull and a chariot

race. Families were invited to cheer on their Soldiers all week. *The Fighting Deuce* "work hard, play hard" attitude was evident in all unit and family activities throughout the year.

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, *Ready and Vigilant*

The 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Ready and Vigilant*, is located at Fort Sill, Okla., and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. The brigade consists of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, two Patriot battalions and one Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar battalion. The 31st Brigade was constituted on Jan. 1, 1918. Since its creation, the brigade has undergone activations, deactivations, reorganizations, deployments and relocations. Regardless of location, however, the brigade and the subordinate commands are focused on four lines of effort to create and develop professional air defenders: force well-being, warfighting, leadership development and community outreach. During the past year, nearly two-thirds of the brigade has been deployed and the remainder has spent countless hours preparing for deployment. The success of operations during 2011 demonstrates the abilities of the Soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers of this brigade.

Care of the force is a high priority for the brigade. Effective and efficient training of individual and unit tasks, while maintaining a ready-to-deploy mindset, is the driving force of all training events within the brigade. This focus is the basis for this year's operational and training success.

Additionally, concentration on the individual care of all the personal dimensions of a Soldier, family member and brigade civilians is rooted in every activity of the brigade. Ensuring the individual needs of our total team are met has created a productive and satisfied force.



Events within the brigade are also developed to create adaptive and flexible leaders, who are prepared to conduct full spectrum operations in any theater. Creating opportunities for successful leadership guarantees a strong backbone for the future of our organization.

Leaders and Soldiers in the brigade recognize they are more than members of the 31st Brigade team, but also part of our local communities. Units and individuals have built relationships with local schools, businesses and other organizations to create experiences and understanding between the diverse populations of our communities. All have created environments of excellence and have completed every assigned task with professionalism and confidence.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, *Ready and Vigilant*

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery continued to prepare for contingency operations and future deployments through multiple training events that challenged and broadened command and control expertise.

HHB deployed to Fort Bliss, Texas, to serve as the headquarters element during 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery's live-fire event in July. Additionally, HHB served as the headquarters element during the event for 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense from Fort Bragg, N.C., and a Patriot crew from the German Air Force Air Defense Center at Fort Bliss, Texas, which also participated in the live-fire exercise.

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

The 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery was deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion assumed a mission of providing air and missile defense coverage of assets in two separate countries in the AOR. The *Lethal Strike* Battalion was equally divided in two task forces with two Patriot firing units and elements of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and the Maintenance Company at each location.

During the deployment, the battalion executed more than 20 air and missile defense exercises with joint and coalition forces in which air defenders enhanced skills in Patriot tactics, site security and rules of engagement procedures while simultaneously applying their tactical and technical expertise in 24-hour combat operations. Additionally, Soldiers volunteered countless hours at host nation schools by assisting in school repairs and spending many hours assisting special needs children. The battalion strengthened bonds and built camaraderie with host nation partners by participating in many local sporting events. The battalion redeployed to Fort Sill, Okla., May 2011, and is currently in the reset phase of the Army Force Generation model.



Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment anxiously await their release from their first formation since returning to Fort Sill, Okla., from a year-long deployment. (Photo by SGT Tara L. Cook, U.S. Army)

During this phase, the battalion continues to develop non-commissioned officers, Soldiers, and officers by sending them to professional development courses. The battalion will continue gunnery, range density and force protection training to remain 'Ready and Vigilant' for upcoming air and missile defense missions.

4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *I Yield Not, I Strike*

As the newest air defense artillery battalion in the Army, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery provided tactical ballistic missile support during joint exercise Operation Northern Edge 11, which consisted of more than 6,000 Soldiers, 30 units, and was designed to validate tactics, training and procedures that addressed contingency response operations. The battalion emplaced two batteries and the fire direction center at the Battle Command Training Center on Fort Sill, Okla. The three-week exercise gave the battalion its first role in a joint environment working directly with units located all over the U.S.

The capstone event for the battalion was a Patriot missile live-fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas. On July 30, after deploying two firing batteries, the battalion successfully fired eight PAC-2 missiles in support of the Patriot Field Surveillance Program.



A Patriot launcher from A Battery, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery fires a Patriot missile during a live-fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas. The battalion fired a total of eight missiles during the exercise. (Photo by CPT Jay Taylor, U.S. Army)

Upon the successful redeployment, the battalion continues to prepare for future operations and deployments.

5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Dragon Slayers*

Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, *Dragon Slayers* redeployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., following their mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn, where they were responsible for Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar operations across operating bases in Iraq.

In March of 2011, the battalion reorganized into an Avenger battalion to align with its original mission. In July of 2011, the battalion, again, reorganized into a C-RAM unit. The battalion is currently focused on individual and platoon level training with their new equipment and mission. Additionally, the battalion is moving into new facilities on Joint Base Lewis-McChord and

SPC Jenelle Blair, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, is joyfully reunited with her son, Carter, after a year-long deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. (Photo by Spc. Thomas Cannuli, U.S. Army)



building a C-RAM training laboratory designed to facilitate crew training.

While the battalion is refocusing its mission, members are continuing to build relationships with the local community by partnering with Beachwood Elementary School on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The battalion is currently in the training phase of Army Force Generation and continues to prepare for future operations.

94th U.S. Army Air and Missile Defense Command/PACOM, Fort Shafter, Hawaii

1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Okinawa, Japan, *Snake Eyes*

The 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, *Snake Eyes*, is the tip of the spear for the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command and stands ready to conduct air and missile defense for critical assets in Okinawa, Japan. The 1-1 ADA joined the 94th AAMDC on Aug. 16, 2006, after relocating from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

While the *Snake Eyes* Battalion's year was punctuated with the change of command from LTC Janell E. Eickhoff to LTC Joseph McCallion, Jr., the accomplishments and milestones the Soldiers of 1-1 ADA achieved resonated with the spirit of joint and bilateral integration. Most importantly, the battalion conducted its first battalion field training exercise, during which two firing units deployed from Kadena Air Base to outlying Marine Corps bases and demonstrated seamless integration across areas of command, control, communications, and data exchange with the U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps, and Japanese defense forces.

The 1-1 ADA continued to build relationships toward developing a single team for the defense of Okinawa and participated in 18th Wing Group local operational readiness exercises, live-fly exercises, and command and control link integration exercises. Furthermore, the battalion began working with the Marines of the Marine Command and Control Squadron and even the Navy when 1-1 ADA sent several air defense artillery fire coordination officers aboard the USS Lake Erie, 7th Fleet Command vessel to further develop the ability to control airspace and engage airborne targets.

Most importantly, the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery continued to develop a coalition with Japanese host nation elements not only through operational training, but by sending Soldiers in support of humanitarian and disaster relief Operation Tomodachi in the wake of Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami.



6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, ADA School, *Heart of the Branch*

The 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade enjoyed an extremely productive year and has set the tone for future success across the Fires Branch. Each battalion served a unique role in shaping the future leaders of the air defense artillery, and their efforts will continue to immediately impact the operational force.

In a brigade comprised of exceptional leaders and exemplary instructors, three individuals distinguished themselves throughout this year: SFC Paul Gahl, 2-6 ADA was selected as the Training and Doctrine Command, Advanced Individual Training Platoon Sergeant of the Year, while MAJ Charles Slinger, 1-56 ADA and CW4 Eric Strach, 3-6 ADA garnered Fort Sill Officer and Warrant Officer Instructor of the Year honors, respectively.

Despite these significant accomplishments, the brigade welcomes the challenges of the future, and the upcoming year promises to provide many opportunities to excel. The brigade will continue the ongoing process of program of instruction review in order to fully inculcate the tents of the Advanced Leader Course 2015 across all subordinate units. Functional courses will also be integrated into the FY12 review process, and the operational force can expect revitalized POIs for Patriot Master Gunner, Avenger Master Gunner, and Patriot Top Gun Courses in the near future. Finally, 6th ADA Brigade will sustain its current momentum with regards to improving state of the art training facilities and expanding the institutional training base to support future involvement of terminal high altitude area defense training as part of the curriculum. The one constant is that 6th ADA will continue to support the highest level of Initial Entry Training in the world; already at the forefront of the air defense artillery, the *Heart of the Branch* Brigade looks forward to the next milestone.

2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In December 2010, 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery conducted new equipment training and executed Task Force 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery's mission rehearsal exercise to certify the unit prior to deploying as the first National Guard Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar, better known as C-RAM presence in the Central Command area of responsibility. The battalion carried this operational mission into addressing the split of the 14J military occupational specialty into the new 14G and 14H MOS's. Throughout FY11, the battalion's numerous accomplishments directly benefitted the local community as well as the ADA Branch; 2-6 ADA was the main effort for Fort Sill's sponsorship of the Great Plains

Region Special Olympics in April. The event culminated with more than 350 special Olympians competing in over a dozen events and was supported by more than 300 volunteers from across 6th ADA Brigade.

3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery conducted training for military occupational skills 14E, 14T, and 140E personnel, as well as students from several allied nations. Historically, 3-6 ADA has trained more than 150 Patriot master gunners since creating the course as a direct response to fratricide concerns during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The goal of 3-6 ADA is to increase the combat readiness of Patriot personnel prior to arriving to their unit of assignment; in this regard, the battalion was an overwhelming success. By producing a Patriot Master Gunners course that is extremely rigorous and challenging without sacrificing the fundamentals of NCO leadership, 3-6 ADA single-handedly ensured that the 'best and brightest' of the Patriot community are given special skills that will benefit any commander. The battalion also gave back to the community through a Co-op partnership that included support for local construction projects, fund-raising activities, and the annual Red Cross "Superhero Run to Beat Cancer." These efforts not only built a foundation for the unit as part of the Lawton-Fort Sill family, but also earned 3-6 ADA the prestigious Dinges Award for Community Service in FY11.

1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery continued to serve the force by enhancing the profession of officer development and training. The battalion reorganized in March to consolidate support functions. The deactivation of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery resulted in the reallocation of instructors for the Captains Career Course, Warrant Officer Artillery Course, the Pre-Command Course, and several crucial ADA functional courses across the other batteries. The subsequent reorganization optimized resources to all officer education courses, paving the way for new educational initiatives. These included having ADA CCC students participate in media training with the Oklahoma University School of Journalism, while their lieutenant compatriots conducted the first ADA Basic Officer Leader Course field training exercise at Fort Sill, Okla.

The battalion's April field training exercise was the first of two pilot programs authorized by TRADOC to provide a tactical proving ground for training and reinforcing common core tasks. TRADOC also selected ADA BOLC as a test unit

for the new Army Physical Readiness Test, further cementing their role as a shaping force for future ADA commanders.

Eighth U.S. Army – Korea

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

Since 1994 and the first Korean nuclear crisis, the U.S. Army Patriot has been providing joint theater missile defense for Combined Forces Command in the Republic of Korea. In 2004, the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade moved from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Osan Air Base. The Patriot battalions in the Republic of Korea continue to provide an active missile defense against the vast North Korean ballistic missile threat, and these forces maintain the highest readiness levels of forces on the Korean peninsula.

The 35th ADA Brigade is comprised of two Patriot battalions, one at Camp Carroll in the southern portion of the Korean peninsula and an air missile defense battalion at Suwon Air Base, Osan Air Base and U.S. Army Garrison-Casey in the northern portion of the peninsula.

Throughout all operations and training, the 35th ADA Brigade maintains three priorities - fight tonight, alliance building and tour normalization.

The mission of the 35th ADA Brigade is to conduct theater air and missile defense of Combined Forces Command critical assets in the Korean theater of operations in order to enable Combined Forces Command to execute sortie generation and build combat power. The 35th ADA Brigade completes this mission by conducting command and control, protecting the force, providing sustainment, conducting air and missile defense, joint air and missile defense operations, and performing noncombatant evacuation operations. 'Ready in Defense!'

6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Korea, *Iron Horse*

Since May, 2009, the *Iron Horse* Battalion has served as the northernmost Patriot battalion in the Korean theater of operations. Under the command of the 35th Air Defense Artillery, the battalion is charged with defending key assets in the theater and providing freedom of maneuver for the ground force commander.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Foxtrot Maintenance Company are stationed at Suwon Air Base. The battalion consists of four Patriot PAC-3, and PAC-2 equipped batteries divided between Osan Air Base and Suwon Air Base. The battalion also supports Echo Battery, an Avenger equipped battery with operational control from the 210th Fires Brigade in Camp Casey, Republic of Korea.



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade prepare the Patriot radar system for march order and emplacement at Camp Carroll, Korea. (Photo courtesy of 35th ADE BDE)

The battalion has about 650 Soldiers, and strikes a careful balance between tour normalization and operational readiness. With the recent advent of an expanded command sponsorship program, many Soldiers are able to bring their families to Korea for two or three year tours.

Serving on a Korean airbase requires a robust public affairs and liaison officer program with a great deal of integration with Korean partners. To that end, the *Iron Horse* Battalion hosts regular cultural exchange programs, meetings, and organizational days aimed at improving and maintaining the relationship between the two forces.

'Semper Paratus', 'Always Ready,' the *Iron Horse* Battalion lives up to its historic regimental motto. The 52nd Artillery Regiment once served as part of Task Force Smith, the earliest American combatants in the Korean War. The modern day Soldiers manning the Patriot batteries in the northern Korea theater of operations proudly support and defend the Republic of Korea.

India Battery, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California

In the Californian high Mojave Desert, the Soldiers of India Battery have tackled a continuous, but diverse, mission set over the past year while serving as the opposing forces for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. Demonstrating the versatility air defenders have long been known for, the Soldiers of I Battery have performed air defense and reconnaissance tasks



while utilizing both U.S. and insurgent tactics. In November 2010, the battery participated in the first hybrid-threat operations rotation at NTC. This threat model combines the lethality of high intensity conflicts of the past with the complexities faced in a counterinsurgency environment. During this rotation, the Soldiers of I Battery fought for both the Blue Force, and the Opposing Force. In addition to planning and executing traditional air defense missions, Stinger teams conducted reconnaissance and counter-reconnaissance missions. In both areas their competence created freedom of maneuver for the squadron's main effort and afforded the squadron commander additional intelligence during the planning processes.

Following the November rotation, sounds of missiles filled the air of Fort Irwin as I Battery conducted its annual Table X Stinger live-fire. Despite the battery being the Army's only Man-Portable Air-Defense system unit and the majority of Soldiers coming from Avenger-based units, 12 teams demonstrated their proficiency by engaging and destroying drones flying high above the desert floor.

In March, I Battery completed another Table VIII certification in preparation for their training at the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Okla. The battery then deployed to the FCoE to provide its 14S Soldiers the opportunity to train on the Avenger Weapon System. Additionally, the 14Js received hands-on training with the Sentinel radar. The utilization of Fort Sill's world class facilities ensured the Soldiers would be ready for their next duty assignment.

With the temperatures rising well into the 100's at NTC, I Battery was able to spend a few days near the California coastline where they conducted joint training with the 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., just north of San Diego. It was here, I Battery conducted its Stinger Competition to determine the best 14S MANPADS team in the Army. SPC David Petrucci and PFC Anthony Dalrymple won the competition.

In addition to executing missions in their traditional air defense roles, I Battery was also routinely called upon to perform various other missions. In one such mission, I Battery participated in the National Urban Warfare Complex validation at NTC. During the NUWC validation, I Battery executed offensive and defensive situational training exercise lanes as OPFOR and BLUFOR in order to test the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems and CT coverage of the complex. These situational training exercise lanes ranged from screening missions to cordon and searches.

During NTC rotations throughout the year, I Battery replicated insurgent forces, testing every system the rotational unit had. In an air defense role, I Battery Soldiers tested the skills of helicopter and aircraft pilots for the dangers they will face when they deploy. Ground forces contended with I Battery Soldiers maneuvering up mountains as a Taliban assault element

during nightly combat outpost attacks. They also replicated host nation security forces in order to provide rotational units the opportunity to hone their skills for their train, partner and assist missions. Additionally, I Battery Soldiers acted as local nationals and allowed the rotational units to learn local languages, consequence management, and search and detain techniques, tactical questioning, and a variety of other skills needed while overseas.

The Soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers of I Battery execute a mission set that is like no other in the Army. The flexibility and hard work of the Soldiers to accomplish both their rotational missions, as well as their own training requirements, while braving the high desert heat of the Mojave, is a testament to their dedication to train the force.

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas, *Lightning Strike*

Fiscal year 2011 began with the usual flurry of activities and continues to be a very busy and productive year for the 69th Air Defense Artillery *Lightning* Brigade. The 69th ADA Brigade headquarters made a tremendous impact while deployed in Southwest Asia and returned in June 2011 after a successful year. Immediately after uncasing its colors, the brigade relocated to a brand new complex. Situated among the rolling hills near Fort Hood's training areas where cattle freely roam the grounds, it's easy to understand why the new home is affectionately referred to as 'The Ranch.' A ribbon cutting ceremony was held marking the grand opening of the new complex in July 2011. At almost 40,000 square feet, the brigade headquarters building is the first of many buildings to be completed in the complex, and plans call for additional buildings and offices, barracks, motor pools, a physical training area and a dining facility for each battalion. As the sun was setting over 'The Ranch,' preparations were underway for the change of command ceremony welcoming COL Randall McIntire as *Lightning* 06. Several weeks into his command the brigade was recognized for excellence in two areas... its field-kitchen team was presented with an award by BG Jack O'Connor, FORSCOM G-4, for their forces command level win during the prestigious 44th annual Philip A. Connelly Competition in July. The field-kitchen team competes at the Department of the Army level Philip A. Connelly Competition in the fall. Additionally, BG William T. Wolf, Director of Army Safety, presented the brigade with an award in recognition for the outstanding safety record of the brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. As the year nears its end, the 69th ADA brigade is focused like a laser and well on the way to achieving the commander's vision of war-fighter preparedness, mastering the basics and a positive environment.



Soldiers of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade salute the U.S. Flag during a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the opening of the new brigade headquarters building on July 21, 2011, at Fort Hood. (Photo courtesy of 69th ADA BDE)

The 69th ADA Brigade grew by 33 percent this summer as it added the 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment to the team. The 15th Patriot battalion to be added to the ADA force to maintain air and missile defense operations around the world, 1-62 ADA Regiment stood up three of six batteries that will make up the battalion in a ceremony in June 2011. The battalion is set to officially activate this fall...and with its activation, continue its proud history. The 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment has a rich and long legacy in defense of the U.S. spanning more than 200 years until its deactivation in 2005. With its reactivation, 1-62 ADA is now the only active battalion in the 62nd Regiment. Morale is high and the battalion is ready to set conditions quickly for their scheduled deployment to the Middle East in the winter of 2012.

As we move into 2012, with anticipation and enthusiasm, we look forward to the many opportunities to deploy throughout various regions of the world in support of our national interests. With that comes many challenges, but despite the sacrifice, the *Lightning* Brigade remains strong due to the outstanding courage, commitment and resilience of our world-class Soldiers and families. 'Guarding the Skies!'

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

In November 2010, as 1st Battalion, 44th Air and Missile Defense prepared to deploy to Southwest Asia, they bid farewell to LTC Brian Gibson, and welcomed LTC Mark Holler. The *Strike First* Battalion has had a phenomenal year deployed in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility providing world class air and missile defense to Army Central Command's critical assets. Their superior team of warrior Soldiers have worked hard, trained intensely, and executed their mission with the greatest professionalism expected of air defenders.

Senior leaders from around the Army, sister services, and Department of Defense know when they want to see the air defense mission being performed up close and personal, they visit the *Strike First* Battalion. Whether conducting crew drills, operational readiness evaluations, air and missile defense training and operations, systems maintenance, supply and logistics operations, or physical fitness training and combatives, Soldiers and leaders of the *Strike First* Battalion are always on point, leading the way at the tip of the air defense spear. Echo Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air and Missile Defense, attached to the 4th Battalion, 5th Air and Missile Defense, redeployed 27 Soldiers from Iraq in January 2011. The platoon completed a 12-month deployment conducting sense and warns operations spread over five different locations throughout Iraq. The unit received high praise from each of their respective commanders on their performance. One site was even used as the standard for other sites to emulate throughout the country. It is clear, no other battalion in our nation's inventory of strategic forces can do the job they do to the level of technical and tactical proficiency maintained by 1-44 AMD's warriors - they truly lead by example.

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

The 69th ADA Brigade's 4th Battalion, 5th Air and Missile Defense, *Renegades* Battalion, deployed their Echo Battery on a highly sensitive border mission as 2010 came to a close, while the rest of the battalion continued to prepare for their deployment in the fall of 2011. As part of their deployment preparation, the *Renegades* conducted their first ever integrated Patriot/Avenger/Sentinel Air and Missile Defense Exercise. This was the first time since standing up as an air and missile defense battalion the

Soldiers, from 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, fire a missile using a man-portable, air defense system, or MANPAD, during a live-fire exercise on July 31, 2011, at Fort Hood. (Photo courtesy of 69th ADA BDE)





unit had the opportunity to train this critical task. As an AMD battalion they are designed and configured to maximize the capabilities of different air defense weapon systems to provide a layered defense as well as sensors to establish a common air picture giving the unit the capability to protect critical assets. In spring of 2011, the Battalion welcomed Echo Battery home from their successful border mission. Echo Battery, 4-5 AMD, conducted the mission in southern Arizona where they were instrumental in the U.S. Border Patrol's efforts to curtail illegal activity. The unit's Sentinel radar and Avenger Air Defense Systems greatly enhanced the ability to detect and respond to low flying aircraft used by transnational criminal organizations to transport illicit drugs across the U.S.-Mexico border. The defense systems employed by Echo Battery were critical to the accomplishment of the U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson sector's homeland security mission. The *Renegades* wrapped up the summer with a live-fire exercise and Standardized Patriot Evaluation and Assessment Reporting. As deployment draws near, the *Renegades* are not only well trained but eager to take on their deployment mission... protecting our national interests and supporting our friends and allies around the world.

357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment, Germany

As the 357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment entered fiscal year 2011, its focus continued to be supporting U.S. European Command operational plans and exercises, theater security cooperation efforts, and transforming into a theater level air and missile defense headquarters.

The detachment continued supporting ongoing ballistic missile defense operations in the EUCOM area of responsibility by training, manning and operating the AN/TPY-2 radar in Site 512 and the associated sensor management cell at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. This mission provides real-world early warning, not only to our partner nation, but to EUCOM elements on a day-to-day basis. The unit also participated in multiple joint and multinational exercises throughout the year, such as Juniper Falcon 2011 in Israel, Austere Challenge 2011, in Germany, Assured Response and the Missile Defense Agency led Global Defender series exercises. The detachment also has a Soldier deployed in support of Operation New Dawn and a Soldier deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Operational efforts also gained momentum this year as the headquarters began to plan and implement the necessary forces needed to execute the task of executing the European Phased Adaptive Approach. The first milestone in this presidential directed mission is to emplace an additional AN/TPY-2 radar within Europe, a task that fell squarely on the 357th AMD-D headquarters. The detachment manned, trained and equipped the newly established 11th Missile Defense Detachment under

its operational control from the Space and Missile Defense Command. The 11th MD-D was deployed to Eastern Europe to establish radar site operations in Turkey and sensor management responsibilities at Ramstein Air Base. This will become the focal point to EUCOM's ongoing theater-wide ballistic missile defense operations.

In addition to the continuing support to operations within EUCOM, the 357th AMD-D moved forward with its organizational transformation to fill the role as the Army Air and Missile Defense Command within the European combatant command. The 357th AMD-D became the newest AAMDC within the air defense artillery force. There is currently one additional organizational growth phase planned in the summer of 2012 to round out the full transformation to an AAMDC, and it will be officially re-designated as the 10th AAMDC and fulfill the doctrinal, theater-level air and missile defense roles within EUCOM and U.S. Army Europe. Challenges still lay ahead for this high demand organization, particularly as it must step up to the position of an AAMDC, while also executing tactical functions given the absence of an organic brigade headquarters in theater.

5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Germany, *No Fear*

The *No Fear* Battalion has had tremendous success over the past year in a variety of high level and critical missions. Upon validation as the newest Patriot, PAC-3 battalion in the Army, through a superb Standardized Patriot Evaluation and Assessment of Readiness at the end of 2010, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery did not stop and continued to live up to their tremendous reputation. They were the spearhead for the strategic Patriot to Poland mission by conducting four additional rotations within the year, enhancing the partnership and theater security cooperation with this key ally. Along with Patriot to Poland, the battalion maintained razor-sharp readiness through gunnery training and certifications, which allowed them to meet the demands of being constantly prepared to deploy in any contingency on short notice.

The battalion led the way in many additional areas such as producing Air Defender of the Year, CPT Ted Kimmey, as well as having elements represent U.S. Army Europe Command in the Department of the Army Supply Excellence Award. The 357th AMD-D and 5-7 ADA's reputations and success have gained the attention of many key leaders and they were honored to host such distinguished visitors such as the EUCOM commander, Adm. James Stavridis, Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, the Space and Missile Defense commander, LTG Richard Formica, the USAREUR commander, LTG Mark Hertling, as well as multiple congressional delegations.

Red Book 2011

Fires on Target

US Army Field Artillery Units

1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss,
Texas, *Old Ironsides*

4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment,
Gunners

4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment prepared much of the past year for deployment to Southwest Asia. The *Gunners* fielded Alpha Battery with M777A2 howitzers and converted Bravo Battery along with Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery to a maneuver force. Their training ranged from M777A2 gunnery and mounted cavalry gunnery to an in-depth counterinsurgency, situational training exercise preparing the *Gunners* for this challenging mission. The culmination of the battalion's training was a tough mission-readiness exercise at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. The *Gunners* stand ready to deploy, fight and win across the spectrum of combat operations.

2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment,
Gunners

In mid-August 2010, the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, *Gunners* redeployed from Kirkuk province, Iraq. After reintegration, the *Gunners* turned their efforts toward of the transition of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division from a heavy brigade combat team, to a Stryker brigade combat team. Beginning with the turn-in of the battalion's M109A6 Paladin howitzers, additional assigned vehicles and equipment associated with an HBCT, simultaneously we occupied a new footprint on East Fort Bliss.

Since January, the battalion fielded and conducted training for our AN/TPQ-37 radar, M198 towed howitzers (temporary,



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, *Gunners*, participate in a M249 and M240 weapons qualification range at White Sands Missile Rand, N. M. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 3rd FA)

until the M777A2 is available), armored HMMWVs, Profilers, and other equipment necessary to begin artillery gunnery tables. The Artillery Skills Proficiency Test began and the battalion conducted Tables I – V, August through October 2011.

Concurrent with new equipment fielding, the battalion began development of the 2-3 FA Redbook, providing a single guide for conducting the ASPT, certification, qualification, digital sustainment, and necessary training required. Closing out a year of significant transformation we look forward to further developing our skills on new equipment and honing our craft as proud Redlegs.

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

The 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery activated at Fort Bliss, as the direct support artillery battalion for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division on Sept. 17, 2010, with



Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, *Iron Thunder*, fire the first round during a live-fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas on March 3, 2011. (Photo by CPT Joshua Grubbs, U.S. Army)

more than 500 Soldiers and 16 M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzers. After activation, the brigade assumed the additional mission as the Army Evaluation Task Force and then attached to the Brigade Modernization Command. With the transition, the battalion substituted a platoon of four Paladins with M777A2 lightweight towed howitzers. As the Army's first composite battalion, *Iron Thunder* conducted every level certification and qualification over a six-month period. This prepared them for the first Network Integration Evaluation conducted at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range beginning June 2011. The battalion provided Fires supporting wide area security and combined arms maneuver operations across 4200-square miles. In addition, the battalion exercised the Wideband Networking Waveform using the Ground Mobile Radio system to transmit Advanced Field Artillery Data System data and mass battalion Fires with units separated over 120 kilometers. Platoons also supported company combined arms live-fire exercises, improving the brigade's fire support systems and procedures, testing the ability and capacity of the network to support the Fires war-fighting function, and is leading the Fires Center of Excellence identified requirement, closing two gaps within brigade combat teams: lack of beyond line of sight communications systems to integrate with Army and joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational partners; lack of sufficiently trained fire supporters, certified joint Fires observers, or the authority to perform digital clearance of Fires, employment of close air support, and employment of other joint Fires. The communications packages will grow as the battalion equips the composite battery with the GMR, the Paladin battery will gain AN/PRC-117G multiband multi mission radio, and lightweight, counter-mortar radars are expected to join the battalion to complement the existing Q-36 and Q-37 systems. Beginning in 2012, 4-27 FA will be the first

in the Army to reorganize the fire supporters within the brigade and assign them to the FA battalion. The 4-27 FA stands united with the entire field artillery community ensuring the future contributions of Redlegs as our Army progresses towards the implementation of the objective brigade combat team.

2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, *Pathfinders*

Upon redeployment from Iraq in May 2010, 2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery began a reset training period, focused strictly on 'core competencies' and critical skills. The unit established the first 'Fire Direction Academy,' bringing every battalion 13D together under the battalion fire direction officer and fire direction non-commissioned officer. This nine-week course leaned on the school-house model, culminating in the dry-fire certification of every platoon fire direction center. For the 13Bs, the battalion hosted a two-week long Paladin Leader's Course, retraining all 13B from SPC through 1LT. Finally, retraining the 13F and combat observation and lasing teams, 2-29 FA established a forward observer course centralizing all brigade combat team 13Fs under the 2-29 FA umbrella. This two-month course, under the BCT fire support element officer in charge, and NCO in charge, resulted in 100 percent company-level fire support team certification, and BCT certification exercise, February 2011. By the end of the month-long exercise, every FDC, fire support team, and both firing batteries were certified through table XII. In addition to core competency training, 2-29 FA balanced critical mission-oriented maneuver training throughout.

During the unit's rotation to the National Training Center, at Fort Irwin, Calif., 2-29 FA continued assumed a hybrid mission set, including the re-birth of live-fire battery lanes, live counter-fire missions and Excalibur precision Fires. The Pathfinder Battalion deployed to northern Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn, July 2011.

A 2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment Paladin sits in the desert. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 29th FA)





Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Dragons*, observe rounds on target. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 82nd FA)

1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, *First Team*

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

The 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Dragons*, continued providing support Fires for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, *Ironhorse*, while preparing to deploy supporting Operation New Dawn. The battalion conducted multiple battalion and brigade-level field training exercises, allowing 16 M109A6 Paladin gun crews, five fire direction center crews, and the battalion combat observation and lasing team, to certify through Paladin Table XVIII, an accomplishment not seen since 2001 on Fort Hood. A total of 4,979 rounds were fired, at Fort Hood and the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., without a firing incident, and Bravo Battery conducted a successful, live Excalibur shoot, enabling 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry with global positioning system guided munitions capabilities.

After redeploying from Iraq, the battalion developed an approach to retrain core Fires support skills, reestablishing the combined arms team, integrating maneuver officers and non-commissioned officers throughout each training event. Reconnecting the maneuver with Fires was paramount to preparing the battalion for future operations, including the maneuver shooter exercise, and a combined arms live-fire with every brigade company/troop, certifying 11 commanders and fire support teams.

The BCT displayed professionalism at NTC, and the battalion provided fire support from four independent forward operating bases and controlled its own operational environment.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery produced the brigade's top fire support team; Alpha Battery set a battalion record, hitting 16/40 targets on a Paladin direct fire range, with

their M109A6 self-propelled howitzer; Bravo Battery produced the brigade's top gun and fire direction center.

Golf Forward Support Company flawlessly executed 20 rearm, refuel, and refit survey points, as well as other logistical support operations throughout the year. The *Dragons*, achieved superior success in every task they were assigned.

Currently deployed to Iraq and tasked to secure the Diwanayah province and provide Fires for the Ironhorse Brigade, 1-82 FA is enabling USF-Is Reduction of Forces. '*Dragons! Ironhorse! First Team!*'

3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Red Dragons*

The 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Red Dragons*, followed the howitzer Tables I-XII by configuring the staff and batteries into a maneuver battalion and validating maneuver and artillery skills during a Joint Readiness Training Center rotation at Fort Polk, La., January 2011.

The *Red Dragons* deployed to Iraq, May 2011, being task organized and employed as a motorized maneuver battalion task force. Task Force 3-82 conducted stability operations and set conditions for the final transition between U.S. forces, Iraqi security forces and the government of Iraq in southern Salah ad Din province. The *Red Dragons* partnered with, advised, trained, and assisted more than 16,000 Iraqi security forces and ensured protection of Joint Base Balad, the largest logistical hub and airfield in Iraq. Although deployed as a maneuver force, the *Red Dragons* maintained their ability to provide lethal Fires from the base utilizing M109A6 Paladin hot guns during key operations.

The Red Dragon team continues to stay disciplined, precise and adaptable to a changing environment willing to lead the way accomplishing any mission. '*Red Dragons! Can and Will!*'

PFC James Padden and SGT Roberto Velasco from Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conduct a dismounted patrol near Joint Base Balad, Iraq. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 82nd FA)





1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, *Big Red One*

The 1st Infantry Division headquarters was deployed to Basra, Iraq as the U.S. Division South Headquarters from January 2009 to 2010. Artillerymen of the division headquarters performed command and control of joint Fires, targeting, and sensor management throughout southern Iraq. Following redeployment they began reset in preparation for the pending deployment to Regional Command-East in Afghanistan.

1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, *Destroyers*

The 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, *Destroyers*, played a crucial part the Net Warrior System testing, representing opposing forces, training for an advise and assist mission, and deploying to Iraq as a motorized rifle battalion.

The Soldiers honed their dismounted patrol skills during the two-month exercise, and were given one more opportunity to conduct Paladin platoon-level gunnery from November to December. Alerted in December of their deployment to Iraq, they began preparations, sending the battalion staff to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., in January for a command-post exercise in conjunction with 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division's rotation, focusing on individual and collective related tasks training. The battalion accomplished its preparations by late April 2011, and welcomed the newly attached Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery from Fort Lewis, Wash.

In early May, the battalion deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, replacing 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Battalion. The *Destroyer's* first mission was an advice, train, and assist operation for Kirkuk's outer districts, and train Kurdish soldiers at the Manila Training Center, Sulaymaniyah province. Following a RIP/TOA with 2nd Squadron, 12th Cavalry Regiment, the *Destroyers* assumed responsibility for the combined security area and the command and control for Kirkuk City and Kirkuk province.

Elements of 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery conduct snap traffic control points with its Iraqi Security Forces counterparts in Kirkuk, Iraq. (Photo by CPT Michael Findlay, U.S. Army)



With the Manila Training Center mission completed, the battalion assumed control for force protection for Contingency Operating Site Warrior. The battalion began executing counter-improvised explosive device, counter-indirect fire, and C-SAIED patrols, in addition to the brigade quick reaction force, tactical over watch of the six combined check points all while continuing to advise and assist the 12th Iraqi army, district Iraqi police, and the emergency services unit. Hamilton's Own continues to serve honorably, and contribute to the 236-year history of the longest serving active duty battalion in the U.S. Army. 'Faithful and True' since 1776!

1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Knox, Kentucky, *Centaurs*

The *Centaurs* of 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, deployed to Regional Command-East, Afghanistan December 2010. Since January, they have provided Fires across Khost, Paktya, and Ghazni provinces in support of Task Force Duke and TF White Eagle, secured Forward Operating Base Salerno, conducted full spectrum counterinsurgency operations, partnered with the 4/1/203 Combat Support Kandak of the Afghanistan National Army and the Afghan uniformed police, and provided radar support to our brigade and Bagram Airfield in Parwan. *Centaur* Redlegs have fired more than 3,000 rounds including several direct fire engagements.

In May, 1-6FA conducted their first air assault artillery raid, occupying a fire base on top of a mountain in Sperah district for a week supporting 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment's clearing operations. In March, the Rock Hard battery of 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery, attached from the 18th Fires Brigade, fired the task force's first Excalibur round, destroying a building containing explosives.

The *Centaurs* have demonstrated artillery Soldiers can master a wide variety of missions while continuing to deliver timely, accurate Fires throughout the battle space. 'Swift & Bold! Duty First!'

Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment conduct direct fire calibration at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, on July 21, 2011, in preparation for a platoon air assault in support of Operation Tofan 1. (Photo by LTC James Vizzard, U.S. Army)



**1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment,
*First Lightning***

The 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment has been training and deploying as a maneuver task force operating in United States Division-Center in support of Operation New Dawn. The battalion reorganized as a motorized infantry battalion June 2010, and conducted individual-skill level tasks to battalion combined operations to facilitate this conversion, and certified at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., in August 2010.

Prior to deployment, the battalion tested and certified the EQ-36 Counterfire Target Acquisition radar and was the first to deploy the EQ-36 in the Baghdad operational area, as a part of the 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade in support of OND, enhancing the force protection posture of the entire USD-C and the theater.

The battalion also deployed with the mission of training and advising the 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division, and developing an effective and sustainable force capable of securing the population throughout and after the responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq. This partnership served as the foundation for all operations within the battalion’s area of operations and facilitated combined offensive operations and training events. The 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division improved with enhanced targeting efforts, disrupting enemy networks, improved force

SSG Kyle Henry, a section chief with Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, *First Lightning*, conducts a dismounted force protection patrol near an Iraqi 1st Federal Police check point on July 26, 2011, outside of Joint Security Station Loyalty, Iraq. (Photo by CPT Christopher Miles, U.S. Army)



protection operations and training events, including land navigation, marksmanship and troop leading procedures.

During the deployment, the battalion had seven heroes fall during enemy actions. The battalion lost SPC Jose Torre during a combat operation conducted in eastern Baghdad, January 2011. On June 6, 2011, the battalion lost six heroes in an indirect-fire attack on the living quarters of Joint Security Station Loyalty; SPC Robert Hartwick, PFC Michael Olivieri, SPC Emilio Campo, PFC Christopher Fishbeck, PFC Michael Cook and SPC Marcos Cintron. The professionalism and dedication of the officers, non-commissioned officers and Soldiers of the battalion were in keeping with the values of the unit and displayed honor to the fallen heroes. The battalion persevered and lived up to its motto, ‘Never Broken by Hardship or Battle.’

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

The *Proud Americans*, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment immediately began retraining on military occupation specialty proficiencies, after their non-standard mission on their deployment to Iraq ending August 2010. The battalion brought the 13F, forward observers back into their ranks, conducting a 90-day Fires Support Academy training individual, fire-support tasks before sending Soldiers back to their maneuver battalions.

After the classroom training, the battalion participated with 75th Fires Brigade, in a brigade live-fire exercise certifying the different MOSs throughout the battalion. The 75th FiB’s field exercise, Operation Diamond Freeze, was conducted at Fort Sill, Okla., in conjunction with the U.S. Marines, Air Force, and Special Forces, coordinating Fires between the agencies.

In June and July 2011, the battalion received orders, to execute the critical task of training future officers at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y, providing Bravo

Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment conducts fire missions in support of United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Bravo Battery provided live-fires for Cadet Basic Training from June to July 2011. (Photo by Spc. Ross Sedgwick, U.S. Army)





Battery unlimited training resources to re-familiarize and execute basic-crew drills.

In August, while in the preparatory stages of training, 2-32 FA, in conjunction with 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, deployed to Fort Sill for Operation Patriot Charge, a three-week, live-fire field training exercise, simulating conditions of the upcoming deployment. The battalion completed Gunnery Table XII and combined-firepower training with 2-16 IN's 120 mm mortar teams, and is currently in the final phases of preparation for deployment.

The battalion is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan, in early 2012, with the intent of executing its primary mission as a rapidly deployable force; capable of executing multiple operations anywhere, day or night, maintaining pride in themselves, their unit, their families and their country. *'Proud Americans!'*

2nd Infantry Division, South Korea, *Second to None*

2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, *Vikings*

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment assumed responsibility early 2010, for the *Viking* operating environment, 115-square miles of heavily urbanized terrain, in the Khadamiya area of Baghdad. Additionally, 2-12 FA repositioned the majority of its combat power and battalion command and control to Joint Security Station Justice, enabling combined operations with the Iraqi army and national police. Assuming full-operational capability at JSS Justice, 2-12 FA became the most widely-dispersed unit within 4th SBCT, having elements at Taji, Nasar Wa Salam, Muthana, Forward Operating Base Liberty and JSS Justice. With additional battle space and partnership units, Task Force Viking faced a daunting mission set, interdicting enemy indirect fire, securing key lines of communication and local population, as well as delivering close-supporting Fires.

Preparing for the Iraqi national elections, 2-12 FA became the Raider Brigade's main effort, working with and through its Iraqi security forces and local community leadership partners preparing and securing more than 400 polling sites working to safeguard against destabilizing incidents. The combined efforts of the ISF and 2-12 FA, protecting the populace and key infrastructure, leading up to Iraqi national elections set the conditions for a free and fair election.

The *Viking* Battalion participated in the *Raider* Brigade's 'Last Patrol,' a 360-mile tactical road march from Baghdad to Kuwait, symbolizing the end of their year-long deployment and the departure of the last combat troops in Iraq. The battalion was professional and respectful of the Iraqi government, Iraqi security force, and the people of Iraq.

Since redeployment to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the *Viking* Battalion has conducted section certification and qualification providing Fires supporting Raider Brigade's future missions. The 2-12 FA completed a successful battalion field training exercise, in August, firing 1302 rounds and ended in *Viking* Family Day, giving families the opportunity to observe battalion mass fire missions, The *Viking* Battalion continues to train alongside the Raider Brigade to prepare for any mission the nation requires.

1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, *Red Lions*

The 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment redeployed from Iraq in August 2010 and began the process of the Army Force Generation reset cycle with a mission-essential task list. The emphasis was to move from a counterinsurgency fight and prepare for full spectrum operations.

In December 2010, the officers and 13B and 13D series non-commissioned officers were tested on the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test and the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery implemented a 13R and 13T certification program

Soldiers, from 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, participate in a live-fire exercise during the unit's National Training Center rotation August 2011. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 37th FA)



ensuring the radar, meteorological and survey sections could support the overarching end-state, becoming a force field artillery headquarters. The battalion, now prepared to execute platoon-level qualifications, during the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, brigade FTX, in May 2011, participated in a 176-mile road march to Yakima Training Center, Wash., conducting a series of platoon full spectrum operations lanes and a brigade Fires control exercises. This was also the first time Bravo Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, 17th Fires Brigade, would be attached, allowing the batteries to work through the intricate synchronization of their FDCs and howitzer section crews before the battalion-level field training. When the 3-2 SBCT received notice of deployment to Afghanistan, they immediately altered the brigade's NTC rotation from full spectrum operations to a mission readiness exercise.

During the squad training exercise lanes, the battalion fired its first XM982 round and for the first time at NTC, and it was able to be tracked by the battalion's Q-37 radar. During force-on-force, the battalion was able to provide live and notional Fires, supporting the counter-fire fight and two named operations. The second operation featured a three-day continuous combined arms fight into a notional Taliban support zone taxing both brigade and opposing force resources. *Red Lions* – 'On the Minute – Without Delay!'

3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, *Marne Division*

In the fall of 2010, the 3rd Infantry Division Fires cell completed its year-long deployment to Iraq and was supporting U.S. Division-North operations at Contingency Operating Site, Speicher, Marez, and Warhorse. Since redeploying to Fort Stewart, in November, Marne Fires has conducted equipment reset operations and has begun training for future contingencies.

In an effort to get back to core competencies and share knowledge with fellow fire supporters, the Fires cell began hosting quarterly division Fires forums. These events bring together all of the brigade combat teams' fire support elements, along with the Fires battalions to discuss current Fires community issues, gain consensus on the division Redbook, and share training tactics, techniques and procedures. LTC John L. Rafferty, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment commander, Fort Bragg, N.C., was one guest speaker delivering a brief on the Panther Brigade's recent Fire Support Coordination Exercise and how they were able to achieve such success, making an excellent template for future 3rd ID FSCXs.

The Fires cell deployed with the division headquarters, in July, to Evans Army Airfield, Fort Stewart, to conduct a command-post exercise focusing on mission command,

specifically Army Battle Command Systems, synchronizing the staff, exercising the division battle rhythm and refining the targeting process. In August, Marne Fires deployed again, to Evans Army Airfield, with the division headquarters executing a second iteration of the CPX. In September, the Fires cell deployed with the division headquarters for a third time conducting a two-week division mission readiness exercise and are now well postured to deploy and support the division in any contingency.

1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, *Battleking*

The *Battleking* Battalion has spent 2011 completing Army Force Generation reset and is currently in a train/ready phase with the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Spartans, preparing for future missions.

The fire support elements of the 2nd HBCT, consolidated under the control of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery for five months to train as a single unit, allowing sharing of valuable lessons learned and training the fundamentals of fire support. The training concluded with the fire supporters competing in two events: the best forward observer and best fire support team competition.

In May, 1-9 FA participated in the combined arms live-fire exercise, for the Chief of Staff of the People's Republic of China army and his delegation. During this CALFX, 2nd HBCT massed artillery, mortars, attack aviation, close air support and direct Fires from infantry and armor supporting an infantry platoon air assault to clear the objective. This mission had strategic implications in displaying the Army's capabilities, as well as enhancing our strategic partnership. Prior to completing the CALFX, the battalion executed Artillery Tables I through VI crew certifications and qualifications, Top Gun competition, Fire Support Team certification and qualification, and an intensive two-week train up, firing more than 2000 rounds.

In August, the *Battlekings* conducted Operation Kobayashi Maru, a Paladin Table XII platoon qualification. During this lane-based tactical situation, platoons were tested and evaluated on artillery fundamentals and tactical decision making.

Throughout the remainder of 2011, the *Battlekings* continued to focus on weapons proficiency, combat focused physical training, collective level gunnery and artillery fundamentals within the Spartan HBCT. From Paladin Table XV to supporting maneuver Table XII with indirect Fires, the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery is preparing for any future mission.

1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia, *Rock's Support*

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery have become masters of the non-standard mission in Iraq. The latest



deployment, the *Rock's Support* Battalion operated as an advise and assist battalion, supporting the 3rd Heavy Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division operations from October 2009 to September 2010. The battalion operated as a land owner, maneuvering four companies in the Al Kut region, performing as a motorized maneuver force.

Since redeployment, the battalion has made an effort to re-master those technical and tactical skills lost over the past eight years. This effort began by ensuring baseline standards and competencies were achieved at the individual and section level across the battalion, and were displayed during Artillery Gunnery Tables.

The *Rock's Support*, stationed at Fort Benning, is afforded unique opportunities training with the 75th Ranger Regiment and their supporting aviation units, 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment. The battalion provided Fires support for 3rd Battalion, 75th Rangers' 13F qualifications, as well as a fire control exercise involving ground forces, special operations aviation and AC-130 aircraft. These training events allowed platoons to execute a variety of Fires. The batteries also executed several fire missions, supporting ground and aerial observers, utilizing an AC-130 aircraft as a communications relay platform.

The rigorous application of gunnery standards in combination with training opportunities has tested every aspect of the unit's training plan, providing valuable lessons learned ensuring we continue to refine our skills at an accelerated rate. The *Rock's Support* is well on its way to becoming a world class artillery battalion, once again.

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

After replacing 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division in east Baghdad and the Meda'in region, Iraq, the *Glory's Guns* Battalion completed a successful deployment, partnering with the 1st Iraqi Federal Police Division and the three Iraqi operational commands, enabling their security and stability operations. Additionally, Task Force 1-41 executed several raids between September and November 2010, resulting in the capture of two high-value targets including the highest ranking Promise Day Brigade leader in Iraq. TF 1-41 and the 1st FP Div., in cooperation with the U.S. State Department and Iraqi government, also rescued three Ugandan women sold into a human trafficking ring.

In November 2010, *Glory's Guns* participated in a joint, combined arms defensive live-fire at the Besemayah Range Complex, an exercise that was instrumental in building confidence throughout the Iraqi security forces. TF 1-41 then transitioned east Baghdad to 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Conducting reset operations between January and June 2011 provided *Glory's Guns* the opportunity to establish systems,

rebuild combat power and focus on individual-skills training, not available during the battalion's deployment. In May, the battalion fielded Paladins, M1068s, and M992 Field Artillery Ammunition Supply Vehicles through Project Manager Heavy Brigade Combat Team, and prepared to enter collective training. As a culminating event to reset, *Glory's Guns* combat observation and lasing team platoon participated in Raider Stakes testing warrior skill proficiency, earning the distinction as the brigade's top platoon.

Rebuilding its proficiency in artillery fundamentals, the battalion executed artillery skills proficiency training and testing, fire direction center testing, digital sustainment training, and Guard Unit Armory Device Full Crew Interactive Simulation Trainer, beginning in June, and will be tested through November.

Having transitioned from a maneuver task force in Baghdad, to a direct support field artillery unit, poised to provide timely and accurate indirect Fires for 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, the battalion remains highly agile, and prepared to accomplish any mission, worldwide. 'GLORY'S GUNS, RAIDERS FIRST, ROCK OF THE MARNE!'

1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, *Patriots*

The 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Patriots*, conducted security operations in Ramadi, Al Anbar province, Iraq from July 2010 to June 2011. The 1-76 FA assumed responsibility of the security force mission, including the base defense operations center, base internal quick reaction force, all Camp Ramadi U.S. forces guard towers and entry control points. Additionally, 1-76 FA Soldiers secured the Anbar operations center and the Anbar police directorate within the city of Ramadi. The meteorological and Q-36 radar sections conducted their traditional field artillery support missions at Al Asad Airbase and the International Zone in Baghdad, respectively.

The BDOC allowed for a common operating picture for the security force and maintained all communications. As a result, the BDOC was able to operate at a higher performance level allowing greater security and situational awareness throughout Camp Ramadi. The battalion manned all U.S. Force towers and entry control points, and working closely with contracted security elements, and internal QRF and other *Patriots* Soldiers worked to strengthen the Camp Ramadi perimeter.

The Q-36 radar section began the deployment at Al Asad Airbase and moved to Forward Operating Base Prosperity in August 2010. This move was to provide the Green Zone, better target acquisition capabilities in response to the area's threat of indirect fire. Their timely and accurate weather data

provided the Iraqi joint operations area, including assets, with valuable data to complete their planning and operations safely.

Throughout the deployment, the 1-76 FA maintained its focus on force protection, command and control, and safety. Through vigilance, 1-76 FA allowed the 4/3 IBCT (AAB) to conduct its partnership mission with the Iraqi security forces in eastern Anbar, the government of Iraq, and provide Iraqi civilians with the opportunity for a more secure and stable environment ensuring an enduring and strategic partnership between the U.S. and Iraq.

4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, *Ivy Division*

The 4th Infantry Division *Redlegs* provided direct support to rotating brigade combat team deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over the last year, the division's four artillery battalions, along with the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron, maintained a high operational tempo, and while at home station, Fort Carson, they continued to hone their artillery and Soldier skills delivering Fires in support of maneuver forces.

The division fire support element deployed, as a part of Task Force Ironhorse, arriving at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, October 2010, assuming duties within United States Division – North. While deployed, the division Fires cell reorganized from a traditional Fires and effects cell to a Fires and stability operations cell. It served as the primary synchronizer and integrator of strategic communications, continued development of Iraqi civil capacity, and transition to other U.S. government and Iraqi agencies, all while maintaining traditional lethal and non-lethal Fires and electronic warfare duties. The division fire support element assumed the role of lethal and non-lethal Fires integrator for USD-N, integrating 'soft-power' and lethal means of influence from organic assets and the enablers of the brigades placed under operational control of the TF Ironhorse headquarters.

During the deployment, the division Fires cell took on non-traditional tasks, and the eventual overseeing of transition efforts for the Arab and Kurd combined security mechanism. Originally designed to provide additional security for Iraqi elections, it became the de facto forum to address tensions along the fault line between Iraqi Arabs and Iraqi Kurds. The division Fires cell also assisted the Iraqi divisions stationed in northern Iraq, in new equipment fielding and training of the Iraqi Army's first M-198 equipped artillery regiments.

In support of division operations, the division's Fire cell contributed to lethal and non-lethal efforts, such as the draw-down and retrograde of U.S. forces out of Iraq, including the management of sensors and ensuring the incorporation of force protection fire support into base closures and movement of units to their final ports of embarkation.

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

The *Rolling Thunder* Battalion began 2011 by reorganizing as a maneuver task force, in preparation for its deployment to Regional Command West, Afghanistan, while maintaining its ability to perform its traditional direct support artillery role. Each platoon executed maneuver live-fire exercises from the individual and team level up, and in a platoon live-fire exercise, integrating mounted and dismounted operations with enablers.

Concurrently, the battalion staff transformed into a headquarters synchronizing assets across the operational environment. To accomplish this, the fire direction center and the targeting section converted into a regular Fires and effects coordination cell integrating close combat, close air support, and mortars, as well as taking the lead in the battalion's lethal and non-lethal targeting process, and the S2 section developed battery intelligence support teams.

Rolling Thunder Soldiers then continued preparation for deployment, executing its mission rehearsal exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., February 2011. This exercise inculcated the confidence in the battalion's Soldiers executing their security force assistance mission as partners with the Afghanistan National Security Forces and the government of the Herat and Badghis provinces in Regional Command West.

3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, *Pacesetters*

In March 2010, Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, deployed to Iraq and needed to transition from supporting combat operations to supporting stability operations in Dhi Qar and Muthanna provinces, a great challenge for an artillery battalion.

The first priority for the chain of command was to convert a traditional Fires battalion into a motorized infantry battalion for a non-standard artillery mission not new to the *Pacesetters*. During this recent deployment, the battalion was responsible for its own area of operations, the largest AO in the brigade. In order to control this amount of land, the battalion needed to 'task organize' into a larger task force. The brigade chain of command concurred Task Force Pacesetter needed additional maneuver forces to complete its assigned mission; therefore an armor company, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, and an infantry company, Alpha Company, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, were attached to the *Pacesetters* for the duration of the tour.



On Dec. 15, 2010, officers from 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, *Pacesetter*, conduct a rehearsal with members of the Nasiriyah Police Department in preparation for a joint multi-national mission to recover Kuwaiti bodies from the 1990 Gulf war near Nasiriyah. (Photo by SPC Khori Johnson, U.S. Army)

The TF transitioned the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery into a maneuver force creating two platoons consisting of a motorized infantry and personal security detachment platoon, as well as attaching another tank platoon from Charlie Company, 1-68. By Aug. 31, 2010, the TF controlled 18 platoons conducting counter indirect fire, provincial reconstruction interdiction, route clearance missions, and securing the main supply route Tampa from the border of Dhi Qar and Basrah provinces in the south to the border with Dhi Qar and Qadisiyah province in the north. During the summer months, the task force began noticing an uptick in improvised explosive device attacks on convoy escort teams. In order to disrupt the increase in attacks, the task force engineers and S2 developed a comprehensive plan for assured mobility on MSR Tampa. TF *Pacesetter* was able to decrease the amount of IEDs and significant activities along MSR Tampa by 36 percent from historical significant actions of the previous year.

Another main objective of the *Pacesetters* was maintaining situational awareness inside the large provincial cities. The TF worked around constraints by initially employing a stability transition team and maneuver platoon at each of the Provisional Joint Coordination Centers located inside the city. Due to the requirements for the responsible drawdown of forces, TF *Pacesetter* eventually removed the 24 hour presence from the PJCCs. The TF still achieved situational awareness by conducting minimum patrols and was able to leave the PJCC footprint gaining the respect and confidence of our provisional chiefs of police. Every *Pacesetter* served with honor and returned to Fort Carson, in March 2011.

4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Straight Arrows*

The 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery, *Straight Arrows* under the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division spent the last year as an informal battle space owner and mentor to the Afghanistan National Police of Farah province, Afghanistan. The battalion conducted full spectrum operations with a security force assistance mission in conjunction with three separate Italian Task Force South Battle Groups as part of Regional Command-West. The battalion directly secured and supported four districts; Farah, Pusht Rud, Khake Safed and Bala Baluk and was responsible for security of a local population exceeding a million people. The *Straight Arrows* assumed responsibility from 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division in August 2010, as a motorized infantry task force.

The *Straight Arrows* conducted battalion, battery and platoon-level operations, which included combined operations with the Afghanistan National Army, the ANP and the National Defense Service to disrupt and capture Taliban criminal elements operating in the four districts. The *Fires* batteries, *Aztecs* and *Big Dogs* identified, established and expanded multiple joint combat out-posts and forward operating bases establishing permanent security forces in the highly contested areas. Their efforts combined with the effects of Afghanistan National Security Forces succeeded in significantly degrading Taliban and criminal activities across the province and districts.

Simultaneously, the *Straight Arrows* supported and enhanced the ANP and ANSF capabilities and capacities developing and increasing command and control support structures, along with the requisite logistical capabilities, to effectively improve the ANAs ability to support their own organizations. The *Straight Arrows*, in coordination with the Farah provincial reconstruction team and the U.S. Marine special operations forces also focused on district and provincial governance with emphasis on improving the district governance and security capabilities.

The battalion was one of the first conventional units to successfully assume the Village Stability Operations/Afghan Local Police program. The VSO/ALP was centered in the village of Masaw, Pusht Rud district and the *Straight Arrows* trained more than 168 local nationals beginning January 2011. Redeploying in early July, 4-42 FA began reset in September, training to rejuvenate artillery skills, and anticipate spending the next two years reaffirming proficiency in employing artillery until called upon. The Soldiers and families of 4-42 FA, 1st HBCT will always stand ready to defend freedom's frontiers once again. 'Steadfast and Loyal, *Raiders* and *Straight Arrows*!

2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, *Steel Warrior*

The *Steel Warrior* Battalion returned from Afghanistan June 2010, and began reset operations to refit the battalion's personnel and equipment, building a framework focused on core competencies. This process put 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment six weeks ahead of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's collective training cycle, allowing continued success supporting the 4th IBCT Mountain Warriors.

The *Steel Warrior* Battalion began the fall of 2010, working with its maneuver brethren to train, develop and certify the BCT's fire supporters, by facilitating the execution of a best fire support team and combat observation laser team certification; defining the standards for excellence to be achieved across the entire IBCT. Looking ahead, the battalion assisted the IBCT in establishing a plan ensuring 13F Soldiers were joint Fires observer qualified, for yet another upcoming 2012 deployment. Coordinating with the 13th Air Support Operations Squadron and the Fires Center for Excellence, the 4th IBCT, 4th ID is currently on glide-path to field more than 80 certified JFOs for the deployment. In addition, the IBCT commander realigned the combat observation and lasing team platoon, having 2-77 FA absorb them into Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, improving their training management/utilization, and providing oversight to the IBCT's premier fire support platoon.

Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, *Steel Warrior*, participate in a live-fire exercise. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 77th FA)



In January, the battalion began the certification process for all M119 howitzer sections and supporting fire direction centers, as well as the organic Q-36 v10 Radar mission, enemy, terrain and troop sections and survey sections. The battalion also sent an element of leaders and non-commissioned officers to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., supporting our sister battalion, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment from 4th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th ID. This training event passed on the hard lessons learned by the *Steel Warriors* during their most recent deployment. The critical observer/controller, trainer/mentor support provided by the battalion was well received and contributed to the overall success of 3-16 FA's mission readiness exercise.

The two firing batteries, Alpha and Bravo Batteries, completed train-up and conducted the Army Training and Evaluation Program training event in March, executing artillery firing tables, through Table XVIII, twice. The batteries successfully fired more than 1400 rounds of high explosive, illumination and white phosphorus, as well as trained on position area for artillery operations, counter-fire drills, and mounted movement during this event. Additionally, 2-77 FAs attached, Golf, Forward Support Company, *Gladiators* were essential to operation success with timely maintenance operations, quality class I support, and tremendous work from the distribution platoon for ammunition delivery. Lastly, the COLT platoon trained the IBCT military police and engineer companies, and also deployed to Pinon Canyon to train with the brigade support battalion during their battalion field training exercise.

In May, the *Steel Warrior* Battalion began a composite transition developing an internal maneuver platoon of their own, and select sections from Bravo Battery, Black Sheep, were now to assume a non-standard mission set while Alpha Battery, *Rockhard*, would continue delivery of Fires.

Through September, the *Steel Warrior* Battalion supported IBCT company live-fire exercise training, and fired supporting dismounted attack, convoy live-fire exercise, and base defense live-fire exercise for every battalion in the IBCT. The newly formed maneuver platoon began their team, squad and platoon battle drills and training, and ended the fiscal year with a successful platoon live-fire exercise. The battalion will also provide radar, meteorological and survey support to our fellow *Redlegs* of the Colorado Army National Guard. The end of 2011 was wrapped up with a Warfighter command-post exercise at Fort Carson, a Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., rotation, and a BCT mission rehearsal exercise with the *Mountain Warriors* of 4 IBCT, 4ID. The Soldiers, NCOs and officers of the *Steel Warrior* Battalion have trained and are prepared to execute fire support for a 2012 deployment to Afghanistan.



10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York, *Mountaineer*

As the first U.S. division headquarters to command and control Regional Command, South, 10th Mountain Division assumed responsibility for RC-S, Kandahar, Afghanistan on Nov. 3, 2010. Though multiple tactics, techniques, and procedures have changed due to the complex environment, the RC-S joint Fires has provided safe, effective and timely Fires throughout the area of responsibility while the non-lethal effects cell composed the majority of the effects cell activities.

The non-lethal effect cell utilized the field artillery targeting process, decide, detect, deliver, and assess to provide collaboration and synchronization of effects across the civilian and military formation. Division-level functions included governance, development, infrastructure, agriculture, medicine, education and rule of law, Afghanistan National Security Force development, religious outreach, and gender considerations. Our 131A targeting officers pioneered and educated all staff sections producing integrated plans and orders.

On the lethal Fires side, RC-S was a major employer of joint Fires support, despite employing only one battalion of M77A2s in the fire support role, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, RC-S utilized all types of lethal Fires. The 10th MTN DIV 120 mm mortar Advanced Precision Mortar Initiative Precision Round has filled a critical gap in RC-S's ability to provide a precision guided ammunition capability with a smaller collateral damage estimate. Along with the 120 mm APMI, RC-S has extensively utilized Excalibur to target homemade explosives caches.

The joint Fires cell addressed airspace command and control issues existing around the Kandahar/Panjawi area, and after much effort, developed the battle-space management area simplifying and improving airspace clearance procedures, resulting in rapid, responsive joint Fires. RC-S was the first regional command to employ pre-assault Fires in conjunction with air assaults and has successfully executed 33 during our year in Afghanistan. 'Climb to Glory!'

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

In the last year, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment executed training for Iraq, and was then made part of the surge package for Afghanistan in November 2010. The battalion went to a lethal Fires centric training model, with the change of mission, recertifying fire direction centers and gun crews on the M119, as well as familiarization on the M777A2. As the time for deployment began to solidify, it was determined 1st Brigade Combat Team and 3-6 FA would be given the mission

of training Afghanistan National Police, including uniformed police, border police and in some cases, civil order police.

The *Centaur*s parked their howitzers and reorganized as a battle space owner with the mission of operating in the western portion of Regional Command-North, planning and executing a variety of combat operations including offensive, counter-improvised explosive devices, humanitarian assistance, and development. After relieving Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, Georgia Army National Guard, the Centaur Battalion operated out of Forward Operating Base Griffin, increasing the *Centaur*s' operational footprint, within the Ghormach/Faryab area of operations. Headquarters and Headquarters and Alpha Battery elements established combat outposts.

Task Force Centaur began its partnering mission with the ANP in focused districts, emphasizing the isolation of anti-Afghan forces and enabling the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to improve security, governance and development. Establishing its presence within the AO, TF Centaur focused on key leader engagements conducted on various levels, assessing developmental needs throughout the province, ANP mentorship, Taliban presence and conducting combat patrols in known anti-Afghan forces AO. Mentorship and training of the ANP force remained at the forefront of the operational priority establishing a well-trained and capable police force.

Assessment of what each area required, what community revitalization projects were currently underway and how TF Centaur could guarantee new improvement projects, of more than \$7 million, were started ensuring key developmental and infrastructure needs were fulfilled in a timely manner.

TF Centaur/ANP partnered missions in conjunction with fellow coalition forces, such as the Norwegian Provincial Reconstruction Team and operational mentoring and liaison team and the Afghanistan National Army led to the clearing, securing and holding key areas of Taliban-based operations in the district of Qaisar.

TF Centaur also had a positive impact within the civilian population, assisting local Afghan families in a variety of ways, such as medical treatment, school supplies and road repair. The TF not only focused on training ANP, but defeating insurgency, and supporting a fledgling Afghan government.

In July 2010, Alpha Battery, in conjunction with the ANA, the ANP and Operational Mentor and liaison team conducted a clearance operation in a reported insurgent safe-haven area within the Meydanak area of southwest Qaisar. They were immediately met with small-arms and machine-gun fire as insurgents were utilizing a nearby ridgeline and high ground to establish fighting positions.

A 'troops in contact' situation was declared, close air support arrived providing immediate support; insurgents

were engaged and the TIC was closed. The completion of the Meydanak operation would serve to build the confidence and capability of the ANA and the ANP. The remainder of the deployment would be scattered with enemy engagements and on Sept. 18, 2010, the *Centaur* Battalion suffered its first combat killed-in-action. The *Centaur* Battalion was also able to assist the ANP in protecting the population, isolating the insurgents and negative influences undermining the Afghanistan National Security Force and local government. Most importantly, the ANSF took the lead on security for their elections, with the support of coalition forces, holding a successful, free and fair parliamentary election. On Oct. 2, 2010, HHB led a medical civil action program, with the goal to simply provide medical aid. The operation cared for more than 400 Ghormach district citizens, within two days fostering relations among the local populous, the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and U.S. forces.

On March 15, 2011, the 3-6 FA *Centaurs* cased its colors at FOB Griffin and formally transferred responsibility, of the Ghormach district and Faryab province to 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment from Bamberg, Germany. During the 12-month deployment the Soldiers and leaders of 3-6 FA displayed exceptionally valorous conduct awarding multiple medals with valor. The *Centaur's* tour wrote another proud chapter in the battalion's extensive and rich history, losing three Soldiers and sustaining nearly 35 other combat-related injuries. The battalion maintained the solid tradition of aggressively exceeding all mission requirements. The *Centaurs* are currently finishing the reset phase of the Army Force Generation process and are receiving equipment, going through 13D, 13B and 13F mobile training teams in preparation for a move to section and platoon collective training events.

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

The 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, *Allons* redeployed from Baghdad, Iraq, July 2010. Partnering with Iraqi security forces, the battalion reorganized itself as motorized infantry to secure the Karadah political district during national elections. Redeployment was the first step in regaining proficiency as a direct support field artillery battalion, and as the reset phase was completed, the battalion reestablished a baseline of technical and tactical expertise with a six-month intensive training cycle.

From March to August 2011, the battalion conducted six multi-week field training exercises building to battery external evaluations completed in conjunction with Artillery Table XV. Concurrently, the staff developed an operational environment that mirrored Operation Enduring Freedom, driving the military decision making process throughout the training cycle.

Based on the lessons learned during a local howitzer reset, the *Allons* rebuilt its sustainment operations, integration of

91F armament mechanics and U6 training, creating technical competence at the individual level, followed by systems integration between the Forward Support Company and the Brigade Support Battalion's Maintenance Company. The second part was a multi-stage teaching and execution program of artillery ammunition management, ultimately supporting all aspects of field sustainment for the duration of the intensive training cycle.

Allons fired more than 7,500 rounds supporting the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and its maneuver battalions, working Fires integration into every platoon live-fire conducted, taking an active role in assisting maneuver leaders in preparation for the BCT's fire support coordination exercise. Additionally, *Allons* sponsored BCT-wide leaders training in an academic and live-fire environment.

Through redeployment, reintegration, reset, train/ready, the *Allons* Battalion's success is due to the professionalism, desire to achieve, technical and tactical competency, and versatility of its Soldiers and leaders. Looking toward the future, the battalion stands ready to support 2BCT in any environment at any time. 'Let's Go!'

4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, *Wolfpack*

The 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, completed the Army Force Generation cycle and deployed to Afghanistan and by July, the battalion, having most of its equipment, began its collective training period. *Wolfpack* Soldiers spent the summer in the field honing their core artillery skills, conducting section-battery artillery certification tables. Firing more than 5,000 artillery rounds, the battalion successfully certified all 16 firing sections and four fire direction centers. As a capstone event, the newly certified battalion fired supporting the Spartan Brigade's fire support coordination exercise. The *Wolfpack's* target acquisition platoon created procedures merging the meteorological and survey military occupation specialties into one functioning section and in September, fielded the new EQ-36 Counterfire Target Acquisition Radar. Simultaneously, the *Wolfpack* Battalion also honed their counterinsurgency and full spectrum operations skills participating in a brigade counterinsurgency squad training exercise, a battalion, a platoon and squad live-fire exercises. These exercises gave the battalion the necessary avenues to train and certify platoons on maneuver tasks associated with controlling terrain in Afghanistan. Our collective training period culminated in November with the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team's, mission readiness exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.

The battalion executed four two-gun air assaults and three platoon live-fire defenses, and was a key component to the BCT's success in validating our training strategy. Upon return from



JRTC, the battalion conducted final load out and deployed to Afghanistan in April 2011, two months earlier than expected.

The battalion partnered with the 4th (Support) Kandak, 3rd Brigade, 205th Afghanistan National Army and assumed a combined battle space tasked, with the responsibility of security, in the western portion of Zharay district, Kanadabar province. Since April, the battalion has conducted more than 1,000 mounted and dismounted patrols, four battalion air assaults and cleared more than 100 improvised explosive devices while manning two FDCs for 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, providing lethal and precision Fires throughout the Spartan area of operations and beyond. 'Be Silent and Act'

5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Polk, Louisiana, *Thunder*

In the months prior to deployment the battalion trained to conduct maneuver and field artillery missions, and completed readiness training at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., including the qualification on the new M777 'lightweight howitzer.' In October 2010, 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team, deployed to Afghanistan.

After deploying to Regional Command-East, Task Force Thunder was comprised of a field artillery, engineers military police, strategic forces advisory teams, a human intelligence collection team civil affairs, the U.S. Air Force and other coalition units, including a Jordanian army battalion.

Gun crews were sent to six command outposts, and forward operating bases throughout Bayman, Logar and Wardak provinces, providing fire support to battalions throughout the brigade, while the remainder of the battalion took over

Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Bravo Battery, 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery, fire an 155 mm M777 howitzer for Observer Fires Training at Contingency Operating Base Nerkh, Afghanistan. (Photo by CPT Jason Mitchell, U.S. Army)



as battle space owners in COPs and FOBs in four locations in three districts in the Logar province. The batteries trained and mentored the Afghanistan National Army and Afghanistan National Police during the deployment.

Bravo Battery, 5-25 FA assumed the traditional Fires role, firing more than 1,800 artillery rounds in supporting 'troops in contact', conducting operations throughout three provinces. TF Thunder demonstrated to insurgents their capability and efficiency in conducting indirect fire missions on enemy positions, further disrupting enemy freedom of movement.

Maneuver forces in 5-25 FA participated in multiple named operations, conducting combined action offensive and search and attack operations, neutralizing and preventing insurgent freedom of movement. These operations encompassed ground movement and air assaults onto objectives to disrupt insurgent activities showing the local populace the Afghanistan National Security Forces had positive control of the area. Through the hard work and actions of TF Thunder, countless coalition and Afghan lives were saved, maneuver force engagements were successful, and the ability of the insurgent elements to impact the course of Afghan transition was reduced.

Whether the TF Thunder's Soldiers were operating in the mountains, traveling the streets of the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan, or working to foster strong relationships enabling the spread of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's civil control and governance capacity.

They all have proven themselves worthy, improving quality of life for the Afghan people within Logar province, and have earned the reputation as the flag bearers of counterinsurgency by applying all of its fundamentals in both lethal and non-lethal operations. 'Steel on Target.'

25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, *Tropic Lightning*

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

Following reset, from an Iraqi deployment, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, trained for deployment to northeastern Afghanistan. From summer to fall of 2011, the battalion conducted two live-fire exercises at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, wrapping up with a fire support coordination exercise, in which maneuver patrol leaders and forward observers integrated mortar Fires, artillery Fires, and close air support. After a pre-deployment site survey to the Nuristan, Nanghar, Kunar, and Laghman region of Afghanistan, 3rd Battalion learned it would perform a dual-role mission, serving as a maneuver task force and providing Fires supporting two infantry brigades. They reorganized the batteries forming six two-gun firing platoons and two maneuver platoons, and the



SSG Soriano, SGT Davis, and PFC Gunthrope from 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment fire HE from Contingency Operating Base Monti in Kunar, Afghanistan in May 2011. (Photo by SFC Mark Burrell, U.S. Army)

headquarters reorganized to command and control a maneuver task force.

In January, the battalion deployed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., validating its FA skills and organization for combat, providing direct support Fires to maneuver task forces and fire direction centers integrated into task force command posts. Eight howitzer sections completed M198 howitzer crew qualification through a mobile training team, and two M119 platoons supported the brigade's company-level combined arms live-fire exercises. The two maneuver platoons and distribution platoon completed a situational training exercise and training on integration of close combat attack. The battalion headquarters further developed its capability to operate as a maneuver task force, assuming responsibility for a key terrain district and a border crossing point in partnership with host nation forces.

The battalion deployed to the N2KL region with the *Bronco* Brigade in April 2011. The Soldiers' hard work and dedication through the training and preparation became evident. Task Force Steel provided fire support to two BCTs with nine, two-gun platoons dispersed across three provinces. The task force's six organic firing platoons manned eight M198, and four M119 howitzers. One of the M198 platoons also qualified on M120 mortars after arrival, providing Fires with both weapon systems. A reinforcing M777 battery, operating in three, two-gun platoons increased the task force's capability to provide

fire support to the numerous outposts, combat outposts, and forward operating bases also adding Excalibur capability. TF Steel also assumed responsibility for the eastern half of Mohmand Dara district in the Nangarhar province, including the strategic Torkham Gate border crossing point. The task force led an interagency effort partnered with Afghanistan border police, customs police, and municipal leaders to improve security and governance along the Pakistan border. Whether providing cannon and mortar Fires, conducting partnered operations with Afghanistan National Security Force, or sustaining the task force, the Soldiers of TF Steel lived up to the battalion's motto: 'Never Broken by Hardship or Battle!'

2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, *Automatic*

The 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, *Automatic*, spent 2010 and the first part of 2011 preparing for an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. The unit focused on artillery skills and reorganization to nine firing platoons supporting the anticipated mission. The battalion trained on Artillery Tables I through XII, at the Yukon Training Area, Alaska, utilizing several mobile training teams, from the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Okla., and prepared to serve as maneuver unit, if needed, and fielded the EQ-36 Radar.

The unit's training paid off at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., in February 2011, where the battalion executed the squad training exercise and full spectrum operations portions in both an artillery and maneuver role. The unit conducted several live counter-fire events during the FSO portion of training, and at the conclusion of the MRE deployed its equipment and personnel to Southern Afghanistan.

During their OEF deployment, the battalion initially established nine firing points across Regional Command-South in three provinces supporting five brigade-level units. Firing platoons from the *Automatic* Battalion supported Soldiers and Marines from the U.S., Romania, Australia, Canada, and

1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment conduct a fire mission at Forward Operating Base Sakari Kharez, Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 8th FA)





Afghanistan with indirect Fires from the M777A2 howitzers. The radars and lightweight counter mortar radars provide coverage to several brigades. The battalion headquarters managed the artillery firing points, in addition to serving as a maneuver unit with attached forces in an assigned area of operations. As the deployment progressed some artillery platoons have been re-tasked to serve as maneuver units and picked up the mission quite easily continuing the *Automatic* tradition of the 8th Field Artillery.

2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment

From July 2010 to June 2011, the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment deployed to Iraq, and upon arrival at Joint Base Balad, the task force began conducting advise and assist operations with the Samarra Operations Command and the 17th Iraqi Army Brigade. They were responsible for a 6,500 square kilometer area of operations including the Samarra, Balad, and Dujayl Qadas of southern Salah ad Din province. The 2-11th FAR oversaw the movement of the first Iraqi army battalion onto Joint Base Balad, initiating the return of the airbase to Iraqi control.

In addition to its maneuver mission, the TF led the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (Advise and Assist Brigade) decisive effort Operation Mobile Warrior, employing three mobile training teams to train Iraqi army division and brigade staffs, commando companies, and field artillery batteries throughout Salah ad Din and Diyala provinces. A training foundation within the 4th and 5th Iraqi Army Divisions was created assisting the Iraqis in their development of internal and external defense capabilities and increased capacity. Under the supervision of the 2-11th FAR training team, the 5th Iraqi Army Division fired the first live artillery rounds, from the M198(t) howitzer, since the beginning of OIF. Together with

The 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment trainers observe as 5th Iraqi Army Division artillerymen load the first live rounds into the M198 howitzers on May 27, 2011, in Diyala province, Iraq. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 11th FA)



the 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, the TF created the conditions necessary to support the transition of U.S. forces from Iraq.

82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, *All American*

Over the past year, the 82nd Airborne Division Joint Fires Cell conducted several significant operations and events. The division headquarters returned from Operation Enduring Freedom-X and started on reconstituting *Redleg* skills. In coordination with the 18th Fires Brigade, the JFC rewrote the 82nd ABN DIV Fire Support Handbook to baseline standards, as well as improving 13F fire support team programs throughout the division. We established a division-level joint Fires observer manager, assigning a master sergeant to manage joint Fires observer training in coordination with the 14th Air Support Operations Squadron. The JFC supported the 4th Brigade Combat Team's commander's consolidated FIST certifications. Lastly, the JFC reestablished its airborne competencies and enhanced its command and control abilities during quarterly joint operational access exercises demonstrating the 82nd's ability to execute a joint forcible entry airborne insertion of a BCT task force anywhere in the world as part of the division's global response force mission. The division JFC has again deployed to Afghanistan and is conducting counterinsurgency operations, lethal and non-lethal targeting in support of the *All American* Division's mission in Regional Command-South.

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

After successfully completing the first full-spectrum operation rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., the 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment assumed responsibility for the Global Response Force mission as part of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Central to this mission was maintaining core competencies across the fire support war-fighting function, and maintaining readiness standards across the BCT. The battalion aggressively supported all BCT-level collective training events, and enhanced the readiness of the combined arms team at all levels.

The battalion developed and implemented a four-phase fire support coordination exercise, building maneuver leaders' competence, as well as confidence in their fire support teams. Key to this exercise was tailoring each scenario to the mission and training level of the supported maneuver battalion. The reconnaissance squadron executed a troop-level event, integrating mounted BCT combat observation lasing teams, as well as the squadrons' organic advanced optics systems, supporting their unique mission set.

In addition to the FSCXs, the *Loyalty* Soldiers supported the BCT through four BCT-level airfield seizure exercises; company live-fires, command post exercises, and several emergency deployment readiness exercises firing more than 5,000 rounds and executing 2,000 parachute jumps. The battalion maintained readiness through numerous battery-level live-fire exercises, focusing on split-platoon operations consistent with OEF contingency planning. The battalion continued improving its technical competence through platoon-level external evaluations, and leveraging those lessons learned across the battalion. The fire supporters continue improving their joint Fires observer proficiency and have increased participation in close air support exercises with their assigned joint terminal attack controllers.

The paratroopers of the *Loyalty* Battalion have built and maintained a true fire support network, capable of integrating joint Fires across the spectrum of conflict with precision and accuracy. The battalion stands ready with the *Panther* BCT as the global response force. 'Loyalty! H-Minus!'

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

The 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, *Thunderbolts*, is currently providing lethal Fires supporting brigade combat teams from Combined Joint Task Force 82nd Airborne Division and Combined Joint Task Force 1st Cavalry Division. In December 2010, the battalion deployed a general support Fires cell and two M777A2 firing batteries supporting the Internal Security Assistance Forces' Regional Command-East. The two firing batteries, Alpha and Charlie, 3-321st FAR, are operating from six forward operating bases with two M777A2 howitzers and one fire direction center each. The batteries provide Fires supporting 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division's Task Force Bronco and 1st BCT, 1st Infantry Division's Task Force Duke. The *Thunderbolts* have fired more than 8,000 standard and three Excalibur rounds for various operations. The general support Fires cell served as the division joint Fires coordination cell, responsible for synchronizing howitzer maintenance, ammunition resupply, and providing assessment and certification of M777A2 employment options. After their redeployment in January 2011, Headquarters and Bravo Batteries, have completed reset and are actively participating in the 82nd ABN Joint Operational Airborne Exercise. Bravo provided Fires supporting 1st BCT, 82nd ABN's fire support coordination exercise. The 583rd Forward Support Company was reorganized and trained as radar repair technicians and spent their deployment operating and maintaining three Q36 and one Q37 radars providing support throughout RC-E.

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky, *Screaming Eagles*

The 101st Airborne Division deployed to Regional Command-East, Afghanistan for the second time, in May 2010. The JFC was truly 'joint' in composition having U.S. Navy and Air Force officers serving as electronic warfare officers and air liaison officers, greatly facilitating the integration of electronic warfare and close air support platforms into support for brigade combat team operations.

Along with overseeing the artillery and mortar employment of five BCTs, the JFC also had the challenge of integrating two coalition brigades into the division scheme of Fires. The French and the Polish brought their own artillery with digital systems and the Polish even brought one of their own target acquisition radars. Challenges were overcome thru their integration and participation into the four times a week joint Fires working group allowing cooperation between the BCTs and mutual fire support across brigade boundaries.

The JFC spearheaded the division's targeting process, through integration and synchronization of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, precision Fires and special technical operations, resulting in removal of many key insurgent leaders. The targeting section of the JFC was responsible for the joint targeting board which integrated and synchronized BCT efforts and prioritized asset allocation.

The need to reduce or eliminate civilian casualties was paramount and the division command relied on the JFC to ensure all procedures and processes were in accordance with the rules of engagement and the collateral damage estimation process. The 101st ABN turned over authority with 1st Cavalry Division in June 2011, and has begun preparing for its next deployment to Afghanistan scheduled in 2012.

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

The 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, *Top Guns* was ordered to deploy with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and be the main effort of the 2010 surge in the Arghandab River Valley, just north of Kandahar City. The deployment proved to be one of the most dramatic in the battalion's 93-year history. *Top Guns* Soldiers distinguished themselves earning multiple medals with valor and including three Silver Stars. The battalion revitalized the economic output of the Arghandab River Valley and facilitated long-range international produce export for the first time in history.

Top Guns aggressively restructured itself, stressing Infantry cross training, to maximize boots-on-the-ground in its future deployment's non-traditional mission. Each firing battery



split into four platoons, partially mimicking a reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition augmenting their manpower with almost every Soldier from the battalion staff and specialty shops. HHB fielded two platoons the same way, amalgamating survey, meteorological, operations, and other diverse Soldiers. Powering through the growing pains, the battalion conducted extensive company and platoon-level maneuver training from January to April 2010, including a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., becoming the first field artillery battalion to do an air assault at JRTC.

Top Guns planners took a look beyond the fight, establishing aggressive strategies to engage with and empower local leadership and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the district. Arriving in June 2010, 1-320th FAR partnered with 1/1/205 Corps, Afghanistan National Army and task organized as Combined Task Force Top Guns, a provisional infantry force of more than 1,000 Soldiers.

CTF Top Guns met with enemy contact throughout the deployment and in the largest battle three *Top Guns* Soldiers were killed and 26 others wounded, including the executive officer and first sergeant of HHB. On Sept. 30, 2010, an Afghanistan National Army soldier, part of a combined patrol in contact veered off the cleared path in an IED field while seeking cover from small arms fire. CPL David Bixler, with total disregard for his personal safety, leapt onto uncleared ground to pull the ANA soldier to safety, but as a result of his own movement pivoted in the minefield and detonated an IED. CPL Bixler survived the devastation of the IED strike, but the event resulted in the amputation of both of his legs. He was awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry and courage under fire.

After dozens of casualties, CTF Top Guns, augmented by U.S. and Afghanistan Special Forces, and other Afghanistan indigenous forces, initiated a massive drive into the Green Zone on multiple fronts with two attached infantry companies, A Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment and B Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Division from Task Force RAIDER. CTF Top Guns reduced and seized 17 Taliban strongholds, and established 17 outposts across the Green Zone. Over the entire deployment CTF Top Guns would publicly defer to ANSF, and emphasize to the local population the surge had deployed as part of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan security plan. With the successful seizure of the Green Zone, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and ANSF gained significant credibility, motivating the generally neutral population of the Arghandab to begin following the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan administrative and rule of law guidelines.

By the end of the deployment, village reconstruction and population engagement resulted in a civilian workforce hundreds strong, and new buildings rising from formerly war-torn and abandoned villages. The corresponding spike in

human intelligence led to the identification and capture of 20 high value detainees in the last four months of the deployment – more than any other conventional unit in the province. As the deployment wound down, local residents, enjoying their newfound prosperity, refused to shelter Taliban infiltrators and actively formed community security councils, denying Taliban fighters access to their longtime strongholds in the Green Zone.

While CTF Top Guns fought hard and valiantly, the objective was never simply to destroy the enemy, but to create an environment of opportunity the local population would be motivated to maintain. This article is dedicated to the CTF Top Gun Soldiers who paid a life-changing price with their injuries, the families that continue to support them in recovery, and most importantly to those who made the ultimate sacrifice along with the family members they leave behind. Their heroism will never be forgotten.

2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, *Balls of the Eagle*

In April 2010, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, *Balls of the Eagle*, 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Bastogne*, departed Fort Campbell for Afghanistan. The *Balls Battalion* assumed a non-traditional artillery mission with a partnership of the Afghanistan National Army's staff of the 2nd Brigade, 201st Corps, along with Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. While the firing batteries, Alpha and Bravo along with a battery from the 18th Fires Brigade (Airborne), Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery were spread across the four eastern provinces: Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan and Kunar, they provided fire support from 14 forward operating bases throughout the *Bastogne* Brigade. Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery's mission was to support *Balls of the Eagle* with logistics.

From August through September 2010, Alpha Battery conducted two howitzer raids under the cover of darkness to provide suppressive Fires for the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry. The battalion's combined tactical operations center, along with the 2nd Brigade, 201st Corps ANA, planned and coordinated the security for 681 polling centers in the provincial elections. As a result of the joint planning and coordination, violence at the polling centers was reduced.

In February 2011, the battalion's FA TOC coordinated the realignment of artillery coverage throughout *Bastogne*. A firing platoon of two M777A2 howitzers were retrograded from Forward Operating Base Blessing, to Combat Outpost Fortress in southern Kunar. In addition, two M119A2 howitzers, and crew moved into the newly established FOB Joyce.

In May 2011, *Balls of the Eagle*, successfully completed a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan, firing more than 2,000 missions and 18,000 rounds. Today, the 2-320th FA stands ready to provide combat power to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne

Division on its next 'rendezvous with destiny,' scheduled for late 2012.

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

The 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment deployed to Afghanistan in February 2010. The *Red Knights* were assigned the responsibility as a task force battle space owning unit for Eastern Kowst and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team Force Field Artillery Headquarters for Paktiya, Paktika, and Khowst provinces. To support the mission the battalion was transformed into a TF commanding and controlling 10 company-sized elements. Task Force Red Knight's guns were dispersed among 10 combat outpost and forward operating bases in direct support of their respective battle space owners.

As the maneuver task force responsible for a strategically important border province, the *Red Knights* partnered with four Kandak level Afghanistan National Security Force commands and the provincial police force conducting nearly 4,000 combined patrols with its ANSF partners in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11.

The task force conducted 2,016 fire missions delivering 14,282 artillery rounds, including 246 missions fired in support of 'troops in contact,' and provided by firing platoons employing three weapons systems (M119, M198, M777) from 10 command observation posts, across three provinces.

As the brigade combat team's main effort throughout the deployment, the TF was at the tip of spear in the fight to disrupt the Haqqani network operating in the area of Paktia, Paktika, and Khost. Through the valorous actions of the combined arms team, the *Red Knights* captured or killed hundreds of insurgents, removed thousands of munitions, weapons and explosives from the province, significantly increased the capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, leading to expanded host nation control over a strategically important border province.

Since returning from deployment, the *Red Knights* have conducted reset operations and are focusing on a path leading to the completion of Table XVIII Gunnery by the end of 2011. The Soldiers of 3-320 FA have lived up to the reputation of its predecessors and stand ready for their next 'rendezvous with destiny.' 'Willing and Able'

4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, *Guns of Glory*

The *Guns of Glory* deployed to Paktika province, Afghanistan as part of Task Force Currahee, August 2010. The battalion manned M119A2s, M198s, and M777A2s across seven firebases and played a critical role in the cross border counter-fire fight. The battalion task organized prior to deployment as a composite



SPC Dorman, SPC George and SPC Massa of Bravo Battery, 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment conduct a counter-fire mission at Forward Operating Base Kushamond, Afghanistan. Bravo Battery was recognized in 2010 by the Fires Center of Excellence with the 2010 Knox Award as Best Battery. (Photo courtesy of 4th BN, 320th FA)

field artillery battalion and delivered lethal indirect Fires for 4th Brigade Combat Team, TF Currahee. The Alpha Battery, *Archangels* created new firing positions at both Combat Outpost Curry and COP Zerok, enabling freedom of maneuver for their supported infantry TF. The Bravo Battery, *Bonecrushers* traded their M119A2 howitzers in for M777A2s and completed the new equipment training 30-days prior to wheels up. The composite task organization also enabled overlapping Fires coverage of the most critical areas in eastern Afghanistan. The Currahee fire supporters excelled at the employment of hostile intent Fires, sweep and zone missions, and multi-weapon firebase operations. By the end of the deployment, the battalion fired more than 16,000 rounds in support of the brigade. Task Force Glory was highly successful in the use of Excalibur in combat operations, which was used effectively across Paktika province. The battalion was the first to employ the Israeli 120 mm Enhanced Mortar Targeting System. In early February, the Fires Center of Excellence selected Bravo Battery as the winner of the 2010 Knox Award. This was an outstanding achievement for all the Bravo Battery *Bonecrusher* Soldiers, leadership, and families.

The *Headhunters* of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery created a combined action team, which established an enduring partnership and D-30 howitzer training program. The team was committed to training the Afghanistan National Army battery to support the 2nd Afghanistan National Army Brigade. In May of 2011, history was made during an ANA operation when the 6th Maneuver Kandak independently called for and adjusted Fires from the ANA D30 battery. The *Headhunters*



also maintained and operated multiple radar systems across the battle space. The *Warriors* of Golf Forward Support Company provided logistical and maintenance support for the battalion. They also took on the complex task of operating Forward Operating Base Sharana's Base Defense Operation Center during the deployment. In August of 2011, responsibility was transferred to 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment as part of Task Force Blackhawks.

17th Fires Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, *Thunderbolt*

The *Thunderbolt* Brigade completed the reset phase of the Army Force Generation cycle and began training reestablishing core competencies after a recent deployment to Iraq. Whether serving in a non-standard role, or delivering Fires, this past year has shown the *Thunderbolt* Brigade is an agile and adaptive unit that can always accomplish the mission.

The 17th Fires Brigade reestablished itself as a FiB headquarters, conducting numerous training events, and for many staff officers and non-commissioned officers operating as a Fires brigade in major combat operations, is a foreign skill set. During staff exercises, Battle Command Systems of Systems Integration training, and Exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian, the *Thunderbolt* Brigade made significant progress in building the fire support artillery skill sets.

Units of 17th FiB focused on core competencies while simultaneously preparing for in-lieu of missions demonstrating the agility and adaptive spirit within 17th FiB and a testament to the resiliency and readiness of Soldiers and leaders alike. 'Unleash the Thunder!!!'

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

The 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, *First Round*, redeployed from Operation Enduring Freedom after performing an in-lieu of route clearance mission. Upon completion of Army Force Generation reset, the battalion began training and certification with its High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems. Bravo Battery deployed to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., supporting 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division providing rocket and missile Fires, as well as replicating the integration of general support Fires assets/capabilities into combat operations. The mission set for another OEF deployment will require another transition for 5-3 FAR as one battery will serve as an in-lieu of Target Acquisition Battery and one battery will provide rocket and missile Fires supporting maneuver forces. Soldiers with 5-3 FAR continue to train for this important mission.



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, *Deep Steel*, learn to subdue hostile "locals" during a squad training exercise at the Yakima Training Center, Wash. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 94th FA)

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

The 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, *Deep Steel* began 2011 with training at Yakima Training Center to certify their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System sections and fire direction centers. While continuing to progress in its training and certification program, 1-94 FAR received notification elements of the battalion would deploy to the U.S. Army Central Command area of responsibility to conduct three non-standard missions. Living up to their regimental motto 'Flexible', the Soldiers and leaders of 1-94 FAR quickly reorganized, trained, and prepared for this challenging mission. Alpha Battery transformed to a ground security force to support an advise and assist brigade. Bravo Battery deployed to Jordan to conduct training with their army to prepare their forces for an upcoming Operation Enduring Freedom rotation. The Headquarters and 125th Forward Support Company deployed to Kuwait providing mission command and logistics support for the Jordanian training mission. Charlie Battery remained at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and continued to train and certify until receiving a notice to deploy to Kuwait and conduct theater security cooperation as a HIMARS battery.

Foxtrot Battery, 26th Field Artillery Regiment, *Wolfpack*

Foxtrot Battery, 26th Field Artillery continued to train on its core competencies of providing radar and meteorological support to 17th Fires Brigade. The *Wolfpack* conducted numerous rotations to Yakima Training Center, to support adjacent unit training and to build proficiency in its Mission Essential Task List, or METL. F/26 will deploy with 1-377 FAR to provide

indirect fire sense and warn coverage and meteorological support to field artillery units.

308th Brigade Support Battalion, *Redlion*

Through all of the training and key events conducted over the past year within 17th Fires Brigade, 308th Brigade Support Battalion, *Redlion*, has consistently provided superb logistics support to make all events a success. Whether providing enhanced communications capabilities through 256th Network Support Company or supporting events with maintenance and recovery assets, 308th BSB has sustained the readiness of the brigade. As a testament to its standards, 308th BSB won the 2011 Supply Service Activity award.

1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, *Gunslingers*

The 1st Battalion (Air Assault), 377th Field Artillery Regiment, *Gunslingers*, began training and certifying core competencies after completing Army Force Generation reset. Within five months after redeployment from Operation Iraqi Freedom, the *Gunslingers* conducted a section certification; certifying 12 howitzer sections and three fire direction centers. In early March, 2011, 1-377 FAR turned in its M198 howitzers and began fielding the M777A2 lightweight howitzer. The leaders and Soldiers of the *Gunslinger* Battalion quickly adapted to the changes involved with this new system during new equipment training, establishing the baseline proficiency to conduct a bold certification plan. The battalion recertified all sections on the M777A2 howitzer and upon redeploying from Yakima Training Center, reorganized two of its batteries into six, two-gun platoons, each with an FDC, in preparation for an

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, *Gunslingers*, participate in a M777 howitzer live-fire exercise at the Yakima Training Center, Wash. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 377th FA)



upcoming mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit deployed to YTC in August 2011, to perform their mission rehearsal exercise as a final validation. The battalion also conducted their first 'Molly Pitcher Shoot,' in which spouses were able to observe their Soldiers performing their duties as field artillerymen.

18th Fires Brigade (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina, *Steel*

The 18th Fires Brigade (Airborne) continues to support world-wide contingency operations. Cannon, rocket, and radar units from the brigade are on the frontline in Afghanistan, supporting close and deep precision Fires. M777A2 light howitzers from 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment continue to provide close supporting and precision Fires to combat forces throughout Regional Command-East. High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, from 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment maintain a vigilant eye over the country providing precision long range Fires to multiple units. Additionally, D-26 Target Acquisition Battery, has been providing counter-fire and counter-battery radar coverage using their Firefinder radar systems for the south and eastern parts of Afghanistan.

At Fort Bragg, the 18th FiB maintains a high state of training and readiness while balancing deployment requirements, and continues to support the 82nd Airborne Division's Global Response Force mission. The relationship with the 82nd ABN is not exclusive to the GRF mission, 18th FiB units supported multiple joint operational access exercises and numerous brigade level combat team fire support coordination exercises.

1st Battalion, 321 Field Artillery Regiment, *Warriors*

Following a successful tour in Afghanistan, 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, *Warriors*, conducted reset operations as they prepared to transition, focusing on their core competency mission.

As the Army's only 155 mm airborne artillery battalion, 1-321 AFAR supported four brigade combat teams' joint operations access exercises, each time parachuting two M777A2s onto the drop zone providing reinforcing and precision guided Fires supporting the BCT's seizure of an airfield. The *Warriors* continue to demonstrate it is a significant enabler capability to the Global Response Force, providing lethal and nonlethal long-range Fires.

Warriors' Soldiers also supported U.S. Army Special Operations Command and deployed to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., providing close supporting Fires for Jaded Thunder 2011. This special operations fire support live-fire training exercise focused on synchronizing fixed wing, rotary wing



and indirect fire platforms while reducing conflicts between air and ground space.

3rd Battalion, 321 Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *Thunderbolts*

The 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, *Thunderbolts*, are currently providing Fires supporting Combined Joint Task Force 101st Assault and CJTF 1st Cavalry brigade combat teams. In December 2010, the battalion deployed a 10-man general support Fires cell and two M777A2 firing batteries supporting the International Security Assistance Forces' Regional Command-East. The two firing batteries, Alpha and Charlie, and have fired more than 8,000 standard and three Excalibur rounds for planned and 'troops in contact' operations.

The general support Fires cell redeployed to Fort Bragg in August 2011 and was responsible for synchronizing howitzer maintenance, 155 mm ammunition resupply, and providing FA assessment and certification of M777A2. Headquarters and Bravo Batteries redeployed in January 2011 and have completed reset and are actively participating in the 82nd ABN DIV JOAX program. Bravo Battery provided Fires supporting 1-82 BCT's FSCX, demonstrating the M777A2 howitzer is a force to contend with. The *Thunderbolt* Battalion stands ready to provide accurate and timely joint Fires support to the 82nd ABN.

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

The *Steel Rain* Battalion has continued to maintain its joint deployment mission providing precision Fires in support of Operation Enduring Freedom since the spring of 2006. The battalion operates the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and is one of only four HIMARS battalions in the active Army.

Currently, Charlie Battery is deployed supporting the ongoing joint mission and will be relieved by Alpha Battery. Between deployments, batteries have participated in several joint and mission readiness exercises, and training supporting the battalion's ongoing mission.

The rapidly transportable capability combined with the HIMARS's range, lethality and precision make 3-27 FAR an integral part of the 82nd ABN's GRF, which stands ready 365-days a year to deploy anywhere within 96 hours of notification.

188th Brigade Support Battalion, *Steel Eagles*

Over the past year, 188th Brigade Support Battalion has supported numerous joint operational access exercises. Currently, 135th FSC has personnel deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom providing field-level maintenance to 3rd Battalion, 27 Field Artillery Regiment.

The battalion has been practicing convoy operations, and began training with numerous M240B ranges concluding with stationary gunnery from an M1151. Following this training, the battalion spent a week conducting improvised explosive device defeat lanes. The IED defeat lanes challenge Soldiers to negotiate a mounted vehicular course, while avoiding or reacting to IED simulations. The 188th BSB Soldiers participated in a week-long convoy live-fire exercise testing their ability to perform under fire, reacting to near and far ambushes, improvised explosive devices, recover downed vehicles, and conduct medical evacuations under simulated combat conditions.

The *Steel Eagles* participated in the Steel Eagle Challenge, a week-long tournament competing in marksmanship, a four-mile run, obstacle course, HMVWW push, a test on basic Soldier skills, and a 20-kilometer road march.

This year, Bravo Company conducted recovery training, as well as an FTX in which all maintenance operations were conducted in a field environment. The 135th Forward Support Company participated in two training exercises supporting 3-27 FAR providing tactical-level logistical support. Additionally, Headquarters and Headquarters Company was presented the DUI excellence streamer from the 82nd Airborne Division commander for two years without a DUI incident. Finally, 583rd Forward Support Company returned after a year serving in support of OEF. The 188 BSB's mission support has been complimented with an extensive state-side training program. The Soldiers are ready to continue forward to support the 18th Fires Brigade wherever they are needed.

41st Fires Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division Fort Hood, Texas, *Rail Gunner*

The 41st Fires Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division successfully concluded the Army Force Generation train/ready phase, focusing on maintaining proficiencies and preparing units for non-standard missions. The brigade's major efforts included comprehensive Soldier and family fitness, leader development, and material readiness. The *Rail Gunners* remain focused on core competencies supporting full spectrum operations.

In January, the brigade delivered its first rockets downrange, qualifying Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, fire direction centers, radar, and ammunition crews to Fires Table VI standards. In March, the 41st FiB deployed a team of leaders to Korea to participate in Key Resolve. In June and July the brigade focused on Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, Joint Network Node/Command Post Node, new equipment training and validation. The brigade concluded the equipment upgrade by validating the brigade's Army Battle Command Systems during a brigade command-post exercise. In October, the brigade focused on qualifying crews to Fires table VI standards

and in November, the brigade sharpened its skills as a force FA headquarters during a brigade-level CPX.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, *Hardrock*, provided force protection, logistics and medical support to the brigade command posts. The 324th Network Support Company, *Phoenix*, provided network operations and satellite communications support for battalion and brigade-level exercises. Alpha Battery, 26th Field Artillery, *Wolfpack*, provided expert radar, meteorological, and survey support for the brigade, and also supported the 1st Battalion, 333rd Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, as it prepared for deployment.

The 41st FiB remained under the 1st CAV training and readiness authority throughout the year. *Rail Gunner* Soldiers take great pride in providing accurate, timely, and decisive Fires for 'America's First Team' and stand ready to answer our nation's call. 'Rail Gunner Strong!'

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

From May until August 2011, the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, *Deep Strike*, supported the U.S. Military Academy's cadet summer training. The battalion commanded Task Force Strike at Camp Natural Bridge, West Point reservation, providing command and control for units from five installations across the country. *Deep Strike* Soldiers displayed professionalism and commitment to excellence as they trained the country's future leaders. In May 2011, Bravo Battery, 2-20 FA competed for and was awarded the Chief of Staff Army Award for Maintenance Excellence, achieving a multitude of perfect evaluations.

1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, *First Strike*

Along with maintaining its field artillery qualifications, the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery Regiment, *First Strike*, achieved its sixth 100 percent in the III Corps environmental compliance standard evaluation. In June 2011, *First Strike* Soldiers focused on preparing platoons and teams for in lieu of missions, and in September deployed Soldiers to Afghanistan providing a military enhancement training team for an artillery school, for a basic training unit, and for security force platoons.

The 589th Brigade Support Battalion, *Iron Caissons*

The 589th Brigade Support Battalion, *Iron Caissons*, is a multifunctional logistics battalion providing continuous sustainment and support to the entire brigade. In August 2011, the *Iron Caissons* were recognized as one of U.S. Army Forces Command's, (large category) Supply Excellence Award winners for service support activities. In addition to earning their second

consecutive 100 percent rating on Fort Hood's Department of Public Works Semi-Annual Environmental Compliance Assessment Team inspection, the *Iron Caissons* produced water using Tactical Water Purification Systems, the first event of this nature at Fort Hood in over a decade.

75th Fires Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, *Diamond*

The 75th Fires Brigade consists of the following field Artillery battalions:

- 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment
- 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment

In the last year, the *Diamond* Brigade sharpened its ability to execute its core Fires mission and two of the brigade's units contributed to overseas operations. The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, *Copperheads*, deployed to Afghanistan supporting the NATO efforts to train Afghan forces. The 15th Transportation Company deployed to Iraq where it convoyed equipment. The brigade supported these two deployments while it executed a training schedule that included two joint combined arms live-fire exercises and off-post training in Germany, Wyoming and Virginia.

The *Copperhead* Battalion's latest deployment challenged them to quickly adapt to mission training and advising Afghanistan National Security Forces trading their Paladins to conduct 21 missions at 16 locations. The *Copperhead* Soldiers performed a host of different training duties impacting more than 100,000 Afghan soldiers, police and airmen. They assisted the Medical Training Advisory Group and Combat Medic Courses, and the Physician Assistant School, and helped train air mentor teams and security force teams. Finally, they managed ANSF contracts, and enabled battlefield circulation by senior coalition leaders. For its outstanding achievements, the 1-17 FAR was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation on June 19, 2011.

An M28A1 rocket fires from one of 75th Fires Brigade's M270A1 launchers during the January Joint Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise on Fort Sill, Okla., Feb. 2, 2011. (Photo by SSG William Sallette, U.S. Army)





The 15th Transportation Company, *Road Warriors*, traveled the roads of Iraq, driving more than 200 convoys from Baghdad to Kuwait. These convoys, totally more than 800,000 miles, and brought the combined military resources to Kuwait where they could be reset and put back into service. Every *Road Warriors* Soldier made it home with no major accidents or injuries due to enemy actions.

The 75th Fires Brigade executed a training schedule, and planned collective training exercises for January and August 2010, which developed into joint combined arms live-fire exercises. They focused on fire support integration functions and have become the critical training venues to establish our multi-echelon fire support functions.

In August 2011, the 75th FiB took the next step in honing its core mission by continuing its bi-annual, large-scale joint CALFEX program, providing unmatched joint Fires training. The brigade has found becoming a truly integrated joint force depends on establishing and cultivating relationships. The brigade's exercises focus on developing leaders' abilities to adapt and fully integrate with other services/units. Unfortunately, the vast majority of joint experiences occur in combat operations. This 10-day exercise has grown and now involves more than 1,700 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Department of Defense civilians. By the end of the January's exercise, the brigade and the Multiple Launch Rocket System battalions, the 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment, and the 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment had fired more than 4,000, 155 mm rounds and 200 MLRS rockets honing the ability to attack targets, simulating the targeting and mission processing and supporting the two joint CALFEXs.

The 100th Brigade Support Battalion, *Diamond Support*, demonstrated vast growth over the course of the two joint CALFEXs, developing its ability to support the brigade headquarters, MLRS battalions and additional participants, by providing every class of supply and maintenance, and coordinating its activities with and through the forward support companies. *Diamond Support* took its supply and maintenance programs to a cross-continent level in April dividing forces between where 2-18th FAR and 3-13th FAR would be training. They also continued maintaining their supply support activity at Fort Sill.

The 2-18th, *Mission Ready* Battalion rail-loaded more than 100 vehicles and deployed to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., certifying launcher crews, as well as assisting the Wyoming Army National Guard in training select canon crew members to become MLRS crews. The battalion also conducted vehicle roll-over training, STX lanes and convoy live-fire training.

The 3-13th *Red Dragons*, deployed to Fort A.P. Hill, Va., training a wide array of artillery and combat skills, including nuclear, biological and chemical reaction training, vehicle

roll-over training and combatives training. Soldiers even had the opportunity to experience a realistic MEDEVAC situation.

The brigade staff and the 258th Signal Company deployed to Grafenwohr, Germany, supporting the division-level exercise, European Command Austere Challenge 11. Redeploying after the exercise, the brigade staff launched the 32nd Annual *Diamond* Brigade Run. 'Tough as *Diamonds*.'

210th Fires Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, South Korea, *Warrior Thunder*

The 210th Fires Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division consists of the following field Artillery battalions:

- 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment

The 210th FiB Soldiers remain the only continuously forward deployed Fires brigade in the Army and whether supporting the United States Forces Korea, the 8th Pacific Victory Field Army or the 2nd Infantry Division, the *Warrior Thunder* Brigade must always be ready to 'Fight Tonight.'

Warrior Thunder coordinates fire support assets across the Korean peninsula and provides 2ID and our Korean allies, maximum flexibility to conduct full-spectrum operations. *Katchi-Kapshida!* (We go together!). The 210th fosters and maintains a combined operations relationship with several Republic of Korea army units, working daily with our partners developing and strengthening our alliance through critical training events such as live and virtual command-post exercises, monthly tactical discussions and combined-live-fire exercises with Korean artillery battalions and maneuver forces. The

CPT Bob Payne, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Fires Brigade conducts rehearsals with Republic of Korea Security attachments. (Photo courtesy of 210th FiB)



210th FiB continues to hone warfighting skills and tactical interoperability capturing the spirit of Katchi-Kapshida! These relationships also include the full-time teammates within our ranks, the Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army enhancing unit-to-unit bonds.

Additionally, 210th played a crucial role during the division's warpath and warfighter training exercises beginning in September. The brigade will round out its year participating in theater-level exercises, division focused events and brigade driven exercises. *Warrior Thunder* stands together to defend the Republic of Korea.

Transforming into a modular brigade, 2012 will bring change for 210th FiB, rounding out its ranks with a myriad of specialty and low density military occupational specialties. *Warrior Thunder* will field new equipment and upgrade their current fleet, expanding their capabilities providing a more flexible, agile force, ready for defense.

Training under realistic conditions, maintaining equipment to standard, counseling and Soldier care are the cornerstones of the brigade's mission. '*Warrior Thunder* remains Second to None!'

212th Fires Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas, *Gunstone*

On Aug. 15, 2011, the 212th Fires Brigade uncased its colors as the Army's seventh Fires brigade, bringing back a part of the historic 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss. The Brigade's Signal Company was activated later, on Oct. 14, 2011.

The *Gunstone* Brigade, located on east Fort Bliss, is currently focused on reset operations, training and preparing for combat and will build on its foundation, receiving hundreds of Fires

Soldiers from the 212th Fires Brigade participate in the 212th FiB Activation Ceremony on Aug. 15, 2011. (Photo courtesy of 212th FiB)



Soldiers along with equipment specializing in lethal and nonlethal operations.

In addition to building the capabilities of its Fires brigade command post, the brigade headquarters will provide focus in a number of areas to include building on military occupational specialties, proficiency/core competencies, through 1AD Fires seminars & universities, standardizing Fires certification programs, improving collective joint Fires proficiencies implementing an external battery evaluation program for the division. The *King of Battle* is at Fort Bliss! With the excellent support from the 1AD, Fort Bliss, and the El Paso community, the 212th FiB adds a new chapter in its history and is on its way to becoming a highly skilled and proud team, ready to perform their mission supporting full spectrum operations. 'Courage and Command!'

214th Fires Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, *Leader*

The 214th Fires Brigade continues to perform as they take on diverse missions around the world, from Haiti, Iraq and Afghanistan, and display their versatility and skills by successfully performing target acquisition support, target processing, signal support, security forces, and precision Fire missions. The brigade has been successful as a result of a rigorous training plan, utilizing various simulations and training exercises to equip its Soldiers with the latest tactics, techniques and procedures.

The *Leader* Brigade provides the warfighter on the front line with expert target acquisition support in the form of multiple in lieu of Q-36 and Q-37 radar sections, target acquisition, headquarters and target processing sections. Over the past year, all three FA battalions have provided these in lieu of radar sections from their Paladin, Multiple Launch Rocket System, and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System sections and continue to maintain core competencies. The Brigade Support Battalion has also prepared for any future contingency missions conducting various deployment exercises and non-standard training events throughout the year.

The brigade prepares by participating in various joint and combined training events, such as Daring Warrior, mentoring the Singaporean armed forces during their certification exercise. The BSB maintained focus on potential future deployments conducting a joint deployment exercise, with the 97th Air Mobility Wing at Altus Air Force Base, designed to rehearse quick loading the BSB's equipment onto C-17 Globemasters for immediate movement to conduct humanitarian aid and disaster relief.



2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, *Deep Attack*

The 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, *Deep Attack* trained, equipped, and deployed Bravo Battery as a target acquisition battery to Iraq and Afghanistan. It has also conducted battalion operations at Fort Bliss, and trained Charlie Battery to perform motorized infantry company operations in preparation for its Afghanistan deployment.

In March 2011, 2-4 FA deployed to Fort Bliss, Texas, and executed Multiple Launch Rocket System live-fire certifications, military operations on urban terrain operations, convoy live-fire, and a multitude of individual and crew served weapons ranges. As an added experience, the battalion conducted convoy operations, with movement approximately 600 miles, to and from Fort Bliss.

In May 2011, the battalion received deployment orders to Afghanistan supporting the Rule of Law Forces. Charlie Battery transitioned, trained and equipped this element within 60 days and deployed in September 2011.

In June 2011, the battery headquarters and target processing sections deployed and assumed command and control over Regional Command South's target acquisition assets. The first section to redeploy from theater arrived at Fort Sill, in August and is currently conducting reintegration and then transition back to core competency skills training.

With the majority of the battalion deployed, performing non-standard or in lieu of missions, the remaining batteries continue training on traditional artillery tasks and logistical support, retaining proficiency in delivering Fires support. The *Deep Attack* Battalion is fully prepared to answer the nation's call anytime.

2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, *Rock Hard*

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery's mission is to prepare for combat as a M109A6 Paladin equipped unit supporting full spectrum operations, providing surface-to-surface cannon Fires and in lieu of counter fire radar capabilities.

Bravo Battery, 2-5 FA ILO radar mission transitioned from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn and successfully redeployed. The battalion conducted numerous battery and battalion-level live-fire exercises maintaining its mission essential task list and quarterly certified all gun sections and fire direction centers. Bravo Battery continues to certify and deploy radar sections supporting operations in the U.S. Army Central Command area of responsibility.

Alpha Battery was called upon to support the 428th Field Artillery Brigade providing Fires supporting the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery and the Field Artillery School's Basic Officer Leader Course III, Field Artillery Career Captains Course, and

13F Advanced Individual Training. The battalion supported the 214th Fires Brigade and 75th FiB throughout the year. The battalion headquarters participated in two Global War on Terrorism scenario command post exercises, utilizing all organic Army Battle Command Systems and resulting in approximately 20,000, 155 mm projectiles fired this year.

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



Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery fire rockets as part of a 'Hot Panel - Quick Strike' capability demonstration at White Sands Missile Range in April 2011. (Photo courtesy of Project Manager-Precision Fires Missiles and Rockets)

The 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, *Steel Warriors*, completed reset in November 2010 and participated in Operation Daring Warrior, a joint exercise with the Singapore army. In February 2011, the *Steel Warriors* successfully executed small-arms and convoy live-fire ranges at Fort Bliss, Texas, as well as battery-level external evaluations. In April 2011, the battalion had a unique training opportunity, participating in a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System training event with the U.S. Air Force, Precision Fires Missiles and Rockets Program Manager and the Fires Center of Excellence Master Gunner Division, flying to and from White Sands Space Harbor Airstrip, N.M., unloading and firing a total of six Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System rockets in less than four hours.

168th Brigade Support Battalion, *Make It Happen*

The *Make It Happen*, 168th Brigade Support Battalion conducted full spectrum operations training as they remained postured in the Army Force Generation available window. Two forward logistic elements deployed, in late winter, to White Sands, N.M., supporting 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery and 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery. In early spring, the battalion deployed to Lexington, Okla., conducting joint training with the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 149th General Support Aviation Battalion. Midsummer brought deployment readiness training, beginning with convoy protection platform gunnery.

The 168th BSB participated in a deployment exercise scenario, with the 58th Airlift Squadron, from Altus Air Force Base, focused around a notional humanitarian assistance/disaster relief mission in Kingston, Jamaica, and the summer wrapped up with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive training lanes centered on hasty decontamination of equipment. The full gamut of 168th BSB capabilities were tested during the disaster response exercise; to include water production, aerial delivery, distribution management, refueling operations, maintenance and recovery operations.

Rounding out the year, the battalion conducted joint operations with the state of Oklahoma's Joint Force Headquarters, supporting the multi-state Operation Sooner Response. The BSB deployed across the state and provided sustainment to several National Guard civil support teams.

Hotel Battery, 26th Field Artillery

Hotel Battery, 26th Target Acquisition Battery completed a successful deployment in Afghanistan, with its last radar section returning in August 2011. While deployed, H-26 integrated a target acquisition sensor management team within the division headquarters, Regional Command-South supporting the joint Fires cell and establishing a centralized sensor management controlling agency, previously nonexistent capabilities in International Security Assistance Forces and RC-S's area of operations. As the only Fires brigade in the Army with one High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, Multiple Launcher Rocket System, and Paladin battalion, along with a brigade support battalion, network support company, and target acquisition battery, the 214th Fires Brigade maintains constant flexibility to react and provide a full range of fire and logistical support to when they are called upon to execute.

428th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, *Cornerstone*

The *Cornerstone* Brigade, 428th Field Artillery Brigade establishes the building blocks, whether developing the technical-skill sets necessary to fight and win or fostering and developing today's leaders. The brigade's training efforts this year focused on leader development and the Profession of Arms Campaign developing changes to program instruction, focusing on core competencies and our ability to integrate Fires with maneuver, in full spectrum operations.

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

The 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery is the 428th Field Artillery Brigade's training support battalion, delivering Fires, performing logistic operations, supporting the United States Army Field Artillery School, and providing skilled artillerymen

to the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. Alpha and Bravo Batteries each averaged more than two artillery live-fire exercises per week, delivering Fires supporting call-for-fire training for Basic Officer Leadership Course B students, 13F Advanced Individual Training students, and Marine Scout Observer Course students. Headquarters Service Battery averaged more than seven logistics missions per week supporting the schoolhouse, Marine Detachment, and Non-Commissioned Officer Academy with ammunition and fuel. The battalion spent more than 250-days in the field during the past year firing 44,523 rounds safely and delivering more than 160,000 rounds of ammunition, including eight Redleg Wars, and 112 BOLC B gunnery exercises, to name a few.

Bravo Battery, the salute battery for the United States Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, executed seven ceremonial salutes, including a salute in honor of General Odierno, at the Field Artillery School's 100th Year Anniversary Celebration.

1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Regiment, *Hard Charger*

The 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Regiment, executes initial military training, professional military education and leader development, training physically fit, competent, and adaptive FA leaders, capable of contributing to their new unit, integrating and executing lethal and non-lethal Fires.

While the battalion is still focused on the basics, BOLC B is adapting to reflect the modernization and growth of the FA. Students are introduced to the Pocket Sized Forward Entry Device, Forward Observer System, Precision Strike Suite software and precision munitions, as well as receiving 32 hours of joint Fires observer training, reporting to their unit as certified JFO lieutenants. Upon graduation, students are able to perform as a fire support officer, fire direction officer, and platoon leader in cannon or rocket units.

The FA Captain's Career Course is reducing instruction from 10 days to one day of information operations instruction, allowing integration of the Fire Support Coordinator course, including the Command Post of the Future, Joint Automated Deep Operations Coordination System, precision Fires integration, the targeting process, scheme of Fires and joint air planning. Emphasis is being placed on automated gunnery troubleshooting, battery maintenance, and Command Supply Discipline Program.

Beginning FY12, our 131A Basic Warrant Officer Course will be decreased from 33 to 30 weeks for active component Soldiers, reducing the instruction of Firefinder maintenance. As the Army MTOEs have changed the place of 131As and they are no longer directly responsible for any single system but an entire platoon Students are given the tools in becoming targeting experts.



The Warrant Officer Advanced Course will be increased from nine weeks to 12 weeks, facilitating the FA commandant's initiative for precision Fires, a three-week, three-block course featuring weaponeering, target coordinate mensuration and collateral damage estimation.

1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery Regiment, *Teamwork*

The 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery trains Advanced Individual Training and deploying Soldiers skill-level 1 in core competencies, providing the Army with more than 7,000 Soldiers annually. In addition to training all FA military occupational specialties, the *Teamwork* Battalion provides logistical and administrative support to the 94M radar repairer and 94S Patriot System repairer's AIT Soldiers. For FY11, the battalion worked diligently with the Fires Center of Excellence Directorate of Training Development to revise the Programs of Instruction and the results will be presented to the TRADOC deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training in early FY12 for approval. The battalion continues the comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program, training cadre how to teach using resiliency and performance enhancing skills.

434th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, *Destroyer Brigade*

The 434th Field Artillery Brigade consists of the following battalions:

- 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery Regiment
- 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery Regiment
- 1 Battalion, 355th Field Artillery Regiment
- 95th Adjutant General Battalion
- 434 Support Detachment

The 434th Field Artillery Brigade conducts reception for/ and Basic Combat Training by transforming civilian volunteers into disciplined, motivated, and fit Soldiers.

Throughout 2010-2011, the brigade refined the execution of the new Basic Combat Training program of instruction, renewing emphasis on back to basics. Developed utilizing feedback from combat-experienced officers and NCOs across the Army, this new POI teaches important basic skills Soldiers need for success, such as: proper handling, firing, and maintaining their individual weapon; the application of tactical combat casualty care (first aid); the preparation of the mind and body for the physical and mental demands of deployment and combat through physical readiness training; the maintenance of situational awareness, 'Every Soldier a Sensor;' voice communication skills; map reading/land navigation and Army values training.

Soldiers conduct an intensive basic and advanced rifle marksmanship series, firing more ammunition than before and simulating stressful combat-like conditions. The brigade implemented the new Physical Readiness Training, designed to improve physical conditioning, while minimizing the potential for injuries. Execution of PRT and attention to the scheduling of physically challenging POI events enabled the brigade to report the Army training center's lowest injury rate. Beginning May 2011, batteries conducted pilot execution of the proposed Army Physical Readiness Test providing feedback for future implementation decisions. The basic combat training performed annually transforms more than 18,000 civilian volunteers.

Following the Army's decision to discontinue the Warrior Transition Course, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery Battalion reorganized three batteries; and the 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery stood up a U.S. Army Reserve Battery (Echo Mission) giving the brigade the capability to conduct up to 95 gender-integrated basic training cycles annually with 25 BCT batteries. Additionally, the 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery Regiment was activated on Jan. 11, 2011.

Transformation of the 434th Field Artillery Brigade's physical footprint continues with several major facility construction projects and renovations enhancing the brigade's ability to provide world-class training and support to our nation's newest Soldiers.

173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Bamberg, Germany

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

In November 2009, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment deployed as part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan. The battalion converted from an organic M119A2, 105 mm howitzer Fires battalion to man the M777A2, 155 mm howitzer battalion, reorganizing into six firing platoons with two guns and one fire direction center section each, supporting Task Force Bayonet with decentralized Fires. This reorganization allowed the battalion to locate firing assets throughout TF Bayonet's area of operation in Logar and Wardak provinces. In its second deployment, as a fully-manned artillery battalion and its fifth deployment, as the Fires element for the 173rd ABN BCT, Task Force King relied on its versatility to meet standard and non-standard missions.

Initial mission requirements called for the battalion to be spread in two provinces, with elements supporting four battlespace-owning task forces, three Special Forces task forces, and a number of smaller elements throughout the brigade's footprint. At all these locations, Task Force King paratroopers conducted combined action patrols, combined-action training

with Afghanistan National Army soldiers, uniformed police or people's protection program forces, and oversaw daily forward operating base and combat outpost operations, and a myriad of other duties. Including the activities of the attached 118th and 401st Military Police Companies, TF King operated from 12 different locations.

On the lethal side, TF King fired 1,541 artillery rounds in 239 fire missions during its deployment, including two direct fire and one 'Killer Junior' mission. The paratroopers also conducted more than 800 partnership missions and patrols, participated in nearly 500 key leader engagements and more than 100 shuras, discovered or facilitated 25 major weapons cache turn-ins and building relationships with Afghanistan civilians and officials. The TF's approach for many of these improvements, in particular the Afghan uniformed police development program have become the standard across U.S. Forces Afghanistan and Regional Command-East.

The battalion redeployed in November 2010, and began the Army Force Generation process, resetting the unit's equipment and training on the core mission essential tasks. In June 2011, the battalion focused on section certification in accordance with the 173d Redbook, at Grafenwoehr Training Area, conducting the first drop zone airborne assault since activation. Alpha and Bravo Batteries conducted their own drop zone mission, with a total of 72 paratroopers, supporting the core mission essential task list. Finishing the ARFORGEN cycle and preparing for the upcoming training, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, the battalion conducted platoon live Fires Table VIII, hip shoots, air assault raids, and airfield seizure operations. The battalion expects to be fully capable for the brigade's next Afghanistan deployment in 2012.

A First Army Division East Trainer/Mentor explains counter-improvised explosive device concepts to a group of mobilizing Soldiers. (Photo courtesy of 72nd FA BDE)



First Army

72nd Field Artillery Brigade, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey

The 72nd Field Artillery Brigade is a training support brigade under First Army Division East, responsible for planning, coordinating and enabling post-mobilization and pre-deployment training supporting specified U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard units. Additionally, since Sept. 1, 2010, the 72nd FA has trained 171 Army units and 78 U.S. Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard units, accounting for more than 7,000 service members, as well as demobilized 171 units totaling 7,047 personnel. In 2011, the brigade began training reserve component Soldiers supporting NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan – formerly an active component-only mission.

The brigade continues to support pre-deployment training and demobilization supporting overseas contingency operations. 'On Time, On Target!'

402nd Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas

The 402nd Field Artillery Brigade is a training support brigade under First Army Division West. The brigade serves as the operations center at the Fort Bliss Mobilization Training Center, responsible for planning and executing battalion, brigade and higher-level exercises, preparing and validating engineer, route clearance, vertical and horizontal construction, detainee operations, security forces, rear area operations cells, mayor cells, joint area support groups and sustainment, and preparing units for their deployments. Additionally, the brigade provides pre-mobilization training assistance, partnering closely with the 5th Armor Brigade within its capabilities for U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard units.

During 2011, the brigade supported the successful mobilization and training of approximately 13,920 Soldiers and the demobilization of approximately 3,635 Soldiers.

479th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas, *Strike Hard*

The 479th Field Artillery Brigade is a multi-component organization composed of four active components and five U.S. Army Reserve training support battalions under the command of First Army Division West. The 479th FA Brigade serves as the training support brigade at Fort Hood's Mobilization Training Center, providing training and mobilization support to U.S.



Soldiers with the Virginia Army National Guard use the computer lab at Fort Hood, Texas, to familiarize themselves with Afghan customs, courtesies and language. The 479th Field Artillery Brigade conducts language training prior to unit deployments. (Photo by SGT Erica Cain, U.S. Army)



The 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment poses for a unit picture. (Photo courtesy of 1st BCD)

Army Reserve and National Guard units preparing to deploy. The brigade specializes in weapons qualification, combative, culture and language training, counter improvised explosive devices, mounted gunnery and convoy live-fire operations, force protection and driver's training. The brigade supported the successful mobilization of approximately 10,446 Soldiers and the demobilization of approximately 3,040 Soldiers in FY11. COL William Turner led the brigade's relocation from Fort Sill, Okla., to Fort Hood, in June 2010, as part of First Army's transformation initiative. The brigade incorporated four new active-component training support battalions and assumed a 'round training' role for all reserve component units mobilizing at MTC Hood. The Army Reserve 2nd Battalion, 290th Combat Support/Combat Service Support, from Oklahoma City, Okla., continued to support the reception and demobilization of reserve component units returning from theater to Fort Sill, through December 2010. The brigade also sent 11 Soldiers providing training support to the NATO training mission and Counterinsurgency Training Center in Afghanistan. 'make U.S. Soldiers hard to kill'. On Target, *Strike Hard!*

1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Davis Montham Air Force Base, Arizona

The 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment, supported several exercises for U.S. Army South, U.S. Air Force South and Southern Command in the past year since returning from a deployment in Al Udeid AFB, Qatar. During their deployment the unit worked directly with the 609th Combined Air and Space Operations Center in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 1st BCD worked jointly with allied nations and supported thousands of sorties to include 'troops in contact', dynamic targets and air delivered supplies. In OIF, the 1st BCD was vigilant in supporting Iraqi parliamentary elections

and greatly contributed to the responsible drawdown of USF-I forces.

In OEF, the 1st BCD was involved in the presidential elections, the stand up of the International Joint Command, the infamous attack on COP Keating, the surge of 30,000 additional forces into Afghanistan, the largest air assault since Vietnam, Operation Moshtarak, the securing of the key terrain around Kandahar, Operation Hamkari, the Afghanistan Government's Peace Jirga, and the formation of Regional Command South-West.

Members of the 1st BCD overcame many obstacles forward deploying Soldiers to Kandahar and Bagram, Afghanistan, Balad, Iraq and to the USS Eisenhower and Nimitz in the Persian Gulf.

Personnel with 1st BCD implemented the deployment's lessons learned into the battle rhythm, proving to be the key in successful execution of training events. The detachment looks ahead to hone individual war fighting skills and to set the example for how important these detachments are in the ground and air to fight as one.

5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Hickham Air Force Base, Hawaii

The 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and assigned to the United States Army Pacific, is the Army's liaison to the 13th Air Force and the 613th Air and Space Operations Center. The unit's mission within the Pacific Command area of responsibility is to create seamless integration of joint Fires, focusing on four key lines of effort: fight tonight, Army - Air Force integration, theater security cooperation, and building strong Soldier and family teams. The 5th BCD participated in various joint and combined exercises working hand-in-hand with Australian counterparts and Japanese Self Defense Force establishing and improving their own operational capability.



Soldiers of the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment and the Australian Battlefield Coordination Detachment during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2011 (Photo by MAJ Josh Severs, U.S. Army)

Additionally, throughout the year, the 5th BCD provided augmentation to numerous mission readiness exercises and command post exercises. The unit's participation in these exercises enabled the U.S. Army and Air Force to create realistic joint Fires integration training, and air support coordination for contingency operations, as well as served as a combat multiplier.

Its participation in Pacific-partner exercises has strengthened relationships while simultaneously supporting the PACOM and USARPAC commanders' theater security cooperation programs. During the last year, members of the 5th BCD with members of the 13th Air Force, were deployed to assist in Operation Tomodachi, to Japan supporting the relief operations and assisting victims following the March 2011 tsunami. The Soldiers served as Liaison Officers representing the Joint Forces Air Component commander to the III Marine Expeditionary Force, and provided services in the movement of relief supplies to the Japanese people, demonstrating its utility to effectively integrate land and air operations during a humanitarian relief effort. 'United in Victory!'

19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

The 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment has supported operations and exercises in the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command areas of responsibility. Stationed at Ramstein Air Base, 19th BCD is embedded within the 603rd Air and Space Operations Center, and provides daily support to 3rd Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Europe, *Team 19*.

The year started with the commencement of Operation Odyssey Dawn, the U.S. led, multi-national effort to protect the people of Libya enforcing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973. With USAFRICOM and USEUCOM heavily involved in OOD, the 603rd and 617th AOCs merged and incorporated multi-national liaison teams during March. *Team 19* performed this air-centric operation in doctrinal and non-traditional roles. Among the BCD's most significant accomplishments were the effective synchronization of the ground intelligence picture, and providing liaison between the combined AOC and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Throughout 2011, *Team 19* has served around the globe with Soldiers simultaneously assigned in and deployed to seven countries as well as afloat with rotational Carrier Air Wings in the AOR.

In addition to real world deployments and support to OOD, 19th BCD has participated in countless exercises and training events throughout 2011, supporting NATO, USEUCOM, USAFRICOM, and the United States Army in Europe.

The 19th BCD continued its work to further the USEUCOM commander's theater security cooperation initiatives; finding new ways to have meaningful dialogue with our allies about air/ground synchronization. In addition to bi-lateral events with the UK, France, and Germany, we were able to find a meaningful way to participate in the NATO exercise Bold Ambition, allowing us to interact with several NATO countries at the Allied Air Component Headquarters at Ramstein Air Base. In June, we began an initiative using the Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities Interoperability Program to enable AFATDS to communicate with allied fire control systems. Also in the area of theater security cooperation during 2011, 19th BCD has supported two iterations of USAREUR's BAGRAM series exercises preparing that nation's Army for deployment to Afghanistan.

In late summer, the BCD traveled across Ramstein along with the 603rd Air and Space operations center, and occupied a new, state-of-the-art facility. In September the 617th Air and Space operations center again joined forces with the 603rd, merging into a consolidated organization supporting USEUCOM and USAFRICOM from the new facility.

Team 19 has successfully adapted to meet new challenges. Striving for excellence in all we do, our focus remains on maintaining an agile organization with a depth of knowledge and experience enabling us to be a combat multiplier for our supported headquarters. 'Strong Soldiers, Strong Teams!'

Red Book 2011

Fires on Target

US Marine Corps Active and Marine Forces Reserve Field Artillery Units

11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, California, *Cannon Cockers*



The 11th Marines Regimental Staff pose for a unit photo. (Photo courtesy of 11th Marine Regiment)

Located aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., the 11th Marine Regiment continues to add to the legacy of both the Corps and our artillery forefathers. The 11th Marine Regiment provides fire support to the 1st Marine Division and I Marine Expeditionary Force across the globe while supporting the full range of military operations. Employing the M777A2 towed 155 mm howitzer, the M142A2 High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the M327 rifled, towed 120 mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System, the 11th Marine Regiment is ready to provide tailored fire support to the maneuver commander any time or place.

True to our expeditionary nature, 11th Marines provides forces to almost every aspect of Marine Corps operations. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, 11th Marines

deployed an artillery battalion, reinforced with one HIMARS battery, to provide the Marine ground combat element with fire support in a general support role. Additionally, the regiment provides expert fire supporters to every maneuver battalion in the 1st Marine Division. Specific to this mission is the hybrid nature of employment, which finds artillery Marines performing in the role of both fire supporters and provisional infantry. A testament to the versatility of our Marines is seen in their courageous performance in face of extreme and often mortal combat in the Kajacki district of Helmand province, Afghanistan. Additionally, 11th Marines continues its recurring requirement to deploy an artillery battery in support of western Pacific Marine Expeditionary Unit operations, as well as 31st MEU deployments to Okinawa, Japan. Furthermore, the regiment's Civil Affairs Detachment deploys teams to support Regimental Combat Teams 1 and 5 as well as all deployed OEF infantry battalions.

Initiatives within the regiment have seen an increase in training, proficiency and deployment of joint terminal air controllers as well as joint forward observers. With seven preparatory courses for JTAC/JFOs held internally within the regiment, 11th Marines has exponentially increased its throughput of observers within this challenging field, meeting the operational needs of our supported units. This effort is a product of an increasingly streamlined and efficient consolidated approach to how we train and employ our battalion and regimental fire support teams. These two efforts have afforded the regiment the flexibility to not only meet the increasing observer needs of the ground combat element, but more importantly to ensure fully qualified and capable Marine fire supporters are on hand and ready to engage the enemy.

The *Cannon Cockers* will continue to meet all enduring and emerging requirements as the regiment continuously improves



Marines from 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, race through a confidence course during the field training exercise portion of Exercise Khaan Quest 2011 at Five Hills Training Area near Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Aug. 1, 2011. (Photo by Cpl. Tyler Main, U.S. Marine Corps)

upon our core task of providing lethal and non-lethal fire support to the maneuver commander.

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

The 1st Battalion, 11th Marines Regiment, is heavily engaged in sustaining proficiency as a cannon battalion by conducting numerous live-fire training exercises in support of 1st Marine Division. At the end of 2010, the battalion returned from a successful tour in Helmand province Afghanistan after providing general support cannon and rocket Fires to 1st Marine Division (Forward), Task Force Leatherneck.

Beginning in January, the battalion initiated an aggressive mission realignment training plan focusing on establishing core competencies as a subordinate unit of 11th Marine Regiment. With a large amount of personnel turnover, the battalion participated in numerous training events and live-fire exercises at the battery, battalion, and regimental level to regain momentum and maintain its high level of proficiency in artillery operations. The battalion also conducted an intensive training program to field the 120 mm Expeditionary Fire Support System and established proficiency with this new weapon system. Working with the new equipment training team, the battalion enhanced its capabilities to effectively employ the mortar system while maintaining proficiency with the M777A2 howitzer.

In August, the battalion participated in exercise Khaan Quest 2011 in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force. Personnel deployed to Mongolia to work in conjunction with international forces from Mongolia, Korea, Cambodia, and India, as well as multiple other representatives from other countries to include China and Vietnam, in a United Nations peace keeping training exercise. Battalion personnel took

part in a command post exercise and a field training exercise, developing international military-to-military relationships, representing the United States as a whole, and demonstrating the warrior ethos and premiere capabilities of the Marine Corps. The battalion successfully proved its versatility and interoperability, preparing its Marines with the skills required to conduct a provisional peace keeping mission. After returning from Mongolia, the battalion immediately transitioned back into artillery training taking part in the 11th Marines summer fire exercise and preparing for exercise Steel Knight and supporting the Weapons Tactics Instructor Course with artillery Fires.

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

Over the past year, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines has conducted a myriad of artillery live-fire exercises, spanning over most of Southern California, firing more than 16,000 artillery projectiles. In August 2010, the battalion conducted a week long exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., conducting several movements spread over several training areas to prepare the battalion to support Exercise Steel Knight 10. Exercise Steel Knight is a division-level live-fire and maneuver exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., where 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines provided Fires in general support of 1st Marine Division and Fires in direct support of Regimental Combat Team 5. Concurrent with Exercise Steel Knight 10, Battery A provided artillery Fires in support of Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-11 throughout the month of October in the Chocolate Mountains Training Area near Yuma, Ariz. In preparation for providing support for Exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines conducted a battalion artillery live-fire exercise at Camp Pendleton, reestablishing the battalion's ability to 'shoot, move, and communicate.' In February and March 2011, the battalion provided artillery Fires in support of 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, and 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion throughout Exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper 4-11 at Twentynine Palms, Calif. During this exercise, the battalion conducted several different artillery missions, to include firing direct fire, rocket assisted projectiles and Excalibur munitions. In June 2011, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines conducted another week-long artillery live-fire exercise at Camp Pendleton, with emphasis on providing Fires in a counterinsurgency environment and conducting long range communications. The battalion then provided Fires in support of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines and 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines throughout Exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper 7-11 at Twentynine Palms, where the battalion again executed direct fire, Excalibur live-fire, and rocket assisted projectile live-fire. The battalion continues to improve combat readiness while



completing pre-deployment training at Camp Pendleton, poised for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan this year.

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

The 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment continues to 'shoot, move and communicate' at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. The battalion's unique geographical location, separate from its parent regiment, brings invaluable fire support to the Marine Corps premier training center and gateway for all Marine combat units deploying in support of combat operations. The battalion hones its skills in the core mission essential tasks by firing in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper, Steel Knight and a host of other named exercises. In addition, the battalion will host the new equipment training team early in 2012 in preparation for the fielding of the Expeditionary Fire Support System. Over the past year, 3rd Battalion has provided forces to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and participated in operations as diverse as Exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand to Operation Tomodachi I off the coast of Japan. This year 3rd Battalion also participated in theater security cooperation events, to include Exercise Gold Eagle, a reciprocal exchange program with the 8/12 Regiment, Royal Australian Army. The Battalion will host 103rd Battery, 8/12 Regiment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms this fall. 3rd Battalion remains prepared and ready to support operations across the globe.

Howitzer Section 2, Kilo Battery, preparing to fire an M777A2 in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. (Photo by 1st Lt. Wells, U.S. Marine Corps)



5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, *Steel Rain*

The 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment continues to expand the employment concepts of rocket artillery throughout the range of military operations in stateside training while providing precision Fires in support of counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan. During the winter of 2010-2011, Battery S successfully fired 139 Guided Multiple Launch Rockets in support of maneuver elements, marking the most precision guided rockets fired during a battery deployment to date. With greater range and accuracy, rocket artillery became the fire support asset of choice as I MEF (FWD) began dismantling the insurgent networks of Helmand province in the fall and winter of 2010. Battery R is currently deployed and is already delivering timely, precision Fires as maneuver elements expand the area of operations in Helmand. Additionally, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines continues the fight in continental United States conducting extensive cold weather evaluation of the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System launcher as well as conducting ceremonial 105 mm howitzer salutes. Battery T spent most of February and March at Bridgeport, Calif. and Hawthorne, Nev. putting the M142 HIMARS launcher through rigorous testing in unforgiving terrain. The launcher surpassed expectations and proved to be a reliable support asset at high altitude in sub-freezing and snow covered environments. Battery T also received the honor of performing a ceremonial 105 mm howitzer salute in remembrance of our 40th president, the Honorable Mr. Ronald Reagan's 100th birthday. Battery T prepares for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in early 2012. Battery S will continue to train and develop rocket artillery operations until they receive the call to continue the mission in Afghanistan.

Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

The Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Okla., commanded by Col. Douglas P. Thomas, is home to all artillery training in the Marine Corps. With 120 permanent party Marines, the Marine Detachment teaches 12 Marine specific courses and collaborates with the Army on seven additional joint courses. These courses include entry-level and career-progression artillery and fire support related instruction. Additionally, the MarDet promotes the advancement of artillery programs and instruction through direct coordination with Marine Corps operating forces, Headquarters Marine Corps, the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, Training and Education Command, and the U.S. Army's Fires Center of Excellence.

The Marine Detachment is organized into several sections to accomplish its mission and tasks. They include; the Cannoneer



An M142 High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System launcher laid on target during a snow storm at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif. (Photo by LT Hank Wilson, U.S. Marine Corps)

School, the Target Acquisition Section, Marine Corps Fires Branch, Officer Instruction Branch, and a Marine Logistics Section. All these sections are supported and supervised by the detachment headquarters element comprised of a special staff, S1, S3, and S4 personnel.

The Cannoneer School is responsible for entry-level and advanced training on the M777A2 howitzer, the M142 High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System, and the Expeditionary Fire Support System, a towed 120 mm rifled mortar. The Target Acquisition Section provides entry-level and advanced training for Q-46 radars, artillery electronic maintenance, sensor support, including acoustic ground counter fire sensors and survey, Marine scout observer training, and the fire support chief's course. The Fires Branch provides entry-level and advanced training on enlisted gunnery, fire direction center operations, and all fire support command and control systems.

The Officer Instruction Branch provides entry-level training for lieutenants and career-level training for captains. The OIB partners with the Army's 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery and the 428th Field Artillery Brigade to teach Marines and Army officers to be artillerymen in a joint setting. Finally, the Logistics Section, provides instruction to entry level officer's and career progression courses for senior NCO's and officers in the areas of combat service support, material management, supply fiscal, arms, ammunition and explosives and global combat service support system.

Overall, 2011 proved to be a busy and demanding period for the MarDet. On top of training 1,750 Marines in its entry level and career progression courses, the MarDet also initiated plans to expand its course listing. The Target Acquisition Section expanded its instruction to include the addition of a Target Mensuration Only Instructor Course. This course will help to fill the critical need for certified instructors for the Marine Corps TMO program across the Fleet Marine Force. The Fires Branch set in motion plans to expand its training to include Joint Fires Observer training. This course is expected

to support the training continuum for both officer and enlisted personnel and will offer approximately 10 resident courses and two mobile training teams annually.

In addition to training artillerymen, the MarDet provided direct support to operational force units and Headquarters, Marine Corps. During the past year, the MarDet supported a variety of events and activities which included: the Expeditionary Warfare School Occupational Field Expansion Course the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab Enhanced Marine Air ground Task Force Fires Experiment, numerous fire support and sensor equipment tests, artillery and fire support working/ advisory groups to include the Joint Fire Support Executive Steering Committee, and finally; initiatives to update Marine Corps and joint doctrine to include the Artillery Training and Readiness Manual rewrite, the development of the Artillery Fire Support Training standard operating procedures, and the revision of the Artillery Safety Standard Operating Procedures.

As the MarDet looks forward to the year ahead it will continue to focus on making artillerymen and providing timely support to Fleet Marine Forces stationed both in the continental U.S., as well as outside the continental U.S. The dedication and professionalism of the instructors and staff of the MarDet will ensure its training produces knowledgeable and professional artillerymen that can operate in any time or place.

Marine Forces Reserve

14th Regiment, 4th Marine Division, *At the Ready*

The 14th Marine Regiment is headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas and is the most unique of the Marine artillery regiments, because 14th Marine Regiment units are spread across the continental United States from Fort Dix, N.J., to Seal Beach, Calif., and a plethora of locations in between. The regiment consists of two M777A2 cannon battalions, one High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System battalion and a headquarters battery. The Mission of the 14th Marine Regiment is to provide the Marine Air Ground Task Force with a Force Artillery Headquarters providing command, control, and coordinate force artillery delivered Fires. To prepare for accomplishment of this mission, the regiment's primary focus is to man, train and equip deploying units in support of overseas contingencies, Unit Deployment Program rotations, theatre-level warfare, the Global War on Terrorism and theatre security cooperation missions. The secondary objective is to reconstitute returning forces and hone our core competencies as artillerymen.

2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment

The 2nd Battalion has the following firing units: Battery D in El Paso, Texas, Battery F in Oklahoma City, Okla., and



Marines from K Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment pose for a unit picture with the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System while participating in the Exercise African Lion. (Photo by Capt. Sam Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps)

Battery K in Huntsville, Ala. On a recurring basis, 2nd Battalion provides a rocket battery in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In preparation for deployment, 2nd Battalion has established tactics, techniques, and procedures which allow them to provide command and control to each of their firing units from the battalion headquarters in Grand Prairie, Texas. From January to August 2011, the unit deployed Battery K in support of OEF. All of the Huntsville based Reserve Marines returned to their home training center on Aug. 12, 2011. Rocket Battery K, Second Battalion, 14th Marines has just completed a successful tour in Afghanistan in which they provided High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System rocket Fires in support of numerous combat missions since January 2011. Their battery was supported with augments from their sister battalions throughout 14th Marine Regiment.

3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment

Marines of 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment continued to enhance its 'all weather, all time' indirect fire support while participating in Exercise African Lion 2011 from May 12 – June 4 in Morocco, Africa. African Lion is the largest exercise within the U.S. Africa Commands area of responsibility, and is designed to promote interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's military tactics, techniques, and procedures. This year's exercise, the eighth annual iteration, brought together more than 2,000 U.S. service members, the preponderance being reservists from all forces, with more than 900 members of the Royal Moroccan armed forces. The battalion headquarters supported and manned two functional combat operation centers

In May 2011, Marines from I Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment emplaced their equipment in Morocco while participating in Exercise African Lion. (Photo by Capt. Sam Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps)



in Agadir and Cap Draa providing command and control over multiple maneuver elements during intense training evolutions. Battery I focused on their mission essential task list and conducted suppression of enemy air defense training with 81 mm mortars from 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance, USMC, culminating with a multinational combined arms exercise with U.S. and Moroccan maneuver forces. The Marines of 3rd Battalion 14th Marine Battery had several opportunities to work directly with their Moroccan counterparts to learn their tactics, techniques, and procedures for artillery operations in addition to learning about each other's cultures. In the upcoming year, Battery H, 3/14 of Richmond, Va., will be mobilized in support of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Unit Deployment Program and fall under the command of 3rd Battalion 12th Marine Regiment located aboard Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan.

5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment

The 5th Battalion, 14th Marines consists of four firing batteries armed with M777A2 howitzers and a headquarters battery, all located in the western United States. The battalion headquarters and Battery O are located in Seal Beach, Calif., Battery N is currently located in Pico Rivera, Calif., but will transition to Seal Beach next year when their new facility, which is under construction, is complete. Battery P is located in Spokane, Wash. and Battery Q is located in Aurora, Colo., a suburb of Denver. The battalion recently completed two weeks of annual training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where the entire battalion was able to train together; a rare occasion due to the distant locations of Batteries P and Q. During annual training, the battalion conducted artillery live-fire training in both the decentralized and centralized modes, and also conducted annual training such as rifle ranges, gas chamber training, and swim qualifications. Future focus will continue to be on the training and combat readiness of the Marines of the battalion to prepare them for activation and deployment, both as a unit and as individual augmentees. The battalion will prepare one firing battery to activate and deploy next year to Okinawa in support of the Unit Deployment Program, replacing the battery deployed from 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines.

Red Book 2011

Fires on Target

Army National Guard Air Defense Artillery Units



PFC Trevor Gaston, from 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, demonstrates an FIM-92 Stinger Man-Portable Air-Defense System at Bolling Air Force Base. Air Defense units from South Carolina and Ohio have been on rotating deployments to the National Capitol Region to support homeland defense as part of Operation Noble Eagle. This continued operation began in 2001, just days after and in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, South Carolina Army National Guard, *America's Shield*

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command of the South Carolina Army National Guard responded that day and continue to respond to missions assigned by the U.S. Army, as well as the Fires Center of Excellence. Today, the 263rd AAMDC, commanded by MG Laurie Newton, has again earned the motto of being *America's Shield*. After assuming the homeland defense mission under Operation Noble Eagle, the 263rd serves as the lead Army air and missile defense operational headquarters

in support of U.S. Army North, U.S. Northern Command, Continental North American Aerospace Defense Command region and the North American Aerospace Defense Command. The unit also stands ready to perform expeditionary missions for full spectrum operations.

In 2011, the 263rd AAMDC serves as the supporting command to USARNORTH for all Army air defense artillery missions required to detect, deter, divert, and if necessary defeat air and cruise missile defense threats to the continental U.S. to include the National Capital Region. In addition, Newton serves as the Theater Army Air and Missile Defense Coordinator to the USARNORTH Joint Force Land Component commander for planning, coordination, integration, and execution to defeat or destroy ballistic missile threats to the NORTHCOM combatant commander's designated priorities. Completing the robust requirements asked of the SCARNG unit is to on order, assume the lead operational headquarters in support of commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command, for support and oversight of homeland defense ADA missions to detect, deter, divert, and if necessary defeat airborne attacks within the NORAD area of operations and provide direct support to the area air defense commander within the NCR operational area. The 263rd AAMDC additionally serves as the support command to First Army and U.S. Army Forces Command for Title-10 training readiness authority for Homeland Defense ADA missions as well as executes functional coordination with the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command to include new technology insertion and testing.

The 263rd AAMDC has an operational tempo that meets today's air defense challenges. Events conducted were both for



operational missions and major training exercises. These include national level exercise Vigilant Shield, Exercise America's Shield, national level exercise Ardent Sentry, Experiment Black Dart, counter-unmanned aerial vehicles, Joint Task Force-North Maple Guard, Joint Test and Evaluation, and three culminating training events for units rotating into the NCR's IADS. In planning, coordinating, and executing these events, the 263rd has been performing integration activities supporting joint interagency, inter-governmental and multinational activities to include NORAD, U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, Secret Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, Defense Intelligence Agency, and various non-Department of Defense participants, such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Justice. They are integrated into the planning and execution process to de-conflict air defense plans prior to mission execution.

2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, South Carolina Army National Guard

Nearly 300 air defenders from 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, South Carolina Army National Guard, returned home Jan. 24, 2011. The Soldiers of 2-263 completed an extremely successful 400-day mission under Operation Noble Eagle as the execution force for National Capital Region-Integrated Air Defense System in Washington, D.C., and as the Deployable-Integrated Air Defense System force based in Anderson, S.C.

Roughly 100 of the 300 highly motivated Citizen-Soldiers successfully executed the first year of the new minimum deployment package, a sensor and shooter capable force, which is part of the joint force D-IADS. D-IADS is an on-order, quick reactionary force that can detect, deter, divert, and if necessary defeat as ordered and is used for defending key assets anywhere in the continental United States. Both NCR-IADS and D-IADS plan and execute in joint coordination with the U.S. Air Force and interagency. In fact, planning, coordinating, and executing of these events requires support from the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Training Readiness Authority Team to accomplish the integration activities through joint inter-agency, inter-governmental and multinational activities as needed.

The minimum deployment package D-IADS will continue on mission and soon begin their third year while the NCR-IADS team integrates back into 2-263rd to accomplish battalion reset. The battalion is one of only seven National Guard battalions that rotate through the NCR mission and the only battalion that has accomplished the MDP D-IADS mission.

Command emphasis was critical throughout mission. The record of this unit in terms of mission safety was impressive, especially given the challenging environmental conditions facing Soldiers while on mission. Also, command emphasis served well in setting a new standard as the battalion was led through the first-ever continental U.S. based post deployment 'Yellow Ribbon' program that proved paramount for Army National Guard Soldiers transitioning back to Title-32. 'Unsundered!'

174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Ohio Army National Guard, *Phoenix*

Soldiers from the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade of the Ohio Army National Guard will be mobilizing 44 Soldiers in May 2012 for a year-long deployment. They are from the 174th ADA located at Defense Supply Center Columbus, in Columbus, Ohio. They go by Task Force Grant and will monitor and oversee battalions that use standard U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery equipment, including Avengers, Stingers, and Sentinel radars, all those things that you would assume would be associated with an Army air defense mission for the Clear Skies Mission. Task Force Grant will return to Ohio in May 2013.

The 174th ADA Brigade has also mobilized seven operation mentoring and liaison teams since 2008 as part of the State Partnership for Peace Program with Hungary. The eighth team is currently conducting inactive duty training for a mobilization in early 2012. The Operation Mentoring and Liaison Teams consist of Soldiers from several units across the state of Ohio. The operation mentoring and liaison teams deploy to Hungary and Germany to train with our Hungarian brothers and then deploy together into Afghanistan to train and mentor the Afghan National Army and the Afghan national police during combat missions. The 174th ADA Brigade has just received the go ahead for missions for the operation mentoring and liaison teams through 2014 with potential for more. The 174th ADA Brigade is commanded by Brigadier General Rufus Smith and CSM Michael Grove. 'Anytime Anywhere'.

1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, out of Woodlawn, Ohio, returned from mobilization in September 2011. The 336 Soldiers have been mobilized for the Operation New Dawn mission in Iraq. They are conducting counter rocket, artillery and mortar and two radar missions. The 1-174th ADA is the first National Guard unit to conduct the counter rocket, artillery and mortar mission in theater. In addition to air defense, their mess section won the regional level Connelly Award prior to deployment.

2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard

The 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, out of McConnellsville, Ohio, will mobilize in September 2011 for their second rotation, in support of the National Capital Region mission. During the month prior to mobilization, they participated in Exercise America’s Shield. Exercise America’s Shield was an outstanding training event that helped prepare the deploying battalion for success in their culminating training event scheduled for October 2011. As the only collective training event prior to mobilization, it is imperative that it is maintained for units deploying to the National Capitol Region-Integrated Air Defense mission. It is the best single event to identify strengths and weaknesses of the deploying battalion prior to deployment. Delta Battery, 2-174th ADA recently placed second in the Department of Army level Army Award of Maintenance Excellence.

164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Florida Army National Guard

In 2011, the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, headquartered in Orlando, Fla., faced another year of deployments, changes to their unit structure and equipment, and several small and large scale training missions that all served to keep them on their toes. Comprised of two ADA battalions, one transportation battalion and one field artillery battalion, the brigade’s contribution to the artillery world was both far-reaching and diverse.

The headquarters of approximately 170 Soldiers began the year with participation in an annual training exercise, Ulchi Freedom Guardian. This year the unit had to reduce its footprint in the Republic of South Korea to augment the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command out of Fort Shafter, Hawaii. The exercise enhanced strong relations with Republic of Korea forces to maintain the defense structure for the people of South Korea.

In addition, the headquarters sent 34 Soldiers back to the Washington, D.C., area to serve as the command and control element of the National Capital Region – Integrated Air Defense Systems mission in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Task Force Knight, as they were known, provided command over the Army, Air Force, and civilian cells that made up the Joint Air Defense Operations Center and conducted short- and long-range defense planning for the National Capital Region mission.



The 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Soldiers lay down bike tracking and set up large Drash tents at Regional Training Site Management motor compound at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., during week 6 Civilian Personnel Policy training. (Photo courtesy of 164th ADA BDE)

In January, the 164th sent almost half of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery Soldiers back to Japan to participate in another annual exercise known as Yama Sakura. This year’s exercise took place in Camp Kengun and was in coordination with the Southern Army of Japan. Each year, units from all over come together for two weeks to war-game the Japanese regional defense strategy. Soldiers of the battalion worked directly with their Japanese counterparts to plan, array and fight the various air defense elements in play. In addition, the Soldiers of the 164th had a chance to experience the Japanese culture through guided tours and the home visit program.

In the spring, the 164th was fielded the Air and Missile Defense Planning Control System, which is part of the Army Battle Command System. In short, they received millions of dollars worth of high-tech tents, computers, servers, video display units and sheltered Humvees. This new equipment helps create a completely self-sufficient command and control center for the 164th to oversee their operations and required many man hours to learn the setup, breakdown, operating and trouble-shooting procedures.

As the only field artillery battalion in the brigade, the 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment conducted challenging training throughout the year. In April, the unit traveled to Fort Stewart, Ga. for a ceremony to mark the unit’s firing of the last artillery round using the M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System. Past commanders, VIPs, and the media were invited to



attend the event, which marked the 3-116th's official transition from the MLRS to the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

In April, SPC Jason Haynes from 3-116th won the state Soldier of the Year Award for the Florida Army National Guard. The competition was fierce and included weapons qualification, land navigation, the Army Physical Readiness Test and several board evaluations.

The remainder of 2011 is gearing up to be just as high-speed as the last 12 months have been, with 164th conducting Ulchi Freedom Guardian, weapons qualification, and another trip to Japan in late January. The Soldiers and leaders of the 164th remain steadfast and ready to accomplish any assigned mission. 'Blazing Skies!'

1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Florida Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, located in Daytona Beach, Fla., spent much of the year deployed to the Washington, D.C., area in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Serving under the 164th's Task Force Knight, the Soldiers provided air defense for the region through the use of ground-based radars and air defense systems. This is the third rotation for the battalion since the mission began in 2003.

In addition to supporting Operation Noble Eagle, a small contingent of Soldiers from the battalion deployed to assist with a Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment mission. The Soldiers provided technical support and operation for radar towers that

An Avenger fires a live missile in Fort Stewart, Ga., during the 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's preparation to assume responsibility for the National Capital Region-Integrated Air Defense Systems mission in Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 256th ADA)



play an integral part in the security of forward operating bases throughout the region.

3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Florida Army National Guard

During their stabilization time, the 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment seized the opportunity to augment, train, and plan for their upcoming third rotation in the National Capital Region. They will replace the Ohio Army National Guard as the primary air defense battalion in Washington, D.C., in 2012.

100th Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Brigade, Colorado Army National Guard, *Guard Engage Destroy*

Detachment 10, 100th Missile Defense Brigade was activated in October 2010. Detachment 10 operates an AN/TPY2 radar system providing missile defense sensor data to regional, theater and homeland defense missions. The unit, while assigned to the 100th MDB provides administrative and operational control to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The 100th MDB is scheduled to activate Detachments 11, 12, and 13 during the next fiscal year.

For his outstanding performance and contribution to missile defense, MAJ Michael A. Tobey was recognized as the Army National Guard's 'Missile Defender of the Year,' by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance in January 2011.

In July 2011, the 100th participated in the Navy's Ballistic Missile Defense Exercise 11-04. The 100th MDB very successfully integrated our ground-based midcourse defense fire control system with real-world U.S. Navy ballistic missile defense ships from the 2nd and 3rd Fleet's Aegis ships. These ships provide ballistic missile defense to their respective fleets, as well as provide sensor data to the 100th MDB, to support the homeland defense mission.

During the last year, the 100th MDB had 20 operators graduate from the GMD operator course. Graduates are held to the high standard of 90 percent in all aspects of the training, higher than other Army schools, given the gravity of their mission of defending the nation against ballistic missile attack.

Red Book 2011

Fires on Target

Army National Guard

Field Artillery Units

28TH Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery Regiment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery was tasked to provide a security company for the Region III Homeland Response Force, and training has begun with all batteries, including Golf Company, 128th Brigade Support Battalion, contributing to the force. Annual training conducted at Fort Indiantown Gap, honed Soldiers skills firing more than 2,000, 105 mm rounds and executing a night rearm, refuel, resupply and survey point. Many Soldiers underwent hazardous material training and readiness processing for future missions.

SPC Brad Mifsud is united with his son, Christian, upon return from deployment to Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 107th FA)



1st Battalion, 108TH Field Artillery Regiment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard

Task Force Joshua, comprised of 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery and the 856th Engineer Company, 6th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, completed section-level certification, and a live-fire in June marking the first time the battalion fired the M777A2 during training since its initial fielding, preparing the battalion for its annual training at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., in July 2011. During training, the battalion conducted a phased operation including: a successful move from armory locations across Pennsylvania to A.P. Hill, individual weapon qualification, crew-served weapons ranges, Table XV LFX, Stryker Gunnery, M777A2 direct fire range, reset and recovery operations and return to home station. The brigade had at least one fire support team from each maneuver battalion conduct missions in a fully digital environment and the FiSTs from 1st Battalion, 111st Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 112 IN were instrumental in the success of the LFX. The 856th qualified 11 Stryker crews in table III and IV, Live-Fire Shoot House, squad movement, and route clearance training, completing its first AT with the M777A2.

29th Infantry Division, Virginia U.S Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 113TH Field Artillery Regiment, North Carolina Army National Guard, *Axehandles*

The 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, *Axehandles* headquartered in Charlotte, N.C, accepted the National Guard



Soldiers, from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment, conduct training on crowd control at Camp Butner Training Center. (Photo courtesy of North Carolina National Guard)

Rapid Reaction Force mission early in the training year, and the unit re-consolidated after their deployment to Iraq in 2009. The NCNG's RRF mission responds to natural disasters and emergencies affecting the state.

In the fall of 2010, the *Axehandles* began training individual and unit collective tasks. The training helped prepare them for their annual training and RRF mission.

In early 2011, the *Axehandles* qualified on most individual weapons, allowing them to focus on collective training during AT at Camp Butner Training Center, Stem, N.C. The battalion conducted non-lethal training with tasers and pepper spray, and qualified in riot control and convoy operations. The *Axehandles* were ready for Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, where they worked collectively with a civilian incident commander, assisting in compound security and law enforcement, and various other state and federal agencies. The 1-113 FA has assumed RRF responsibility through July 2012.

34th Infantry Division, Iowa Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment (1 HBCT), Minnesota Army National Guard, *Red Bulls*

The 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment received notification and began preparing for a non-standard mission to Kuwait supporting Operation New Dawn. The battalion focused its main effort on personnel readiness and reached 90 percent 'fully medically ready' status. During pre-mobilization training at Camp Ripley, Minn., the battalion conducted lanes training consisting of improvised explosive device defeat, mounted and dismounted patrols, key leader engagements, warrior task and cultural immersion. They also had an opportunity to participate in un-stabilized crew gunnery, and executed all training, qualifying 108 gun truck crews on tables II, V, VII, and VIII.

Following pre-mobilization training, the battalion reported to Fort McCoy, Wis., in May 2011, and task organized into non-standard mission formations focusing on deployment tasks. The *Red Bulls* are currently deployed as Task Force Thunder at Camp Patriot, Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait, and with the missions of security force southern Kuwait, Camp Command Cell Operations, security of Kuwait Naval Base and sea port of debarkation/embarkation, area reaction force, base defense liaison team and quick reaction force in Camp Arifjan.

35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery Regiment, Oklahoma Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery, headquartered in Chandler, Okla., started major pre-deployment training at Fort Sill, in March, 2011, conducting new equipment training and certification on the M119A2, M198 and M777A2 howitzers providing direct support for the 45th Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan, as well as providing embedded police mentor teams for the Afghanistan National Police in Kabul.

In April, 1-160 FA returned home to conduct load out operations and left for post mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss., including exercises in convoy operations, improvised explosive device recognition and defeat, mine resistant ambush protected vehicle, and key leader engagements.

In early May, the battalion arrived at Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., and in June was notified of a mission change to become the camp command cell at Camp Buehring, a theater gateway escort mission, quick reaction forces for two northern camps, and providing numerous personnel and leaders for redeployment missions in Iraq. The counter-fire radar section deployed with its Q-36 system to Afghanistan supporting the 45th IBCT and are scheduled to redeploy in the spring of 2012.

38th Infantry Division, Indiana Army National Guard

3rd Battalion, 115th Field Artillery Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard

The 3rd Battalion, 115th Field Artillery Regiment, headquartered in Winchester, Tenn., redeployed from Iraq in August 2010, where they conducted convoy security and garrison command for Contingency Operations Site Marez and Logistics Support Area Diamondback. Three squadron convoy security companies conducted more than 300 missions, and the mayor cell oversaw basic life support for more than 10,000



For the first time in three years, Paladins, from 3rd Battalion, 115th Field Artillery Regiment, participate in a live-fire exercise. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 115th FA)

Soldiers and civilians while the base defense operations center ensured security. When the squadron returned to home station they began preparations to assume their state and federal mission.

In December 2010, all reintegration activities were complete and the squadron turned focus to annual training. During AT, the squadron fielded and completed new equipment training on the Excalibur round. Profiler transition training was also conducted for 13Ts giving valuable real-world training to former 13S and 13W. The unit deployed with the Q-36 and Q-37 radar systems conducting reset training for both. The squadron also utilized the iPads to train and conduct survey operations and qualified 16 howitzer crews and three fire direction centers, completing reset within a year of redeployment.

1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery, spent 2011 preparing for their third mobilization since Sept. 11, 2001. Their upcoming deployment, a non-standard mission, provided security force support for the national training mission – Afghanistan. The 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team created Task Force ROC, with six maneuver elements and the addition of Bravo and Delta Companies, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment. TF ROC conducted multiple training events including an annual training event at Camp Shelby, Miss., in August.

1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery Regiment, Indiana Army National Guard, *Redhawks*

The 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery Regiment, *Redhawks*, executed three major events in TY 2011, including the last live fire at Fort Campbell, Ky. In May, the battalion traveled

to Camp Grayling, Mich., to undergo M119A2 howitzers training/fielding. The *Redhawks* combined a partnership for peace training event with Slovak Soldiers into a six-day live-fire exercise. In preparation for possible mobilization to Iraq and annual training, the battalion conducted a fully-digital Army Battle Command Systems command-post exercise with the 76th IBCT at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

40th Infantry Division, California Army National Guard

2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, Washington Army National Guard, *Action Front*

The 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, *Action Front* deployed Alpha Battery to Korea, drawing equipment, executing rail movement and conducting live-fire operations for Operation Foal Eagle in February 2011. The remainder of the battalion completed annual training at the Yakima Training Center, Wash., in August 2011, and fired rocket assisted projectiles for the first time in 10 years. The AT also integrated Fox Battery, 144th Field Artillery, California Army National Guard, *Redlegs* and two radar Soldiers, Oregon Army National Guard, who trained with the Q-36 and Q-37 radar sections, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. This was the first time in five years they had trained with operational radars and nearly 10 years since they conducted registrations. They were supported by Golf Battery, 181st Base Support Battalion and the fire supporters and the 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team combat observation laser teams. ‘*Action Front!*’

42nd Infantry Division, New York Army National Guard

3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, New Jersey Army National Guard

The 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, in Morristown, N.J., a M119A2 towed howitzer battalion, supports the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and has two firing batteries, Alpha, in Morristown and Bravo, in Tom’s River. In August, the battalion conducted its last live-fire with the M109A5 self propelled howitzers.

During reset, 3-112 FA continued transformation and received multiple fieldings in alignment with their new modified table of organization and equipment, including fielding of the M119A2 towed howitzer in 2011. The battalion completed training at Camp Grayling, Mich., in July 2011, and certified/qualified all crews and fire direction centers during annual



training, and the battalion will continue sustainment training in 2012.

1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, New York Army National Guard, *Washington Grays*

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, *Washington Grays*, is tasked and capable of firing 105 mm and 155 mm howitzers and conducting full spectrum operations, continuously training and deploying supporting the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

In 2011, as the battalion prepared for a focused landowner mission deploying three batteries to Afghanistan, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery trained to provide mission command functions; Alpha Battery trained to operate as a 155 mm M198 firing battery; Bravo Battery trained on the M119A2, retaining proficiency stateside.

During annual training 2011, the battalion completed two wide-section certifications – Alpha with the M198 and Bravo with the M119A2. The headquarters operated as a forward deployed FA headquarters refining its digital mission command ability, and in June, HHB and Alpha Battery completed pre-mobilization training at Fort Drum, N.Y. This year the battalion fielded and trained M198 howitzers, a Digital Command Post of the Future and Profiler, while Alpha and HHB deployed to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. Bravo Battery completed AT at Fort Drum, and a Q36 radar section, 1-258 FA, with the 27th IBCT, is mobilizing for a deployment to Afghanistan. The 1-258th FA remains true to its motto – ‘Paratus et Fidelis’ which translates into, ‘Ready and Faithful.’

LTC Mike Hoblin, commander of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment christens an M119 howitzer from B Battery during a live-fire training exercise at Fort Drum, N.Y. The exercise was the battalion's first live-fire exercise with its new 105 mm guns. (Photo by SFC Peter K. Towes, New York Army National Guard)



1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment, California Army National Guard, *Blackhorse*

The 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery Regiment returned from a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo and then deployed to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., for the unit’s first live-fire exercise in three years. The battalion has been designated as the Southern California quick reaction force, and been tasked to provide a Type II hand crew for wild fire duties.

The *Blackhorse* Regiment, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, now trains units ‘one at a time’ at Fort Irwin, as the Army’s leading maneuver unit.

45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard

The 45th Fires Brigade consists of the following artillery battalions:

- 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, Oklahoma Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment, Missouri Army National Guard
- 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard
- 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard

The 45th Fires Brigade made some location changes in conjunction with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, as well as supporting with pre-deployment training in Task Force Red Thunder. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 271st Brigade Support Battalion headquarters and Alpha Company moved to the new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Mustang, Okla. The 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery moved from Lawton to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center on Fort Sill.

In March, the 45th FiB conducted annual training supported the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s Afghanistan pre-deployment training by convoying to Camp Shelby, Miss. to train their fellow guardsmen on crew-served and individual weapons as TF Red Thunder. The brigade also conducted section and crew-level training in accordance with Army Force Generation year 2 tasks.

Soldiers with 205th Signal Company, fielded the Warrior Information Network-Tactical and attended WIN-T training courses. The 205th deployed to Camp Gruber, for annual training to configure, test, and operate the equipment, enabling the 45th FiB to operate digitally using the Voice Over Internet Protocol and conducting internet communications via satellite for the first time.

The 271st BSB, *Phoenix*, provided logistic support to the 45th IBCT during their pre-mobilization training, providing range support, dining facility oversight, and ammunition and supply management.

During annual training, the 1-158 FA trained on various proficiency exercises including Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter, Command Post of the Future, Artillery Skills Proficiency Test and WIN-T.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, deployed to Camp Shelby, to conduct digital systems training on all major digital systems required for tactical operations center operations.

The 45th FiB assisted the 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, Texas National Guard with M-142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System training and the 158th FA loaned the equipment and a maintenance team who field tested it. At completion of training, Soldiers reached 100 percent efficiency.

The 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, from Missouri, fielded the new M119A2, 105 mm howitzer and completed a live-fire at Fort Sill. A third alignment for training unit, 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery, from South Carolina, is preparing to shoot the Excalibur projectile in 2012.

HHB set up the DRASH system at the Mustang AFRC, and it currently remains to facilitate digital systems sustainment training as a tactical operations center. The brigade is planning to assume the National Guard reaction force role and preparing for a domestic operations exercise and AT in 2012.

65th Fires Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, *America's Thunder*

The 65th Fires Brigade consists of the following artillery battalions:

- 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment, North Carolina Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment, Utah Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery Regiment, South Carolina Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery Regiment, Georgia Army National Guard
- 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment, Utah Army National Guard

In 2011, the 65th Fires Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, participated in Austere Challenge, as well as multiple joint training exercises. The FiB continued the training relationship with the Tactical Training Group-Pacific, San Diego, Calif., working on staff development, digital systems command and control capabilities. The brigade staff also participated in Keris Strike, a joint exercise with the Malaysian military, focusing on peace enforcement operations and interaction with non-governmental organizations.



MAJ John O'Hara and MAJ Devlin Stuart discuss system capabilities with Battle Command System of Systems lead during exercises conducted at Camp Williams, Utah in June 2011. (Photo by 1SG Spencer Nielsen, Utah Army National Guard)

The 65th FiB wrapped up its multiple years of fieldings with the execution of the Battle Command System of Systems Integration Events I and II, combining the multitude of automated systems training and fielding into a singular event. Unit logisticians conducted their annual exercise in Monterey, Calif. The 65th FiB and multiple forward support companies came together to exercise, in a 340th Brigade Support Battalion hosted event, the Battle Command Sustainment and Support Systems, educating leaders with use of multiple vignettes and near real time visibility.

The 65th FiB also deployed 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery to Iraq, requiring non-standard training and flexibility. Whether it is deployments, exercises or state emergency response, the Soldiers of the 65th continue to set the standard and stand ready to serve. *'America's Thunder!'*

115th Fires Brigade, Wyoming Army National Guard

After redeployment from Iraq, the 115th Fires Brigade, including subordinate battalions completed reset, focusing efforts on individual Soldier qualifications. The headquarters staff was rebuilt with exercises and classes, such as military decision making process and tactical operations center training. The Battle Command System of Systems Integration exercise was initially scheduled, but trainers were diverted to mobilizing units, and we are currently working to reschedule. The 115th FiB also completed several large fielding events posturing collective training in the future. During reset, the brigade expanded its relationship with aligned for training battalions and the 34th Division Headquarters through co-training events, conferences and sharing of knowledge within the Fires community.



1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment, Wisconsin Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery executed an FA training cycle and annual training exercise at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., in 2011, following transformation to the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System. The 108th Forward Support Company operated independently but cooperatively, working with the 115th FiB for a cooperative training exercise. In preparation for 2011 training, 1-121 FA needed to complete certifications to ensure readiness, and completed annual individual weapons qualification, Army Physical Readiness Test, crew training, and advancement of weapons skills through the engagement skills trainer, rounding out the year. By spring, our leadership gained safety certification, Soldiers completed crew-served weapons qualification, and the individual launcher teams trained up through Artillery Table V and all required equipment was transported to Camp Guernsey for live fire event in June. The 1-121 FA completed AT and returned home with no major incidents.

1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery Regiment, Minnesota Army National Guard

The 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery conducted M777A2 howitzer fielding at Camp Ripley in June 2011, and then focused on transition from a M198 to a M777A2 battalion. The M777A2 has brought digital capabilities, improving responsive Fires, as well as providing an additional set of precision guided munitions in Excalibur. Soldiers received system training, learning how it affects their area of responsibility. Change remains the constant since 2004, and this new weapon is an example of refinement keeping the FA relevant in the 21st century.

Former and current leaders of the 1-151st FA and 1-175th FA pose for a picture in front of the M198 howitzer which fired the last round on May 7, 2011. This piece will be on display at the Minnesota State Military Museum at Camp Ripley, Minn. (Photo by 1LT Kenneth R. Toole, Minnesota Army National Guard)



2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery Regiment, Wyoming Army National Guard, Powder River

The 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery Regiment's focus during the Army Force Generation reset was core competencies, professional development for officers and NCOs, and equipment reset. Currently, the battalion has conducted 10 NETs and equipment fielding's, including the Containerized Kitchen and the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical system, just to name few.

During annual training, the *Powder River* Battalion conducted operator's training and testing programs to license Soldiers on the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System with the newly installed improved crew protection cabs. Additionally, several units provided assistance to state and local authorities responding to floods and fire-fighting efforts throughout the state of Wyoming.

138th Fires Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard, Kentucky Thunder

In October, the 138th Fires Brigade turned its focus to the Army Battle Command Systems training all in preparation for the capstone exercise of an exportable combat training capability rotation in training year 2012.

The brigade conducted annual training 2011 at Fort Chaffee, Ark., and encountered record heat, breaking a 130-year record. In July, Soldiers from the U.S. Army, Reserve, and National Guard from Arkansas and Kentucky, participated in the annual River Assault exercise. The mission was to secure both sides of the Arkansas River moving the unit from the south side of the river to the north side by constructing a floating bridge. The 1-623 FA task was to complete a simulated fire mission, shooting their High Mobility Rocket Artillery System after crossing the 22-piece section floating bridge. The brigade motto is 'Kentucky Thunder' indicative of the sound coming from our weapon systems.

2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery Regiment, Indiana Army National Guard

The 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery retired the M198 after 18 years, with a final direct fire exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., September 2010. The battalion fielded the M777A2, 155 mm light howitzer and have gained more knowledge and confidence with the lighter M777's during the annual training in June 2011. The battalion also fielded its new Command Post of the Future in April 2011, and Standard Integrated Command Post System in August 2011. Continuing to familiarize and qualify with new weapon systems and equipment, Charlie

Battery is also preparing for their role as the security force platoon for an agriculture develop team mission in Afghanistan.

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

The 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery transitioned to a High Mobility Rocket Artillery System battalion last year. The unit was recognized and awarded the prestigious ‘Hamilton Award’ for excellence and readiness in a FA Battery, in May 2011. The battalion responded fast and effectively to floods devastating western Kentucky, assisting local, state, and federal authorities; primarily with emergency management personnel, during immediate flood relief missions and with the state police during the evacuations of citizens to emergency shelters. The battalion received special recognition after the floods, earning the Hamilton award, as well as for their food drive efforts, especially Alpha Battery which received the ‘State Food Drive Award,’ for most pounds of food donated over the two month period.

In July, Soldiers from the U.S. Army, Reserve, and National Guard from Arkansas and Kentucky participated in a multi-force river crossing across the Arkansas River, constructing a floating bridge to move the unit from the south side of the river to the north side. The battalion’s task was to complete a simulated fire mission, after crossing the 22-piece section floating bridge. The battalion consists of three firing batteries and a headquarters element. The 1-623rd FA has a long and distinguished history most recently supporting Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005.

**2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Regiment,
Kentucky Army National Guard, *Longrifles***

The 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery conducted a full telephonic alert supporting the national level seismic exercise a few short weeks before the eastern seaboard including Virginia, North Carolina, Washington D.C. and many others were affected by a 5.9 earthquake.

The unit transitioned to security force operations in preparation for a deployment focusing on security and training African units. Training included familiarization on the M2 .50 caliber, M240B and M249 machine guns, as well as the MK19 and M203 grenade launchers. They also conducted call for fire training, a medical lane, improvised explosive device lane, and employed live hand grenades. The training focus has been on junior leader development, weapons training and individual tasks for mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and helping African security forces.

The battalion set the standard for the new Army Physical Readiness Test and Army Combat Readiness Test. The unit

planned and resourced the battalions for Periodic Health Assessment, resilience training, Soldier Readiness Process, Close Quarter Marksmanship 1, Blue Force Tracker training, night vision goggle training and NVG drivers training. The regiment stands as the most decorated unit in the Kentucky Army National Guard, with 52 campaign streamers. The regiment’s motto is ‘Arma Parato Fero,’ which translates to ‘We Bear Arms in Readiness’.

**103rd Brigade Support Battalion,
*Thunder Support***

In 2011, the 103rd Brigade Support Battalion completed the command readiness evaluation and annual training. All Soldiers were combat life saver (re)certified and trained on the Blue Force Tracker and Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System operations. Annual training 2011, conducted at Fort Chaffee, Ark., convoyed tactical vehicles over 800 miles through three states incident and accident free. The training focused on ‘lanes training’ including the live hand grenade course, call for fire, close quarter marksmanship, crew serve weapons, improvised explosive device defeat, virtual battlefield simulator, mounted and dismounted land navigation. Although the training and travel were extremely demanding, the 103rd continually strives to be the best support unit in the Army National Guard.

**142nd Fires Brigade, Arkansas Army
National Guard**

The 142nd Fires Brigade consists of the following artillery battalions:

- 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment, Alabama Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, Arkansas Army National Guard

Soldiers, from 1st Battalion, 117th Field Artillery Regiment, Alabama Army National Guard, conduct a live-fire exercise at Camp Blanding, Fla. (Photo courtesy of 142nd Fires BDE)





- 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, Arkansas Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard

In 2011, the 142nd Fires Brigade participated in equipment fielding, warfighter preparation and a variety of state active duty missions. The 142nd completed its unit set fielding and conducted Battle Command System of Systems Integration Training in January 2011 at Chaffee Maneuver Training Center, Ark., and was the validating event for U.S. forces equipment. The USF included organic and aligned for training units of the 142d FiB.

Three of the FA battalions—1-142nd, 2-142nd and 1-181st FA gathered at CMTTC in June 2011, for their annual training. The 1-181st FA airlifted its High Mobility Artillery Rocket System. The 1-117th FA conducted a live-fire with the M777A2 at Camp Blanding, Fla., in May 2011, and fielded the M777A2 weapons system in August 2010.

The 217th Brigade Support Battalion sent its support and maintenance companies to Fort Dodge, Iowa to conduct training at the National Maintenance Training Center. Additional sections conducted warehouse training at Robinson Maneuver Training Center in June 2011. For its AT, the battalion staff and support operations cell trained on tactical operations center operations, the military decision making process and the Standard Army Management Information System.

The brigade deployed responding to mission requests, and put convoys on the road within 48 hours in response to flooding in Southeastern Arkansas, May 2011. As this year comes to a close, several of the 142nd's northwest units will consolidate in the new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Bentonville, Ark. In September, Charlie Battery, 1-142nd FA, Rogers, Ark., will be folding its flag as the Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion undergoes reorganization.

1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard

In June, 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery conducted airmobile operations with the Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia Air National Guard, airlifting 1-181st FA's High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launchers for their annual training with the 142nd Fires Brigade. The 181st FSC redeployed last fall, from their Iraq deployment, with 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Pre-mobilization training has been the focus since June, as the battalion prepares for their third full mobilization since September, 2011. 'Hit 'em First!'

169th Fires Brigade, Colorado Army National Guard, *Shamrock*

The *Shamrock* Brigade headquarters command and staff executed training exercises testing their ability to plan, coordinate and execute lethal and non-lethal fire support for full spectrum operations and focusing on wide area security and stability operations. The headquarters completed its transformation and modernization through critical equipment fieldings and an evaluated field exercise. At annual training, Headquarters Battery participated in a bilateral exercise for Yama Sakura 59, giving Soldiers the opportunity to operate in a joint and coalition environment, becoming more effective, cohesive, and efficient warfighters at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. The Brigade also sent a contingent to Camp Kengun, Japan.

The HHB, 169th FiB conducted domestic operations training, incorporating the Warfighter Integrated Network-Tactical equipment, and the headquarters also manned, equipped and trained an operational mentoring and liaison team, who is deploying with a battalion from Slovenia to Afghanistan. 'Create the Fires.'

2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment, Illinois Army National Guard

The 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery arrived in theater July 2010, and conducted the mission of 'observe and report' along the eastern border of the Sinai Peninsula until May 2011.

The battalion returned home for demobilization activities to Fort McCoy, Wis., in mid-May and recently completed their Freedom Salute in early August, 2011. 'Knights of Fire'

2nd Battalion 130th Field Artillery Regiment, Kansas Army National Guard

The 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery redeployed after a 12-month deployment supporting the multinational force and observer's mission in Sinai, Egypt. The 2-130 FA fielded a new weapons system during annual training at Fort Riley, Kan., May 2011, transitioning to the more efficient High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

Spring rains caused flooding and northeast Kansas was in desperate need of assistance once the Missouri River had reached 25 ft. The levee, keeping the flood waters from Elwood and the surrounding area, would need constant monitoring. More than 95 Soldiers volunteered for deployments, with the majority going to support the Horn of Africa mission, Djibouti.

**3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment,
Colorado Army National Guard, *Lightning***

The 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment, *Lightning*, concluded its redeployment and reintegration activities following its deployment to Al Anbar, Iraq, and began collective training at the platoon and battery level.

As the battalion re-integrated, it underwent conversion from the Multiple Launch Rocket System to the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System. After conducting new equipment training, 3-157th FA conducted a live-fire exercise in August, as well as stability operations command post exercise with its headquarters and adjacent battalion. The battalion will provide HIMARS capability in November as it trains with the 169th Fires Brigade during a live-fire exercise at Fort Carson, Colo.

**1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment,
Kansas Army National Guard, *Western
Kansas Redlegs***

The 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment, deployed in 2011 in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa. The CJTF conducted civil-military operations, military-to-military engagements, and key leader engagements, provided

SSG Brian McKinney and SGT Joseph Timmer, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, demonstrate how to treat and load an injured Soldier onto a litter to members of the Djiboutian Armed Forces on July 7. Soldiers from the 1-161 FA shared procedures for providing immediate care and treatment of injured Soldiers with their Djiboutian counterparts during a week-long seminar in Djibouti City. (Photo by Master Sgt. Ray Bowden, U.S. Air Force)



enabling support, and used outreach communications supporting and enabling security and stability.

The battalion conducted its pre-deployment training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in March 2011. The training focused on the force protection missions such as entry control points, flight line security, port security, and patrols. The key point is that the partner nation is the leader in all activities.

For the HOA mission, the Western Kansas Redlegs are supported by the 1161st Forward Support Company, Echo Target Acquisition Battery, and the 35th Military Police Company. ‘Faire sans dire.’

**147th Brigade Support Battalion,
Colorado Army National Guard,
*Mule Train***

The 147th Brigade Support Battalion is scheduled to deploy to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., in 2012. The BSB took part in training events at The National Maintenance Training Center, Camp Dodge, Iowa, in June; Vibrant Response at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in March; Standardized Integrated Command Post System Fielding at Boulder, Colo., in August.

Vibrant response afforded the *Mule Train* Battalion the most realistic training venue it has seen in its three years. *Mule Train* met its training objectives and sustained its certification as one of 17 CERFPs in the U.S. The 147th BSB transitioned receiving new equipment, new communication systems and new tracking systems in August. In addition to the digital tactical operations center, the Soldiers and staff were able to gain an understanding of full situational awareness while out on mission. ‘Support the Fires’

**197th Fires Brigade, New Hampshire
Army National Guard, *Granite
Thunder***

The 197th Fires Brigade consists of the following artillery battalions:

- 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery Regiment, Rhode Island Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, Michigan Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 172nd Field Artillery Regiment, New Hampshire Army National Guard
- 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery Regiment, West Virginia Army National Guard



- 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, New Hampshire Army National Guard,

The 197th Fires Brigade deployed with a theater security force mission, supporting Operation New Dawn from November 2010 to August 2011. The FiB provided quick reaction forces at U.S. Armed Forces Central Command bases located in Kuwait, as well as running all of the camp command cells. The brigade provided security for short and long hauls into Iraq and has supported area reaction force missions in the north and south of Kuwait.

The brigade conducted host-nation training, deployed teams to Afghanistan, assisted the Pentagon with mass-grave documentation and recovery of 'missing in action' remains, and provided support to the Defense Reutilization Management Office.

Over the course of its deployment, the 197th FiB conducted missions in 13 different countries and traveled more than two million miles without a serious accident; conducted nearly 6,000 quick reaction force missions and more than 200 area reaction force missions; completed more than 30 mine resistant ambush protected vehicle escort missions; trained more than 700 Kuwaiti service members on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive operations; and destroyed more

than 200,000 pounds of expired munitions. While in Kuwait the brigade provided command and control for a U.S. Navy/Coast Guard contingent; the 7th Engineer Dive Team; 44th Chemical Company and the 319th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, Washington.

3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, New Hampshire Army National Guard, *Granite Steel*

The 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery has been fully engaged in Operation New Dawn since December 2010. The brigade was mobilized, and assigned as the security force brigade in Kuwait. To date, 3-197th has traveled over 700,000 miles and moved 164,000 tons of material. We performed several special missions including the movement of 319 MaxxPro vehicles for an advise and assist brigade to Joint Base Balad, Iraq and additionally trained two batteries to perform as an area reaction force. Upon return to New Hampshire, the battalion will take three months to re-organize with the next live fire scheduled in 2012. 'Granite Steel!'

SGT Jason Quickel, a medic with the 1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery Regiment, West Virginia Army National Guard, prepares to conduct weapon qualification at the Udairi Range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, March 25, 2011. (Photo by SSG Debra Richardson, West Virginia Army National Guard).





A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, is placed in the New Mexico desert. (Photo courtesy of 11th ADA BDE)
