

# FIRCS

A Joint Publication for U.S. Artillery Professionals

January — February 2013

<http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin>

# Red Book 2012



# **FIRES**


January - February

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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.

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Top left: Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, fire high-explosive artillery rounds from an M119A2 howitzer during the battery's field training exercise. (Photo by SGT Joseph Guenther, U.S. Army) Top right: SPC Timothy Jones of the 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, rotates a Patriot launching station during missile reload certifications. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle Larche, U.S. Air Force) Right: Marines from 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) in support of Exercise Steel Knight. The battalion simultaneously fired HIMARS, M777 lightweight howitzer and Expeditionary Fire Support System, marking the first time all three weapons systems were fired during the same exercise. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Joseph Scanlan, U.S. Marine Corps)



Regiment and battlefield coordination detachment (BCD) headquarters; 13 per FA/Fires battalion/squadron; 3 per fire support element (FSE), Fires and effects cell (FEC), effects coordination cell (ECC) fire support cell (FSC), and separate battery or detachment; 2 per fire support team (FIST); and 1 per Master Gunner. Free copies to Army ADA units: 7 per air and missile defense command (AAMDC) and ADA brigade headquarters; 13 per ADA battalion; and 3 per air defense airspace management cell (ADAM) and separate battery or detachment. The FA and ADA Schools' departments, directorates and divisions each get 2 copies. Other Army branch and US armed services units/organizations and US government agencies that work with FA or ADA personnel, equipment, doctrine, tactics, training organization or leadership issues may request a free copy—including, but not limited to—ROTCs, recruiting commands, libraries, attaches, liaison officers, state adjutants general, public affairs offices, military academies, laboratories, arsenals, major commands, etc.

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# Looking Ahead to a Changing Environment: Lessons Learned from the Past for a Stronger Future

By MG Mark McDonald

Commanding General of the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Okla.

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Happy New Year to the best Fires force in the world and to the Families of those who support you! We trust all of you had a safe and happy holiday season. For our deployed forces, our thoughts and prayers for a speedy and safe return home are with you and your Families.

This has truly been an exciting and rewarding year with many successes throughout the Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery branches. Many of those successes, both individual and team, are documented in the following pages of this 2012 Red Book. Whether we are providing security forces in Afghanistan, sending rounds down-range, or protecting the nation's capital, the Fires force sets the standard of high-quality performance and professionalism in support of the total Army mission.

We are truly fortunate to be a part of the Fires Center of Excellence and the Fires force at this critical point in history. As we turn our calendars to 2013, we turn our focus much further into the future...to the Army of 2020. Many of the decisions we make and the actions we take this year will define the environment for our future force. As we begin the journey to create a leaner, more efficient and effective Fires force, our goal remains constant: integrate and synchronize weapon systems and sensors to achieve lethal and nonlethal effects in support of unified land operations and the maneuver commander's requirements and objectives.

In the last issue of *Fires Bulletin*, we addressed the importance of Army Doctrine Publication (ADP) 3.9, *Fires*, in integrating the Fires force with all of the Army's warfighting functions, including movement and maneuver and the joint and multinational force. ADP 3.9 is the key to full integration with the fighting force



and to achieving our objectives. Future decisions regarding the Fires force will be grounded in 3.9 doctrine. Regardless of the environment, we will continually strive to provide the required support for unified land operations through the use of foundational Fires principles and the ability to expertly and professionally execute Fires.

Of course, the environment will inevitably change. Currently, we are planning the withdrawal of the majority of U.S. forces from Afghanistan by 2014. As that nation prepares to carry the weight of its own defense, we can be proud of our role in training their Soldiers. It has been a daunting task, and has come at a high cost for the Fires force. The core competency skills of our Fires Soldiers and junior leaders have wavered at times, but we have persevered and continue to provide our nation with the most versatile, adaptable, and agile force in the Army. Fires Soldiers are looked at first when the Army's needs are immediate and critical thinking skills are imperative. We are so proud of our Soldiers, and their unique ability to support whatever mission our Army requires!

History teaches us that as one 'hot-spot' is extinguished, one or more are likely to flare up and demand our attention. Our challenge is to adapt and prepare for these unforeseen conflicts. As the Department of Defense prepares for tighter budgets and force reductions, we will move forward, and design a force that will be effective, lethal, and adaptable

to the changes that will inevitably follow. Winston Churchill often said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to have changed often." Technological advances, such as those in precision munitions, electronic warfare, and unmanned aerial surveillance allow us to readily adapt to many of these future changes. It will be our ability to think critically and objectively that will get us

over any hurdles during the next year and beyond.

As a branch, either Field Artillery or Air Defense Artillery, we have overcome all of the challenges of the past, and we will be ever-persistent to overcome any challenges this year may bring. The FCoE is here to help in any way possible. We encourage you to engage your Fires Center through any of our convergent media platforms to

provide us feedback and let us know how we can better serve you. Feel free to email us or any of the *Fires Bulletin* staff at [fires.bulletin@us.army.mil](mailto:fires.bulletin@us.army.mil), and we will respond.

Again, we are proud of our Fires force, your accomplishments and dedication, and are honored to serve with you.

**Fires Strong! ★ ★**

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SPC Ernesto De Jesus, a launcher station technician from B Battery, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air and Missile Defense, looks onward after prepping a PAC-2 launcher during a crew drill. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathanael Callon, U.S. Air Force)



# Looking back over 2012

## The Legacy of the 'King of Battle' Continues

By BG Brian J. McKiernan

Chief of the Field Artillery and Commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla.

As the holiday season approaches and another year comes to pass, it's important that we recognize the accomplishments of our Field Artillery force and some significant events that occurred in 2012 and provide a summary of the expectations we have for 2013.

First and foremost, I'd like to recognize the more than 46,000 men and women who form the combined active duty and Army National Guard Field Artillery force. There would be no 'King of Battle' without the exceptional Soldiers who dedicate their professional lives to providing Fires in support of unified land operations. Field Artillerymen such as SFC Malcolm Lewis, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery who was recognized as the 2011 Gruber Award winner, and SGT Matthew Howard, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery from Ozark, Ark., who won the Army National Guard NCO of the Year national competition are representative of the incredibly talented Soldiers across the branch. Congratulations to both of these exceptional noncommissioned officers.

One of the most significant highlights from 2012 has been the performance of our joint Fires observers (JFOs). Professionals like SFC Jake Kalich, Task Force 4-4 Fires operations sergeant, Forward Operating Base (FOB) Fenty, Afghanistan, have been critical in providing responsive and lethal joint Fires in support of maneuver operations. The JFO program grew out of an urgent operational need and has matured into a vital program that pushes access to joint Fires down to the platoon-level, an unprecedented level of joint interoperability prior to the JFO program. We must redouble our efforts to sustain the JFO program, as it represents a critical Fires capability for our brigade combat



teams and will be increasingly important in our future operations.

As we look back at 2012, we should also acknowledge the incredible efforts of our Field Artillery units. Two batteries were identified to represent the field at large in their selection as the Knox and Hamilton Award winners. Last year's Knox Award winner was Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne (AASLT) Division, and the Hamilton Award winner was B Battery, 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery from Kentucky. Both of these organizations truly represent the full capabilities of our Field Artillery batteries, battalions and brigades.

Today, the demand for Fires remains high. Field Artillery units are deployed across the world in support of a variety of operations from the Pacific Rim to the Middle East. During the past year, nearly one-third of all Field Artillery battalions in the Army deployed in support of operations in Afghanistan and they fired more than 35,000 rounds of ammunition in support of combat operations. Beyond Afghanistan, the Field Artillery is integral to the Prevent, Shape and Win strategy as we continue to deploy batteries and platoons in support of forces across the globe. Our relationship with the special operations community has grown and is fully supportive of the interdependence required in future operations. The reality is, whether in support of ongoing operations in Afghanistan



A CH47 Chinook helicopter approaches an M777 howitzer during an air drop exercise at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Conducting both a day and night portion of the exercise, B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, is the first unit at Fort Bliss, Texas, to have performed this type of exercise. (Photo by SGT Sean Harriman, U.S. Army)

or special operations forces around the world, the 'King of Battle' remains an integral member of the joint and combined arms team.

The incredible results highlighted above are the direct result of the efforts of Field Artillery Soldiers. However, in order to enable future success, the Fires Center of Excellence (FCOE), the United States Army Field Artillery School (USAFAS) and the Fires enterprise must remain engaged. In 2012, there have been a number of exciting developments in the Field Artillery in the Fires Doctrine, Organization, Training, Leader Development, Materiel, Personnel and Facilities (DOTLMPF) construct. Similarly the USAFAS has implemented a number of initiatives to enable Soldier and leader development.

**Doctrine Update.** As a part of the Army's Doctrine 2015 campaign, FCOE,

in cooperation with the Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery schools, developed ADP 3-09, *Fires*, and ADRP 3-09, *Fires*, and published them earlier this year. These two documents are vitally important in the collection of soon to be published *Fires* and Field Artillery doctrinal manuals. As the foundation for *Fires* doctrine, ADP 3-09 and ADRP 3-09 describe the *Fires* War Fighting Function. They establish the roles of *Fires* (Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery) organizations, explain their core competencies, describe how *Fires* are employed in terms of the operations process, and provide considerations for *Fires* in support of offensive, defensive and stability tasks. Both documents are now available on the *Fires* Knowledge Network at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/130700>.

The contemporary operating envi-

ronment demands that we continually assess our mission. In the process of updating our doctrine, we recognized a need to update the Field Artillery mission statement. As such, the new mission statement reads: the mission of the Field Artillery is to destroy, defeat, or disrupt the enemy with integrated *Fires* to enable maneuver commanders to dominate in unified land operations. We feel this accurately reflects our mission in the construct of today's operating environment and underscores the fundamental responsibility of Field Artillery to integrate all forms of Army and joint *Fires* into maneuver operations.

As we look forward to the next year, you can expect to see a number of supporting doctrinal manuals being published. The next manual to be published will be FM 3-09, *Field Artillery Operations*.

### Organizational Design Updates.

The Fires community continues to seek and implement solutions to challenges identified over the past 11 years of conflict. There are a number of challenges that have been addressed in 2012, but I'd like to highlight three significant efforts. First, we're confident that as a combined arms team, we can do better at locating targets, minimizing target location errors, and executing proper fire support training, certifications and leader development. To enable this, the FCOE pursued a force design update (FDU) that assigns fire support personnel to the Fires battalion in our brigade combat teams. This initiative facilitates the Field Artillery commander's ability to train and certify all components of the fire support system – from target location and detection to the delivery of munitions. It also makes the Field Artillery commander in the BCT responsible for the leader development of all the Field Artillery leaders in the brigade combat team.

Another noteworthy organizational redesign effort focused on the cannon battalions. In order to address doctrinal combat support requirements, we've requested that each BCT Fires battalion convert to a 3 x 6 construct enabling one firing battery per maneuver battalion in the BCT. Additionally, to address range and precision Fires challenges in our infantry brigade combat team (IBCT) Field Artillery battalions, we will convert these units to composite battalions consisting of 2xM119 batteries and 1xM777 battery.

The final significant organizational design effort 2012 focused on our counterfire capabilities. This action standardizes each BCT with two AN/TPQ-53 counterfire target acquisition radars (formerly known as EQ-36) and four AN/TPQ-50 Lightweight Counter Mortar Radars. To ensure the proper manning of the AN/TPQ-50 Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar we've requested the crew size grow from four to five Soldiers.

As these proposals take effect we expect BCT Fires battalion strengths under the Army 2020 designs will be: IBCT Composite Battalion 582 Soldiers, ABCT Fires Battalion 539 Soldiers, SBCT Fires Battalion 546 Soldiers.

**Women in the Field Artillery.** 2012 represents an important year in the his-

tory of our branch. While female officers and Soldiers have served in the branch for more than 30 years, this year we made a significant advancement in expanding the opportunities for women to serve in the combat arms.

Throughout the year, the branch was an active participant in the Women in Services Review prompted by the secretary of defense. This process enabled the opening of four Field Artillery-related military occupation specialties (MOS) to female Soldiers. The newly opened MOSs are: MOS 13M - Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember; MOS 13P - MLRS fire detection specialist; MOS 13R - Field Artillery Fire Finder radar operator specialist; and MOS 91P - Artillery mechanic. The first female Soldiers in the newly opened MOSs are programmed to begin advanced individual training in March and the first graduates are expected to arrive at their first units of assignment by June, 2013.

The Women in Services Review expanded opportunities for our female officers as well. Today, more than 70 female officers serve in the Field Artillery. Company grade officers such as CPT Christina Payne, who commands Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., and 1LT Nargas Kaberi, who is a platoon leader in 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment (ABN) at Fort Bragg, N.C., are representative of the incredibly talented female officers serving in our ranks. In 2012, the branch officially expanded opportunities to enable a female officer to serve in every command and staff position in our Fires brigades, from second lieutenant to colonel. As we move forward into 2013 and beyond, we are excited about the future and believe it is prudent to examine and consider further expansions. Ultimately, this is about opening our formations to the most talented individuals, regardless of gender.

**Leader Development.** Early in 2012, the Field Artillery Proponency Office led the effort to update Chapter 12 of DA PAM 600-3, *Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management*. DA Pam 600-3 serves as a professional development guide for all officers. While it does not prescribe the path of assignments or education requirements that will guarantee success,

it does describe the full range of developmental opportunities a Field Artillery officer can expect. The chapter also serves as a mentoring tool for leaders at all levels and is an important personnel management guide for assignment officers, proponents, and Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) selection board members.

It's important to highlight that this effort was completed in collaboration with a broad spectrum of leaders in the field. It represents the combined views of a number of officers and senior commanders and is designed to emphasize training and developing Field Artillery and joint Fires experts.

**FCOE Support to the Army Learning Model.** In January 2011, the Army published TRADOC Pam 525-8-2, *The Army Learning Concept*. As stated in the forward to this pamphlet, "the Army Learning Concept 2015 is an important component of our effort to drive change through a campaign of learning. It seeks to improve our learning model by leveraging technology without sacrificing standards so we can provide credible, rigorous, and relevant training and education for our force of combat seasoned Soldiers and leaders."

The Army Learning Model (ALM) establishes three fundamental requirements. The first is that the model must develop adaptable Soldiers and leaders. Second, the educational system must be adaptive in content development and delivery techniques, while being responsive to operational Army needs. And finally, the learning model must be capable of sustained adaptation.

With the FCOE in lead and the Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery schools in support, the planning and implementation of ALM is well underway. Upon full implementation, ALM will completely alter the current methods of educating our Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers. We are currently reviewing the programs of instruction for each course we conduct and are developing techniques to best support ALM.

One of our first adaptations has been applied within the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC). Collaboration with the Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE) and the Aviation Center of Excellence (AvCOE) by the 428th Field Artillery Brigade and our fire support cell at the



MCOE has produced a Leader Development Exercise (LDX) that pairs captains attending the Maneuver Captain's Career Course (MCCC) at Fort Benning, Ga., and captains at the Aviation Captain's Career Course (AvC3) at Fort Rucker, Ala., with Field Artillery BOLC students at Fort Sill, Okla. The school is leveraging Virtual Battlespace 2 (VBS2) as the gaming platform, and integrates a Call for Fire Trainer 2+ (CFFT2+). This initiative has allowed us to evolve to a live, virtual, constructive and gaming instructional methodology. These LDXs have proven successful in teaching students (maneuver, aviation and Field Artillery) the fundamentals of fire support planning and integration, and airspace command and control. We've also noticed an intangible effect: the collaboration provides these officers a chance to prepare for and grow comfortable with the critical thinking and communication skills required of our fire support officers.

**Looking Forward: The Field Artillery Strategy.** As we look forward to 2013, I remain committed to providing the training, education, leader development, and material solutions that have enabled the success of Field Artillery Soldiers around the world. To ensure we remain on the right path, we've mapped out a few critical objectives for the upcoming year.

Through the Doctrine 2015 initiative, we will continue our efforts to update and modernize the body of Field Artillery doctrine. In the coming year, we look forward to collaboration with the field to finish work on FM 3-09, *Field Artillery Operation*, ATP 3-09.60, *Techniques for MLRS/HIMARS*, ATP 3-09.42, *Fire Support Techniques for the Brigade Combat Team*, ATP 3-09.90, *Fire Support Techniques for Echelons Above Brigade*, ATP 3-09.30, *Techniques for Observed Fire*, ATP 3-60, *Techniques for Targeting*, and ATP 3-09.23, *Techniques for FA Battalion Operations*.

We will continue our transformation and digitization of our manual gunnery tools. We envision a

comprehensive solution that enables the innovative use of technology to better visualize the gunnery solution and improve accuracy and timeliness of Fires.

ALM implementation will demand the integration of thoughts and solutions from across the force to ensure we fully achieve the expectations of ALM in each of our initial training and professional military education courses.

Adaptations in organizational construct will continue to demand our attention as the Army evolves to meet the challenges of the contemporary operating environment. Regional alignment, support to special operations forces, and a focus on unified land operations and specifically decisive action requires that we remain attentive to the operational requirements and are postured to provide the appropriate Fires solutions.

With 2012 as a foundation of success to build upon, I'm excited to begin 2013 and continue the legacy of the 'King of Battle! ★★

## Fires Change of Command Ceremonies

Jan. 9, 2013

### 5th BCD, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

Outgoing: COL Stephen Myers

Incoming: COL Jon Howerton

Jan. 11, 2013

### 3rd BN, 7th FA, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

Outgoing: LTC James Lowe

Incoming: LTC George Hammar

Jan. 22, 2013

### Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd CAV, Vilseck, Germany

Outgoing: LTC Tony Lugo

Incoming: LTC Steven Fandrich

Jan. 24, 2013

### 1st BN, 31st FA, Fort Sill, Okla.

Outgoing: LTC Timothy Frambes

Incoming: LTC Luis Fregoso

Feb. 6, 2013

### 4th BN, 1st FA, Fort Bliss, Texas

Outgoing: LTC Donald Paquin

Incoming: LTC Patrick Proctor

Feb. 11, 2013

### 2nd BN, 77th FA, Fort Carson, Colo.

Outgoing: LTC Gary Graves

Incoming: LTC Eric Johnson

Feb. 28, 2013

### 2nd BN, 11th FA, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

Outgoing: LTC Dewey Mosley

Incoming: LTC Jeffrey Buck

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# Air Defense Artillery 2012 in Perspective

By COL(P) Don Fryc

Chief of the Air Defense Artillery and Commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, Fort Sill, Okla.

2012 was both an exciting and challenging year for the Branch. Exciting, as we saw broad recognition at the most senior levels of the Army for modernized air and missile defense capabilities, advancement of ADA concepts and organization structures, continuing improvements to existing Air Defense Artillery systems, steady development of new capabilities, and enhancements to training and leader development in the schoolhouse. Challenging to both Air Defense Artillery Soldiers and their Families as the Air Defense Artillery force continues to perform vital missions in support of our nation in both the homeland and abroad. Forty-six percent of the ADA force remains either forward stationed or forward deployed.

Air Defense Artillery Soldiers introduced or executed a myriad of initiatives that cut across the Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and Education, Personnel and Facilities (DOTMLPF) domains. Concepts for Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense and Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems were published. In accordance with Doctrine 2015, the Army Doctrine Publication 3-09, *Fires*, and Army Doctrine Reference Publication 3-09, *Fires*, which provide overviews of air and missile defense within the context of the Fires warfighting function were developed. Work is ongoing in the development of the Branch's foundational doctrinal manual, Field Manual 3-01, *U.S. Army Air and Missile Defense Operations*. A force design update was approved for the Indirect Fire Protection Capability / Avenger Composite Battalion. Training and leader development instruction methods and documentation continued to be revised to meet the guidance of the Army Learning Model 2015. Simulation capabilities evolved to provide Air Defense Artillery Soldiers learning tools which



enhance their technical and tactical knowledge. We continued to sustain fielded air defense systems, adding improvements and upgrades to Patriot, Sentinel, Air and Missile Defense Planning and Control System and Forward Area Air Defense Command and Control system, while developing new capabilities such as the Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense, Missile Segment Enhancement, and the Indirect Fire Protection Capability enhanced interceptor. Military occupational specialties were reviewed for application to future air and missile defense systems. This summer we broke ground and began construction on a new \$25 million Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) training facility. Once completed, this facility will house THAAD and AN/TPY-2 radar instruction.

In conjunction with these, Department of the Army, Military Operations – Air Missile and Defense (DAMO-AMD), the Air and Missile Defense Directorate in the Army G3, lead the Branch through two Capability Portfolio Reviews with the vice chief of staff, Army and the development of an Air and Missile Defense Strategy. The Capability Portfolio Reviews, in March and September, provided the vice chief of staff with a better understanding of air and missile defense (the complexities of the air and missile defense fight), on some of our ongoing programs Joint Land-attack cruise-missile-defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS), THAAD, Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD) and Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC). The vice chief provided guid-

ance and direction that has been subsequently enacted in the development or fielding of those systems. The Army Air and Missile Defense Strategy, signed by the chief of staff of the Army and the secretary of the Army on September 4th, provides the modernization course from today to the joint, integrated and network capabilities planned for 2028.

Here at the United States Air Defense Artillery School, we bid farewell to BG Daniel Karbler and his family and I assumed responsibility as the Chief of the Air Defense Artillery and Commandant of the Air Defense Artillery School, at a reveille ceremony on July 9th. June and July also saw the turn-over of the entire command structure of the then-6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. COL William Stacey changed command with COL Michael Simley. And, on 24 August, we said goodbye to an outstanding Air Defense Artillery Soldier and NCO with the retirement of Regimental Command Sergeant Major James T. Carr, ending 33 years of commitment to Soldiers, leader development, and to the Air Defense Artillery community. At the same time, we welcomed Jerome Wiggins, formally of the 35th Brigade in Korea, as the new Regimental Command Sergeant Major.

During the 2012 Fires Seminar, we reflagged the 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade into the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. Even though many of us have fond memories of the 6th ADA Brigade, the 6th Brigade did not have a recognized historical lineage. That has now changed. The 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade brings a rich military history that bridges our history from the First World War (the birth of Air Defense Artillery) through the Nike-Hercules era to today. This change symbolizes a continuing commitment to ensure our branch history and honors are maintained and passed on to all future *Air Defenders*.

Over the past year, the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade trained more than 2,520 Soldiers. 1-56, 2-6 and 3-6 Air Defense Artillery Battalions trained 1,602 Advanced Individual Training Soldiers, 44 new Warrant Officers in the Warrant Officer Basic Course, 166 new officers in the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC), 523 captains and other ranks in the Captains Career Course (CCC), Patriot Top Gun Course, Patriot Master Gunner Course, and other func-



PFC Tiffany Sanchez from 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, participates in missile reload certification. (Photo by MSG Scott MacKay, U.S. Army)

tional courses. The brigade also trained 325 partner nation students from 23 countries. The brigade and its battalions will provide the premier learning institution and architecture to develop and prepare Soldiers and leaders for tomorrow's challenges across the spectrum of global security requirements.

We witnessed the historic first graduation of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Soldiers from the school. These 73 students graduated from five different Patriot Missile System courses and will form the first Patriot battery. This historic event demonstrated a huge commitment by that nation to global and regional security, as well as establishing a new and trusted partner nation. Also this year, UAE occupied a building near the Air Defense Artillery Campus as a permanent presence at Fort Sill, Okla. I look forward to a long and enterprising era of cooperation between our two nations. As well as witnessing the UAE mass graduation, the Air Defense Artillery School hosted no less than 12 partner nation general officers and key leaders, to include general officers from Iraq, Qatar, Germany, Sweden, Japan, Singapore, Australia and Korea. These visits took place through the spring, summer and early fall and displayed the growing role of the Air Defense Artillery throughout the world.

The Commandant's office commissioned a study entitled "The Role of Army Air and Missile Defense in Joint Operational Access (JOAC)." The study responded to the central question of, "To what degree are current U.S. Army air and missile defense doctrine and concepts of employment consistent

with emerging notions of joint operational access, to include air-sea battle?" To that end, the study defined the growing strategic and operational role played by Army Air Defense Artillery forces in countering anti-access/area-denial threats in the Asia-Pacific. The intent was to shed additional light upon the considerable challenges of integrated air and missile defense that face the warfighter. This four-month project raised a number of issues with respect to the alignment of Army air and missile defense concepts capabilities, and capacities with the emerging joint operational access concepts. These issues will be further investigated during a follow-on study which has just begun.

Through all the changes and the challenges, the United States Army Air Defense Artillery School has continued to train the Army's and our partner nation's air and missile defense Soldiers to the highest standards. The School continues to define the air and missile defense training benchmarks for doctrine and system capabilities in support of the future force. It also continues to perform career life-cycle management for Air Defense Artillery officers and enlisted Soldiers and will actively market and promote our branch to access and retain Air Defense Artillery Soldiers for the Army. The Army Air Defense Artillery branch and United States Army Air Defense Artillery School remain committed to the nation, the Army, its Soldiers and the surrounding communities.

I look forward to what the next year has to offer as we continue to make history.

**FIRST TO FIRE! ★ ★**

## 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

## 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  
5th BN, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment

## 03 Camp Shelby, Miss.

1st BN, 346th ADA, 177th Armored BDE

## 04 Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

### **1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment**

## 05 Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah

A BTRY, 4th ADA

## 06 Fort Bliss, Texas

### **1st Armored Division**

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

### **32nd Air and Missile Defense Command**

#### **11th ADA Brigade**

1st BN, 43rd ADA  
2nd BN, 43rd ADA  
3rd BN, 43rd ADA  
5th BN, 7th ADA  
A BTRY, 2nd ADA  
D BTRY, 2nd ADA  
A BTRY, 4th ADA

#### **212th Fires Brigade**

#### **402nd Field Artillery**

**Brigade, First Army**  
1st BN, 362nd ADA, 5th Armored BDE

## 07 Fort Benning, Ga.

1st BN, 10th FA, 3rd ID

## 08 Fort Bragg, N.C.

### **XVII Airborne Corps**

#### **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  
2nd BN, 321st FA

#### **108th ADA Brigade**

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

## 09 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

## 10 Fort Carson, Colo.

### **4th Infantry Division**

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

## 11 Fort Dix, N.J.

### **72nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army**

## 12 Fort Drum, N.Y.

### **10th Mountain Division**

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

## 13 Fort Hood, Texas

### **1st Cavalry Division**

1st BN, 82nd FA  
2nd BN, 82nd FA  
3rd BN, 82nd FA  
5th BN, 82nd FA

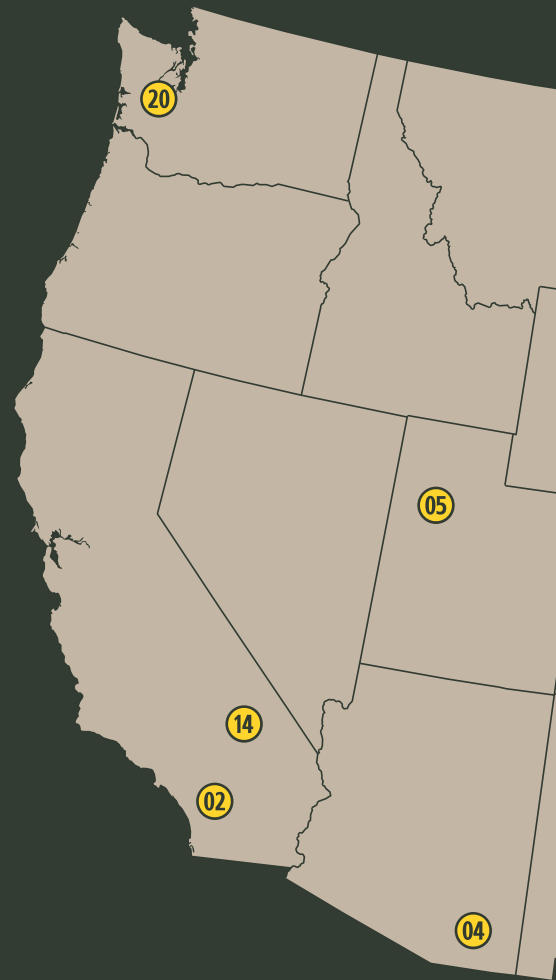
### **3rd Armored Cavalry Fires III Corps**

#### **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



### **479th FA Brigade, First Army**

## 14 Fort Irwin, Calif.

I BTRY, 1st SQDN, 11th ACR

## 15 Fort Knox, Ky.

1st BN, 6th FA, 1st ID

## 16 Fort Polk, La.

5th BN, 25th FA, 10th Mountain Div.

## 17 Fort Riley, Kan.

### **1st Infantry Division**

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

## 18 Fort Sill, Okla.

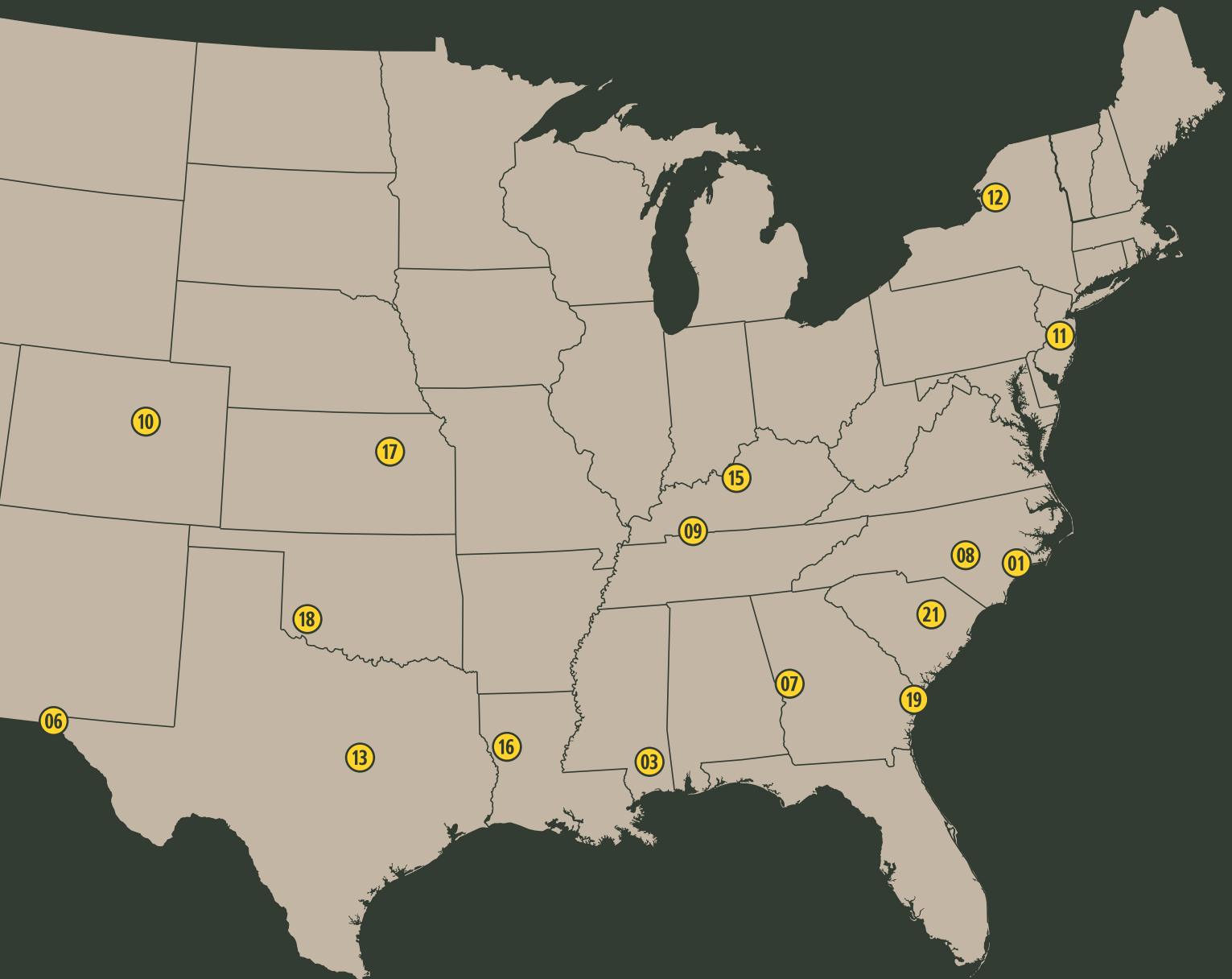
### **30th ADA Brigade**

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

### **31st ADA Brigade**

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

# Active US Army and Marine Corps FA and Army ADA CONUS Units



## 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  
95th Adjutant General Battalion  
434th Support Detachment

## Marine Artillery Detachment

### **19 Fort Stewart, Ga.**

## 3rd Infantry Division

1st BN, 9th FA  
1st BN, 41st FA  
1st BN, 76th FA

### **20 Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.**

## I Corps

## 7th Infantry Division

1st BN, 37th FA  
2nd BN, 12th FA  
2nd 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

### **21 Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.**

## 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

## 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 **100th 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, 265th ADA  
3rd BN, 265th ADA
- 14 1st BN, 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 1st BN, 235th Regional Training Institute

## Kentucky

- 26 1st BN, 238th 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**  
3rd BN, 197th 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, 113th 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

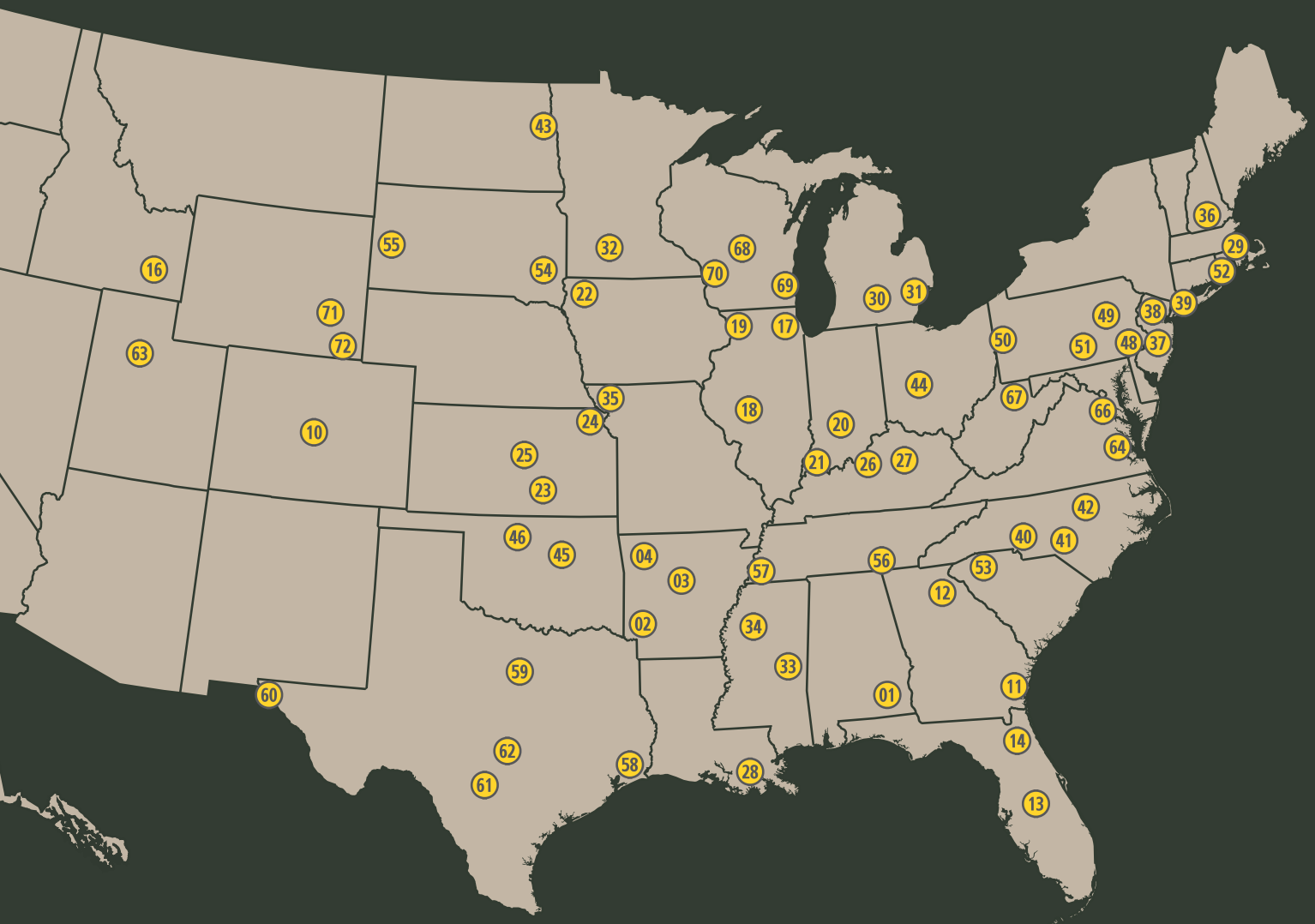
- 47 2nd BN, 218th FA, 40th ID

## Pennsylvania

- 48 3rd BN, 14th Marine Regiment



# US Army National Guard FA, ADA, and US Marine Corps Reserves FA Units



**49** 2nd 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, 45th Fires BDE

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

## South Dakota

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

**55** 2nd BN, 196th Regional Training Institute

## Tennessee

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

**57** FA SQDRN, 278th ACR

## Texas

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

**59** **14th Marine Regiment**

2nd BN, 14th Marine Regiment

**60** 3rd BN, 133rd FA, 36th ID

**61** 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

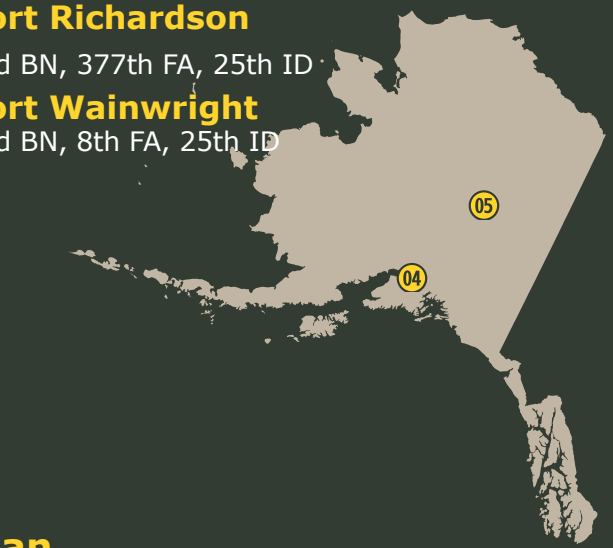
**Germany**

- 01 Bamberg**  
4th BN, 319th FA, 173rd BCT
- 02 Kaiserslautern**  
**10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command**  
5th BN, 7th ADA
- 02 Ramstein Air Force Base**  
19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment
- 03 Schweinfurt**  
1st BN, 77th FA
- 01 Vilseck**  
2nd Stryker Cavalry Fires Squadron



**Alaska**

- 04 Fort Richardson**  
2nd BN, 377th FA, 25th ID
- 05 Fort Wainwright**  
2nd BN, 8th FA, 25th ID



**Japan**

- 06 Kadena Air Force Base**  
1st BN, 1st ADA
- 06 Okinawa**  
**12th Marine Artillery Regiment**  
1st Battalion  
3rd Battalion



**South Korea**

- 07 Camp Casey**  
**210th Fires Brigade**  
1st BN, 38th FA  
6th BN, 37th FA
- 07 Camp Hovey**  
1st BN, 15th FA, 2nd ID
- 08 Osan Air Force Base**  
**3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment**  
**35th ADA Brigade**  
2nd BN, 1st ADA  
6th BN, 52nd ADA



**Hawaii**

- 09 Hickam AFB**  
**5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment**
- 09 Fort Shafter**  
**94th Air and Missile Defense Command**
- 09 Schofield Barracks**  
**25th Infantry Division**  
3rd BN, 7th FA  
2nd BN, 11th FA







# US Army Air Defense Artillery Units



Soldiers from 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade unspool cables during training. (Photo courtesy of the 11th ADA BDE)

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

The 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, also known as the *Imperial* Brigade, is proud to be the largest air defense brigade in the Army. The 11th ADA Brigade is composed of a brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), four Patriot battalions, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery and 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery. Of the four battalions, 2-43 ADA and 5-52 ADA have Avenger batteries incorporated making them air and missile defense (AMD) battalions. The *Imperial* BDE also boasts the title of being the only Air Defense Artillery brigade in the world to have two Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) batteries, A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery and A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery. A third THAAD battery is scheduled for activation in October 2012, D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery.

Of the four battalions, at least one is forward deployed at all times. Currently, 5-52 ADA is deployed and will soon be replaced by 1-43 ADA. The 3-43 ADA just entered the train-ready phase and 2-43 ADA recently came out of the reset phase and took over as the test battalion from 3-43 ADA. This

constant rotation of deploying battalions keeps the brigade in all phases of the Army Forces Generation. In addition to the rotational deployments, a significant portion of the 11th ADA BDE HHB is currently deployed. This rotational requirement is shared by other CONUS based Air Defense brigades to provide theater air and missile defense command and control in the Central Command area of responsibility. The brigade is also tasked with the Department of the Army test mission for air defense systems. These tests may come in the form of software tests, live-fire missions, or complete testing of new weapons systems. The THAAD batteries handle dual roles of training for future deployments, in which the THAAD system will be integrated with the Patriot system, and testing of new weapon systems. One thing is certain, 'The Sun Never Sets on the 11th ADA *Imperial* Brigade.'

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

A Battery, 2nd Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) is one of only two batteries in the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery to support the THAAD weapons system. Located at Fort Bliss, Texas, A-2 THAAD completed their first Table VIII gunnery certification in November 2011. This included reconnaissance, selection, occupation of position (RSOP), march order and emplacement (MO&E), and air battle management certifications. The Soldiers of A-2 THAAD



A Soldier with A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), helps ground guide a vehicle during emplacement of a missile launcher. (Photo courtesy of 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade)

excelled at the challenges placed before them and demonstrated their confidence and knowledge of the THAAD weapon system.

Following the successful Table VIII certification, A-2 THAAD completed the first ever THAAD mission readiness exercise (MRE). This evaluation involved bringing evaluators from the 11th *Imperial* Brigade and multiple external agencies to confirm that the battery was fully capable of deploying the THAAD system and conducting sustained operations in an austere environment. In addition, the unit completed the first ever THAAD Operational Readiness Exercises, developed from procedures currently used by deployed air defense units around the world.

Currently, A-2 THAAD is continuing to refine the procedures used by the THAAD system and demonstrating the worth and potential of this new and expansive capability. Soldiers of A-2 THAAD will continue to improve and maintain proficiency in support of THAAD's wartime mission to defend combatant commanders' critical assets against short and medium range ballistic missile threats.

### **A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery, Grave Diggers**

Feb. 9, 2012, was a historic day, as it marked the conditional material release of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) weapons systems to the Army. The A-4 Battalion secured, maintained, and operated the equipment since 2008, before it officially became the Army's property. However, there were numerous tasks that required successful completion before the Army could assume ownership of the newest ballistic missile defense system. The 2011 flight test (FTT-12) in Hawaii was the culminating event that proved THAAD's operational capability. The Soldiers of A-4 ADA (THAAD) were key players at the FTT-12 ensuring a successful conditional material release.

Matériel release holds a tremendous amount of meaning



Soldiers from A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery, deploy an antenna mast. (Photo courtesy of A BTRY, 4th ADA)

for those Soldiers, who have served in A-4 for a long time. A-4 Soldiers, who have worked to develop the battery, are now seeing it as a fully functioning unit.

In October 2011, A-4's THAAD interceptors were pitted against two short-range ballistic missiles over the Pacific Ocean. It was a historic moment, a battle of extreme speeds at very high altitudes in which THAAD ultimately won.

Flight THAAD Test 12 was quite an accomplishment but further testing must go on. After all, THAAD has only been integrated into an Army unit since 2008, and hasn't had much of an opportunity to coordinate Fires with external units. A-4's next challenge comes in September, when they will work alongside Patriot and Aegis systems to complete a more advanced flight test in the Marshall Islands. The A-4 Soldiers are excited to participate in such an exercise.

A-4 ADA has accomplished more than most four-year-old units, and we are working every day to make THAAD the premier missile defense weapon system. The battery has met the standard in both training and testing, and it will continue testing until March 1, 2013. A-4 will then assume the THAAD prepare-to-deploy mission. The Soldiers of A-4 brought this weapon system where it is today, and with their continued motivation and hard work, they will bring THAAD to the next level.



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

The 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, has had a busy year focusing on its core competency after relinquishing the Patriot test mission. After several Table VIII certifications and gunneries, range densities, and Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness (EAR), the battalion had its eyes set on its upcoming deployment to the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility. Fiscal year (FY) 2012 began with M16, M320, M2, and M9 ranges. Following the ranges, the *Cobra Strike* Battalion conducted their organizational readiness exercise familiarization. All of this training was conducted at the McGregor Range Complex. The most recent training exercise, held July 2012, was the Table VIII certification and gunnery. Soldiers are graded on numerous tasks which include: performing unit-level maintenance, reconnaissance selection and occupation of position, march-order and emplacement, missile reload, and air battle management. These tasks are tested to ensure Soldiers are proficient in all of their core competencies. The unit spent countless hours training for this certification and for the upcoming standardized Patriot EAR in August, and mission readiness exercise in September. During all of this training, Soldiers throughout the unit accomplished a number of other achievements. For example, E Company won the FY11 Chief of Staff of the Army's Supply Excellence Award for the Supply Support Activity (SSA) level IV category. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery Soldier, PFC Ahmed Diallo, won the Fort Bliss Combatives Tournament in his weight class. This is an example of how the unit is ready to carry out its mission, execute it violently and meet all challenges along the way.

D Battery, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Soldiers emplace Patriot equipment during a training event. (Photo by 1LT Eugene Nash, U.S. Army)



SFC Jon Brooks from E Battery, 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, waits for the signal to approach the fire line. E Battery conducted a stinger missile live-fire exercise in April, at McGregor Range, N.M. (Photo by SGT Miguel Cardoza, U.S. Army)

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

The 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Missile Defense received the Meritorious Unit Citation on June 25, 2012, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service from Jan. 10-16, 2012, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion demonstrated outstanding professional skills, knowledge, and leadership in the successful deployment and redeployment of more than 640 Soldiers to the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) in support of the battalion's first operational deployment since 2008. The unit successfully deployed and provided air and missile defense capabilities across Southwest Asia.

Upon redeployment to Fort Bliss, Texas, in January 2012, the battalion entered the reset phase of the ARFORGEN cycle and became the 11th ADA BDE's red cycle unit. Additionally during this phase, the unit performed commendably during the 11th Brigade Organizational Inspection and acted as OPFOR during the 1st Armor Division's Exercise Iron Focus. In July 2012, the battalion transitioned from the reset phase to the train-ready phase where the *Warrior* Battalion has been preparing to assume the Patriot Test Battalion mission.

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

The 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, spent the past year with a primary focus of executing the Department of the Army test mission to integrate new software into the Patriot force. Spread out across multiple states with a plethora of varying mission requirements, the *Legion* Battalion was successful in accomplishing the test mission, titled Operation Mud Spike, culminating



The 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery hosted the first female Jordanian sergeant major (center). During the visit the battalion conducted an NCO and officer professional development session with her. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 43rd ADA)

in a Patriot live-fire at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), N.M., that validated the new software build.

The battalion completed a convoy of over 100 kilometers to the WSMR ranges and successfully completed multiple live-fires. In addition, the battalion completed multiple additional test missions spanning from an integration test at Wallops Island, Va., to new equipment training for Soldiers learning how to use the new modern man station. Next, the *Legionnaires* had a hasty three-month block of time to successfully conduct Table VIII gunnery certifications for all crews to be prepared for the most demanding portion of the test mission; the Limited User Test.

This phase of the mission included a three-month simulation-based test, utilizing 60 personnel at WSMR conducting multiple air battles daily. The final and culminating test mission was the missile flight test, where the battalion successfully shot down multiple targets, ultimately validating the software upgrade and completing the test mission requirement.

The *Legion* Battalion is currently working hard to prepare for its next mission: Operation Centurian Spike. The *Legion* has outlined all of its objectives and checkmarks to complete prior to the execution of our deployment to Southwest Asia. The battalion is also making Family care a high priority, and has multiple functions and events planned to bring our Soldiers and Families closer together. The Soldiers and leaders of the 3-43 *Legion* Battalion are very excited for the road ahead and are working extremely hard to accomplish all missions at hand. 'Send the *Legion*!'

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

Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 52nd Air and Missile Defense, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *The Fighting Deuce*, deployed to the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) in December 2011, in support of Opera-

tion Enduring Freedom. The battalion was responsible for defending the CENTCOM AOR and U.S. strategic interests against tactical ballistic missiles and human threats throughout Southwest Asia. The battalion is currently the only air and missile defense unit within the CENTCOM AOR that operates as a split-based formation across two countries. The battalion also deployed a Sentinel radar platoon in October 2011, from E Battery, 5-52 ADA to Afghanistan, in support of the 1st Infantry Division's mission in RC-East. The Sentinel platoon provided a redundant and more robust sensor coverage plan that allowed the joint task force commander to maintain 100 percent coverage of the RC-E/Pakistan border. The Sentinel platoon recently completed their nine-month deployment and redeployed back to Fort Bliss, Texas. The battalion's Avenger battery, E 5-52, began its deactivation in September 2012.

In March 2012, the battalion finished the digitalization of all battery command posts (BCPs) and both battalion tactical operations centers (TOCs) in the AOR. Thousands of pages of documents were digitized and are now instantly accessible through the use of a share-drive system. This allows data to be updated and pushed to the fire units in real-time, allowing operators and commanders to make rapid decisions based on the immediate status of equipment.

The battalion is currently in the deployment phase of the Army Force Generation process and is preparing for the reset phase upon redeployment in 1st quarter of fiscal year 2013.

Soldiers from C Battery, 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, perform obstacle training during warrior time training. (Photo courtesy of C BTRY, 5th BN, 52nd ADA)





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

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

The 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery continues to enhance their warfighting capabilities by emphasizing maintenance, re-certifying Patriot crews, and participating in a European Command (EUCOM) Air and Missile Defense exercise. The 3-2 ADA also provided assistance to 4th Battalion, 3rd ADA with their rail load operations and other deployment tasks, ensuring their sister battalion was ready to deploy.

The 3-2 ADA is in the process of fielding new equipment and stands ready to provide air and missile defense in any environment.

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

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery recently deployed to the Middle East, where they provide air and missile defense to strategic assets.

Soldiers from 4-3 ADA had the distinction of earning one gold and three silver 'Blackjack' awards during their most recent Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness (SPEAR) event; they also had the highest SPEAR score within the AAMDC in the last seven years. The 4-3 ADA completed a mission readiness exercise and numerous training exercises to prepare themselves for their current deployment in support of Central Command (CENTCOM).

## **5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, *Dragon Slayers***

The 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery is focused on training and preparation for conversion to an Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC). Avenger crews from 5-5 ADA

A Soldier from 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery checks the chains securing a vehicle during rail-load operations. (Photo courtesy of 4th BN, 3rd ADA)





PFC Tyler R. Enokian, an M-1097 Avenger Air Defense System gunner with C Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, fires a Stinger missile as SPC Scott. L. Oppel, an Avenger crew chief with C Battery, gives guidance and tracks their target during a live-fire exercise at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz. (Photo by SPC Nathan Goodall, U.S. Army)

recently conducted their Table VIII certifications on their weapons system, followed by the deployment of the battalion to Yuma, Ariz., in order to conduct a joint Air and Missile Defense Cumulative Training Event and Avenger live-fire exercises.

Soldiers from 5-5 ADA are also very active in their community, helping provide low-income Families in the Joint Base Lewis-McChord civilian community with homes through the Habitat for Humanity program.

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

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 provide joint and combined/coalition air and missile defense (AMD) protection to critical assets and support regional security operations in support of combatant commanders. The 32nd AAMDC serves as the Forces Command (FORSCOM) executive agent for all theater AMD operations and force management, and executes training and readiness authority for four CONUS-based air and missile defense brigades and 13 battalions stationed at six different installations.

Warfighting readiness is the command's number one priority. Its Soldiers are forward-deployed to five different countries in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The 32nd AAMDC headquarters maintains a coordination element in forward headquarters in both the Army Central Command and Air Force Central Command to facilitate planning

and execution of joint and combined air and missile defense 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.

The 11th ADA Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, played an integral part in providing missile defense assets to our allies and combatant commanders. Soldiers from A-4 ADA took part in the October 2012 Flight Test Integrated (FTI) 01 theater ballistic missile test, the most complex missile defense flight test ever attempted. Working in conjunction with Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Sailors aboard the USS Fitzgerald, and Airmen from the 613th Air and Space Operations Center, they were successful in engaging five ballistic missile and cruise missile targets simultaneously. An integrated air and ballistic missile defense architecture used numerous sensors and missile defense systems to engage multiple targets at the same time. The 1-43 ADA Battalion deployed to the CENTCOM AOR and replaced 5-52 ADA Battalion after their year-long deployment. D-2 ADA Battery, the third Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery in the Army's arsenal, activated in a ceremony held October 24th, and is stationed at Fort Bliss.

The 31st ADA Brigade, Fort Sill, Okla., had a busy year with battalions deploying to the Middle East, taking part in training exercises, and others preparing conversions for updated equipment. The 4-3 ADA Battalion recently deployed to the Middle East. They earned one gold and three silver *Blackjack* awards during their most recent Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness (SPEAR) event; they also



had the highest SPEAR score within the AAMDC in the last seven years. The 3-2 ADA Battalion was selected to deploy in January 2013 to support NATO's mission in Turkey. The 5-5 ADA Battalion focused on training and preparation for conversion to an Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC). Avenger crews from 5-5 recently conducted their Table VIII certifications on their weapons system, followed by the deployment of the battalion to Yuma, Ariz. in order to conduct a joint Air and Missile Defense Cumulative Training Event and Avenger live-fire exercises.

The 108th ADA Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., conducted multiple brigade and battalion level emergency deployment readiness exercises to test the ability of its units to respond to a prepare to deploy order (PTDO) mission. In January 2012, the 1-7 ADA Battalion successfully executed their Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Fort Bragg then deployed the battalion headquarters, two Patriot batteries and a maintenance element forward to the CENTCOM AOR. The brigade conducted a rehearsal of GRF capabilities with B/2-44 augmented by E/3-4 Airborne insertion capability supporting 2/82 at JRTC 13-01. The 3-4 ADA Battalion hosted Sky Striker Week with an incredible turn out from veterans with more than 120 officers and NCOs, who regimentally affiliated with 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

The 69th ADA Brigade stands proudly at Fort Hood, Texas, offering tremendous combat power to the 32nd AAMDC. The 4-5 AMD Battalion returned from Kuwait in November 2012 while E/4-5 ADA still remains deployed in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The Information Coordination Central (ICC) and Tactical Command System (TCS) crews from 1-44 ADA Battalion participated FTI-01, the largest, most complex missile defense flight test ever attempted. The test was historic in its use of the THAAD system, which successfully intercepted its first medium-range ballistic missile in history. In the coming year, 69th ADA Brigade forces will continue to 'Guard the Skies' against all TBMs and ABTs, and will continue to take care of its Soldiers and Families, preparing them for upcoming missions in an ever-changing battlefield.

The *Blackjack* Team is trained and stands ready to deploy and execute joint and combined air and missile defense operations anywhere in the world. Its Soldiers continue to shape the future of the air and missile defense force by enhancing the strength of the command and by incorporating and mastering new technologies.

## **108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Spartans**

The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade demonstrated outstanding professional skill, knowledge, and leadership in the successful deployment and redeployment of more than 2,000 Soldiers to the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) in support of the unit's first operational deployment since Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. The unit successfully deployed and assumed command and control of three forward deployed Patriot battalion headquarters pro-

viding air and missile defense across Southwest Asia. The officers, non-commissioned officers (NCO)s, and Soldiers of the 108th ADA BDE defended critical assets within the CENTCOM AOR against tactical ballistic missiles and air breathing threats, while protecting U.S. strategic interests throughout the Arabian region.

The 108th ADA BDE (Detachment) served as the senior forward deployed air defense headquarters in the CENTCOM AOR. The 108th ADA BDE's (Detachment) staff worked in conjunction with joint and coalition mission partners from the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW), 380th AEW, U.S. Army Central (USARCENT), U.S. Navy Central (USNAVCENT), U.S. Air Force Central (USAFCENT), and host nation air defense forces to provide a seamless air defense network and mission specific support operations.

The officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of the 108th ADA BDE expertly executed air and missile defense operations within the CENTCOM AOR in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. The brigade is currently in the reset phase of Army Force Generation and will enter train-ready at the end of the year in preparation of future operations.

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

Located on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, Fort Shafter is home and headquarters of the U.S. Army Pacific Command. The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, known as the *Sea Dragons*, is one of several theater-enabling commands located on Fort Shafter. The 94th AAMDC's mission is to conduct theater strategic and operational-level air and missile defense planning, coordination and synchronization throughout the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM). In this role, the 94th AAMDC commands and controls air and missile defense units, serves as theater Army air and missile defense coordinator, and performs the functions of deputy area air defense commander for multiple joint operations areas.

As advancements in threat missile technology increase and proliferate throughout the theater, so does the warfighting capability of the 94th AAMDC. Through joint, multilateral and combined ballistic missile defense exercises, in support of the USARPAC Theater Security Cooperation Program, the 94th AAMDC continues to expand and build partnership capacity across the Pacific theater to ensure U.S. forces, allies and partners are trained and ready to defeat the current and future air and missile threat.

The 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, *Snake Eyes*, is the tip of the spear for the 94th AAMDC and stands ready to conduct air and missile defense of 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. Since its arrival, 1-1 ADA has been in close partnership with Japanese self defense forces, enhancing the



Launcher crew members from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command work together to lower and align the simulated spent missile canisters during reload training. (Photo by SPC Issac Castleberry, U.S. Army)

ballistic missile defense of Japan and participates in bilateral training exercises with the 18th Wing Air Force Command that ultimately enhances their readiness level.

Another key asset to the mission of the 94th AAMDC, also stationed in Japan, is the AN/TPY-2 radar site located in Shariki, Japan. The establishment of this unit in 2006 marked the first new military installation to open in Japan since the end of WWII. Manned by a small contingent of military personnel and civilian contractors, this radar system provides early warning and detection of potential North Korean missile launches as part of the USPACOM missile early warning architecture.

Essential to the success of the Army ground fight in a joint operating environment, the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment is the ARFOR or land component commander's liaison to the Joint Forces Air Component Commander (13th US Air Force). The mission of the 5th BCD is to facilitate the synchronization of air and Army ground operations within the Pacific Command area of responsibility (AOR) through the coordination of air support and the exchange of operational and intelligence information. Although operationally linked to USARPAC, the 5th BCD has an administrative control (ADCON) relationship with the 94th AAMDC. This relationship is an important one and representative of ways in which the Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery branches can work together.

Over the past year, the 94th AAMDC has continuously trained for its wartime mission by participating in more than 12 joint, combined and bilateral exercises with other branches of the U.S. armed forces, and allied and partner countries, to include more than 30 joint theater air missile defense command and control, asset management and system development exercises with the 613th Air Operations Center. In total, the 94th AAMDC has trained, equipped and deployed more than 300 Soldiers worldwide in support of overseas contingency operations and exercises.

Most recently, the 94th AAMDC along with Soldiers from 32nd AAMDC, the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, and the Missile Defense Agency successfully conducted the largest, most complex missile defense flight test ever attempted resulting in the simultaneous engagement of five ballistic missile and cruise missile targets. The Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3), manned by 1-1 ADA, simultaneously destroyed a short-range ballistic missile and a low-flying cruise missile target over water.

Today, forward stationed missile defense units in the Pacific theater stand as the 'First line of Defense' against an ever-increasing ballistic missile threat through regional and theater-level exercises, and building partnership capacity with allies and partners, the *Sea Dragons* of the 94th AAMDC stand combat ready with an expeditionary mindset ready to execute contingency operations at any time.





Soldiers from 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade gather for a unit photo. (Photo courtesy of 35th ADA BDE)

## **1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, 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 of 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.

This past year, the accomplishments and milestones that the Soldiers of 1-1 ADA achieved resonated with the spirit of joint and bilateral integration. Most importantly, the battalion continued to demonstrate audacious operational flexibility and outstanding command and control during contingency operations in the Pacific. Furthermore, 1-1 ADA deployed a minimum engagement package (MEP) in support of Flight Test Integrated (FTI-01), the largest and most complex joint-integrated, multi-tier live-fire ballistic missile defense test in history. Additionally, this past April, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and 1-1 ADA integrated under Training Readiness Authority (TRA) as a way to enhance the battalion's lethality.

Development of a single team for the defense of Okinawa continued to strengthen this year through 1-1 ADA's participation in multiple local operational readiness exercises with the largest combat wing in the U.S. Air Force, the 18th Wing *Shoguns*. These exercises proved that seamless integration and communication can be conducted with not only the Air Force, but also with the Marine Corps, by way of the Marine Air and Control Squadron-4. The 1-1 ADA continued to develop a bilateral relationship with Japanese host nation elements through operational training and also by sending Air Defense Artillery fire control officers to the Japanese Direction Center to further develop the ability to control airspace and engage airborne targets across the island. 'First Among Equals!'

## **Eighth U.S. Army, Republic of Korea**

## **35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, *Dragon Brigade***

During 2012, the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Dragons*, continued its armistice mission of providing theater air and missile defense of Combined Forces Command (CFC) critical assets in the Korean theater of operations in order to enable CFC to execute sortie generation and build combat power in defense of the Korean peninsula.

*Dragon* Soldiers participated in numerous training missions across the peninsula, including the annual Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises in March and August respectively, and numerous battalion and brigade field-training exercises. These exercises increase the brigade's ability to put 'steel on target' and conduct combined operations with our ROK counterparts.

The *Dragon* Brigade increased its lethality and overall capabilities by participating in a robust recapitalization (RECAP) program, upgrading many of its Patriot systems, PAC3 missiles, and support equipment. Additionally, the brigade successfully fielded 28 Patriot training simulators, the Reconfigurable Table-Top Training (RT3) system. These devices will allow the brigade to increase our combat readiness by standardizing training, increasing the number of systems available to train, and provide an environment conducive to learning.

The brigade successfully assumed training readiness authority (TRA) over 1-1 ADA Battalion, located on the Japanese island of Okinawa. Additionally, the 94th AAMDC now provides TRA over the *Dragon* Brigade. These relationships are already paying big dividends by synchronizing air and missile defense efforts in the Pacific Command area of responsibility.

The brigade continues to execute numerous initiatives with

our ROK hosts. Soldiers spend many hours teaching English to both students and ROK Soldiers/officers. Additionally, the brigade is working closely with the 2nd ROK AD Brigade on the Peninsula Missile Defenders of the Year initiative to increase military-to-military engagements and lethality on the peninsula.

Along with our ROK partners, the 35th ADA Brigade remains vigilant and ready to 'Fight Tonight.'

'Ready in Defense...Always!'

## 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Rhine Ordnance Barracks Germany, European Defenders

As the 357th Air and Missile Defense Command began fiscal year 2012, its many responsibilities within U.S. European Command were tempered with the realization that it would be transformed into the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, a theater-level Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

The unit has long been entrusted with numerous operational plans and exercises, theater security cooperation efforts, and supporting ongoing ballistic missile defense operations in the EUCOM area of responsibility.

From an organizational standpoint, the unit made the

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Soldiers with 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command conduct a map reconnaissance during a joint exercise in June 2012. (Photo courtesy of the 10th AAMDC)



formal transition of being re-flagged from the 357th Air and Missile Defense Detachment to the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command on Oct. 17, 2011, establishing its headquarters in Kaiserslautern, Germany. This re-designation signified the unit's mission of fulfilling the doctrinal, theater-level, air and missile defense roles within the European Command (EUCOM) and U.S. Army Europe. In addition to an organic battalion, the 10th AAMDC also consists of the 11th and 13th Missile Defense Detachments. As it assumed the many responsibilities of an AAMDC, the need to execute assigned tactical functions remains of paramount importance, especially when considering the absence of an organic air defense brigade in Europe.

The 10th AAMDD performed its many assigned missions throughout the year while faced with a EUCOM directed prepare-to-deploy order. Another big-ticket item looming will be Austere Challenge 2012 (AC12), which is certain to be a defining moment for the command. Constant training and numerous Patriot gunnery certifications have prepared Soldiers, equipment and processes for the success needed in high op-tempo environments, such as AC12.

Over most of the last three years, much of the organizations operational involvement included training, manning, and operating the AN/TPY-2 radar at Site 512 and the associated operations center at Ramstein Air Base, Germany (providing a real-world early warning, not only to our allied partners, but also to other EUCOM elements on a daily basis). These efforts are spearheaded by the command's newly activated 13th MSD.

Operational efforts increased as the command planned and implemented the assets needed for phasing-in the European Phased Adaptive Approach. To help make this a reality, the command maintains operational control over the recently established 11th Missile Defense Detachment, which stood up October 2011. Elements of the 11th MD-D deployed to sites within Europe, maintaining rotating United States Army Europe augmentation to maintain radar operations. The 11th and 13th Detachments' missions have showcased EUCOM's ongoing theater-wide ballistic missile defense commitment.

The hard work and dedication of the Soldiers in the command did not go unnoticed in defense or civilian circles. During the last year, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment achieved excellence in multiple areas. A Battery, 5-7 ADA was recognized for its professionalism and performance in the supply and deployment realm, earning a Department of the Army Deployment Excellence Award. D Battery, 5-7 ADA won the prestigious Knox Award, honoring the best Air Defense Artillery battery in the U.S. Army. Finally, Service Company, 5-7 ADA was awarded the Supply Excellence Award for a third consecutive year and will go on to represent USAREUR in the HQDA Supply Excellence Award competition.

Throughout the last year, elements of the 10th AAMDC have seized every opportunity to partner with British and German forces at training events, with participants citing joint and multinational seminars as instrumental in better understanding allied personnel, equipment and processes. Dur-



ing Operation Rhine Venture, hosted by the 10th AAMDC for the British Royal Army Air Defense Artillery School, systems capabilities information was exchanged between the two armies, helping to foster greater theater security cooperation.

From the daunting task of standing up a new command to winning multiple awards, all while conducting and supporting critical operations throughout the United States European Command theater of operations, the skills and capabilities of the 10th AAMDC have been proven throughout FY12 by the skill and dedication of our *Air Defenders*. The 10th AAMDC stands prepared for the challenges and opportunities FY13 will bring and stands ready to continue its mission as the US Army's Air Missile Defense Command in Europe living the motto – 'European Defenders!'

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

After re-designating the 6th Brigade to the 30th ADA Brigade in spring 2012, the brigade postures itself to meet the demands of the Army of 2020 and the needs of the Air Defense Artillery force of today. Future programs of instruction (POIs) will be completed and nested under the Army Learning Model (ALM) 2015: brigade initiatives to date have included an increase of practical exercises in our courses, pursuit of immersive training devices and digital applications, mentorship programs, audience response systems, and barracks computer labs to facilitate continued learning outside of the classroom. The brigade will use this year, leading up to accreditation, to look hard at academic systems and training and continue the progress made the last several years at Fort Sill, Okla. The goals of these internal and external evaluations are directed at reinforcing our number one priority: providing the Army with the best trained and most well-prepared air defense Soldiers and leaders we can. In August 2012, the brigade broke ground on a new multi-million dollar Theater High Altitude Area defense (THAAD) facility at Fort Sill. The facility construction is scheduled to be complete in April 2014 - in time to begin reception and installation of THAAD Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations (TADSS) and tactical equipment for new Instructor training and certification. Meanwhile, our Soldiers are working cooperatively with DOTD to posture the brigade to provide the highest quality indirect fire protect capability training, dedicated to sharing their experiences training C-RAM Soldiers for the last six years in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

It's the 30th ADA Brigade's commitment to continue to provide the force with highly trained warriors while simultaneously meeting our requirements to prepare for the future.

## **1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery, Spartans**

The *Spartan* Battalion proudly graduated more than 230 leaders in the air defense force in 2012. From the most junior

platoon leader to the senior warrant officers in the branch, 1st Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery continues to instill pride and a commitment to excellence. The Basic Officer Leader Course continued to refine field training with each iteration; the newest officers in the branch hone their leadership skills during warrior-focused combat scenarios using simulations interwoven with air defense planning and air battle simulations. ADA Captains Career students now gain a historical perspective by assisting in the planning and conduct of staff rides covering the Battle of Westport at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Furthermore, the Battle of Wanat virtual staff ride provides a glimpse of the battlefield using computer based 3-D models to facilitate discussion and gain valuable lessons. In 2012, 22 officers attended Patriot Top Gun, the premier air defense course in the branch, with seven earning the title of 'Top Gun.' The Air Defense Fire Control Officer Course graduated 25 officers to effectively and confidently coordinate air defense Fires and coordinate airspace in a joint environment. At the end 2012, the battalion piloted a new curriculum guided by the concepts of Midgrade Learning Continuum 2015, focusing on leader development and air and missile defense planning. 'Night Hides Not!'

## **2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, Kodiak**

The 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, conducted training for military occupational skills 14G, 14H and 14S to develop and prepare our Initial Entry Training (IET) and transition Soldiers for their follow-on assignment while cultivating the physical fitness and life-skills required of a member of the Profession of Arms. The *Kodiak* Battalion also trained the next generation of C4I subject matter experts in the 140A Officer Basic and Advanced Courses and conducted both air defense airspace management/brigade aviation element (ADAM/BAE) and Avenger Master Gunner Courses. The battalion's counter-rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM) executed training and certification for both U.S. and allied units, and the battalion continued to field the Army's first Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) battery, currently going through Early User Test (EUT) at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah. Setting the standard in both mission accomplishment and support to the community, the battalion sponsored the Great Plains Region Special Olympics for the third straight year. This year more than 500 Special Olympians competed in more than 20 events that were supported by hundreds of volunteers from across the brigade, the post and the community. Through the selfless volunteerism of our Soldiers from donating time at the local homeless shelter to donating blood to the Oklahoma Blood Institute, the men and women of the *Kodiak* Battalion played a huge role in supporting the Lawton-Fort Sill community and the ADA branch.

## **3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, Bruiser**

The 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, *Bruiser* Battal-



SGT Portillo and SPC Foth, both from I Battery, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, fire a Stinger missile during the battery's annual live-fire exercise at Fort Irwin, Calif. (Photo courtesy of I BTRY, 1st SQDRN, 11th ACR)

ion, continues to produce highly trained Patriot Air and Missile Defense Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Soldiers, warrant officers, and students from allied nations. The purpose of the *Bruiser* Battalion mission is to build the tactical, technical, and warrior skills required to contribute immediately to the first unit of assignment in the operating force. As part of this mission, the battalion began a new initiative for AIT Soldier Structured Self-Development Level I, producing more than 145 AIT Soldiers with SSD-1 completed prior to graduation and lauded by the Sergeant Major of the Army. The battalion's Patriot Master Gunner (PMG) Course continues to produce Patriot subject matter experts in the contemporary operating environment (COE), engagement control station (ECS) operations, information coordination central (ICC) operations, battery gunnery, and communications link architecture. PMG graduates return to Forces Command (FORSCOM) in critical positions within battery, battalion, and brigade formations. The battalion is maintaining partnership with the community through support for local humanitarian construction projects (Habitat for Humanity, Veterans Home) and the annual "United Way Day of Caring," making a real impact to Lawton-Fort Sill.

### **I Battery, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, California**

I Battery, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is the only Stinger-pure unit remaining in the U.S. Army, and the only battery subordinate to an armored cavalry regiment. As the only Air Defense Artillery unit at Fort Irwin, Calif., The battery continues to support the National Training Center (NTC) in replicating an insurgency for units deploying to Op-

eration Enduring Freedom (OEF), and recently a 'near peer' opposing force for units training in conventional warfare. In 2012, they had two decisive ('Force on Force') rotations, three Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) rotations, and five OEF replication rotations. As the Army trains to strengthen its core competencies, I Battery is essential to enforcing the survivability of Army aviation and the U.S. Air Force against 'near peer' Man-portable Air Defense (MANPAD) systems and surface-to-air missile threats.

During two decisive action rotations at the NTC Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) Battlefield, I Battery Soldiers engaged and destroyed more than 20 rotary wing aircraft, as well as many fixed wing and unmanned aerial surveillance (UAS) assets through the use of Stingers, replicating enemy Surface-to-Air-18 (SA-18) Systems. Although ANSF and OEF rotations rarely involve air defense missions, I Battery Soldiers demonstrate their lethality and effectiveness with other Soldier skills, by performing urban defense, ambushes, COP attacks, and replicating local populations.

Air Defenders in I Battery are all Military Occupational Specialty 14S. Many are straight out of Advanced Individual Training. For 10 rotations a year, these Soldiers work 21-days straight while training the rotational unit. During the two months not filled by rotational operations, the battery performs gunnery. At Camp Pendleton, Calif., members of the Marine 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) Battalion support their gunnery through use of the Stinger Simulation Dome, a semiannual requirement. During both January and December 2012, I Battery conducted annual Stinger live-fire Exercises at the Fort Irwin Training area. ★ ★



# US Army Field Artillery Units

## Army Cyber Command, 2nd Army, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Following Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER), 2nd Army activation in early FY11, Soldiers and civilians from ARCYBER Fires worked tirelessly to develop targets and execute cyber Fires supporting offensive cyberspace operations during Operation New Dawn and Enduring Freedom, and develop Fires and targeting doctrine for cyberspace as an operational domain on par with the four traditional domains (land, maritime, air and space).

Embarking aboard the USS Blue Ridge for Exercise Terminal Fury in May 2011, members integrated into the U.S. Navy 7th Fleet staff to plan and synchronize effects from cyber Fires enabling Joint Task Force 509 (JTF-509) maritime component operations in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibilities. In July 2011, members traveled to the Australian Joint Operations Command Headquarters (HJOC), supporting Exercise Talisman Sabre with a forward-deployed cyber Fires capability that successfully engaged targets on the Joint Information Operations Range (JIOR) in support of combined land and air operations for 40th Infantry Division, 13th Air Force, and the Royal Australian Air Force. In early 2012, ARCYBER Fires deployed members multiple times to plan and execute live cyber Fires in support of U.S. Central Command exercises at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and for planning at Al-Udeid, Doha, Qatar Air Base. During the June 2012 III Corps Warfighter Field Exercise (WFX) at Fort Hood, Texas, members directly developed understanding of staff roles and responsibilities for cyber Fires planning for Mission Command Training Program (MCTP), III Corps, and XVIII Airborne Corps at the operational and tactical levels.

ARCYBER Fires remains positioned to support the planning and execution of cyber Fires and development of cyberspace operations doctrine in support of tactical, operational and strategic operations around the globe.

## III Corps Joint Fires Cell, Fort Hood, Texas

Redeploying from Iraq in February 2011, the III Corps Joint Fires Cell (JFC) quickly established operations focused on increasing proficiency in coordinating Army and joint Fires in support of unified land operations. The JFC also began preparation for III Corps' assumption of the contingency expeditionary force (CEF) mission. The detailed JFC reset of all organic Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS) was key to our successful follow on exercises. Rigorous validation with systems from the Corps G2, G3 Aviation, Corps Air Defense Element, and the 3rd Air Support Operations Group,



U.S. Forces - Iraq, Deputy Fires Coordinator, LTC Velasco, discusses with the Iraqi army chief of artillery the training plan for Iraqi artillery units at the Iraqi Artillery School in Baghdad. (Photo courtesy of III Corps Joint Fires Cell)

USAF followed rest. The JFC also took advantage of numerous multi-echelon, joint, interagency, and externally evaluated exercises to assess the proficiency of the Fires system. Deployment to Korea in August 2011 to support Ulchi Freedom Guardian and the Fort Hood based Corps Warfighter Exercise 2012 in June 2012, were the most significant of those training exercises. These demanding training exercises fully demonstrated the challenges of employing a modular Corps headquarters, Fires brigade reinforcing a division, as well as a Fires brigade employed as the Corps Force Field Artillery (FFA) Headquarters in a high intensity environment. In all cases, the III Corps JFC executed innovative training and provided lessons learned that will shape Fires doctrine across the entire Army. Completing these rigorous training events, as well as serving for part of the year as the Army's CEF force, has the JFC well postured for a successful deployment to support Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013.

## XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina

During the past year, and following Operation New Dawn redeployment and retrograde, the XVIII Airborne Corps Fire Support Cell (FSC) reintegrated into Fort Bragg operations as the Contingency Force Surge Headquarters (HQs). The staff embarked on, and began a demanding leader development program – while simultaneously completing reset tasks. The

Corps quickly completed airborne fundamental refresher training and began reintegration training. Final equipment transfers and exchange were completed as part of remaining Reset activities, while continuing to support our Joint Fires Observer (JFO) Training Program integrating virtual and constructive training tasks maintaining JFO currency, and preparing new JFO candidates.

The Corps Fire Support Cell (FSC), along with the Corps HQs, planned, coordinated, and executed three joint operational access exercises (JOAX), involving multiple joint supporting units across the continental U.S. and Hawaii, showcasing the unique infiltration capabilities resident in our airborne forces to key U.S. and allied governmental and military leaders. JOAX 12-01 was executed while we were conducting recovery and reconstitution tasks in February, and served as the culminating battle-handover training event between Task Force Bragg and the returned Corps HQs. JOAX 12-02 was conducted in June, involving elements of II Marine Expeditionary forces (MEF) and a supporting amphibious readiness group, while JOAX 13-01 was conducted in October, linked to a brigade combat team (BCT) Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation and supporting planned Global Response Force unit turnover. The Corps FSC also participated in several additional Combatant Command (COMCOM) training exercises supporting Pacific Command (PACOM), Northern command (NORTHCOM), and European Command (EUCOM) during the period. August allowed the Corps HQs & FSC to be forward deployed to the Republic of Korea supporting exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG), replicating a demanding and complex unified land operations environment.

XVIII Airborne Corps & the Corps Fire Support Cell remains trained & ready, to deploy worldwide, in support of any designated contingencies. 'All the Way!'

## **1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas, Old Ironsides 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, Gunner**

In the months prior to deployment the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, conducted training to perform both maneuver and Field Artillery missions, culminating in a National Training Center (NTC) rotation at Fort Irwin, Calif. In September 2011, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery deployed as Task Force (TF) Gunner to Afghanistan as part of 3rd BCT, 1st AD TF Bulldog.

Gun crews from A Battery were sent to six combat outposts, and forward operating bases throughout Logar and Wardak provinces, providing fire support to five maneuver battalions across the brigade and fired more than 2,000 rounds in support of troops in contact. The Soldiers demonstrated to insurgents that even in weather-grounding close air support (CAS) and close-combat attack (CCA) support, the Soldiers of the brigade would still have access to accurate, lethal Fires.

The remainder of the battalion took over as battle space owners in combat outposts (COPs) and forward operating



SGT Gilberto Estrada crosses the Logar River, while SPC Steve Durek provides security. Both Soldiers are from 3rd Platoon, B Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery. (Photo courtesy of 4th BN, 1st FA)

bases (FOBs) in the Chak District of Wardak province. B Battery was attached to the Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB) in Logar province and provided them with critical maneuver forces.

In February 2012, TF Gunner moved to four bases in Northern Wardak and assumed control of the largest battlespace in the brigade's area of operations, spanning six districts. Whether TF Gunner's Soldiers were conducting fire missions, 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 made a critical difference in the lives of the people they encountered.

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

As part of the transition to a Stryker brigade over the last 18 months, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, *Gunners*, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, trained on three howitzer systems since the summer 2011. In July 2011, the battalion fielded a battery of M198 towed howitzers; then in November, fielded the M119A2 to provide enough platforms for all 18 sections to train. Finally, in April 2012, the battalion transitioned from the M119A2 and M198 to the M777A2 howitzer.

The battalion quickly began certification and qualification in preparation for a rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in August 2012. There they conducted artillery live-fire and counter-insurgency operations in preparation for support to the 'Ready First' combat team future operations in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

The *Gunners* are currently training for a deployment in support of OEF in December 2012. Their mission is to provide timely and accurate indirect Fires and maneuver forces for 1st Brigade (SBCT), 1st Armor Division's area of responsibility in Afghanistan.



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

Last year was extremely active for 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, *Iron Thunder*, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. The unit continued its mission as the Army's only direct support Field Artillery battalion dedicated to testing future equipment.

The *Iron Thunder* Battalion is also the Army's only M109A6/M777A2 composite artillery battalion. This allows us to test a variety of equipment during Brigade Modernization Command's Network Integration Evaluation (NIE) by employing two distinct artillery platforms.

In May 2012, 4-27 FA gained a third 155 mm weapon system with the addition of the Paladin Integrated Management (PIM). The battalion conducted a PIM logistics demonstration at Fort Bliss, Texas, to validate its technical manuals and also conducted a platoon-sized limited user test at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., by firing thousands of rounds and driving thousands of miles using our battalion standard operating procedures (SOPs).

This past year, 4-27 FA participated in two NIEs while fielding the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) Increment II systems established a secure internet protocol router (SIPR) Fires network through all nodes from a company fire support team (FIST) to a platoon fire direction center (FDC). Also, the battalion consolidated all fire support personnel within the brigade in order to provide feedback to the Fires Center of Excellence and Maneuver Center of Excellence on potential future modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE) changes.

The target acquisition platoon employed the Rocket, Artillery, Mortar Warning (RAM-WARN) system in a series of demonstrations and tests for the FCoE. Their candid feedback shaped the proposed MTOE for a brigade combat team, as well as a streamlined process for RAM-WARN.

Additionally, as an initiative of the FCoE, our battalion's forward observers tested new handheld devices modeled on current cell phone technology to digitally call for fire. These systems require limited train-up time and, in the future, will increase the accuracy and speed observers need.

The next year holds additional NIEs to further enable the

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A CH-46 Chinook air lifts a M777A2 howitzer from B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, during exercises as part of the Network Integration Evaluation 12.2. (Photo courtesy of 4th BN, 27th FA)



Army's acquisition of state-of-the-art network systems for the future. *Iron Thunder* will continue to provide timely and accurate Fires for its missions in support of modernization and the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

## **2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, Fort Bliss, Texas, Pathfinder**

Upon redeployment from Iraq in November 2011, 2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery began an intensive training period, focused on artillery core competencies and critical skills. After completing a Fire Direction Academy, Paladin Leader Course, and Forward Observer Course, the battalion conducted a Table VI live-fire exercise. These efforts resulted in 100 percent section-level certification, maintaining the battalion's ability to provide lethal, accurate, and timely Fires for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

In March 2012, 2-29 FA was ordered to organize and deploy several security force advise and assist teams (SFAAT) in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission. The battalion leadership was reorganized into several SFAAT elements and deployed to Afghanistan over a three-month time frame. Prior to deployment, each SFAAT completed Forces Command (FORSCOM) directed training, as well as a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

Each SFAAT varies in composition and function focusing on Afghanistan Uniform Police, Afghan National Army, Provincial Headquarters, and coordination centers with a goal of improving the operational effectiveness of the Afghan National Security Forces as they transition to autonomy. Each SFAAT assists their Afghan counterparts with improving logistics, intelligence, maintenance, administration, rule of law, and training. While the majority of the 2-29 senior leadership is deployed, the battalion continues to train under the capable leadership of junior leaders at Fort Bliss, Texas, in order to maintain delivery of fire core competencies, ensuring the battalion is prepared for future operations following the SFAAT mission.

## **1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, America's First Team** **1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, Dragons**

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Dragons*, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas, following their historic mission in support of Operation New Dawn, and later serving as the theater reserve for United States Army Central Command (USARCENT) in Kuwait.

In June 2011, 1-82 FA deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation New Dawn and subsequently was assigned to Contingency Operating Station (COS) Echo located in Qadisiyah province, Diwaniyah Iraq. In concert with the 8th Iraqi Army Division and Iraqi Security Forces, 1-82 FA conducted



A Paladin from 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, monitors the area as illumination rounds are fired. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 82nd FA)

operations in the Middle Euphrates region and secured key terrain to allow for more than 1,050 vehicles and 100,000 tons of equipment to pass safely through its boundaries en route to Kuwait in support of the responsible drawdown of United States forces. The battalion transitioned COS Echo and all ancillary equipment to the Iraqi government, valued at over \$35 million, and was the last artillery unit to leave Iraq.

The 1-82 FA next assumed a new mission in Kuwait, where they reorganized as an artillery task force and was assigned C Battery, 1-94 FA, a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battery. While in Kuwait, the task force conducted intensive training in the desert, to include firing all Artillery Tables through Table XVIII, providing cannon and rocket Fires in support of Joint Air Attack Team missions, demonstrating HIMARS platform based Guided Multiple Rocket System (GMLRS), and providing Fires in support of the brigade for a combined arms breach and joint combined arms live-fire exercise.

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

In February 2011, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Steel Dragons*, deployed in support of Operation New Dawn and the final drawdown and closeout of U.S. efforts in Iraq. The battalion's area of operations (AO) was Dhi Qar province; where they were responsible for counter improvised explosive device (CIED) operations along Main Supply Route (MSR) Tampa, as well as securing Contingency Operating Base (COB) Adder through counter-indirect fire (CIDF) operations.

Throughout the deployment, the *Steel Dragons* participated in a number of higher-level operations integral to United States Forces Iraq (USF-I) success in the closing days of Operation New Dawn. The *Steel Dragons* participated in Operation Dallas, providing security for United Nations and U.S. State





PFC Piper from 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, provides security. (Photo courtesy of 3rd BN, 82nd FA)

officials investigating a possible mass grave site from the Iraq-Kuwait War in 1990. The battalion also participated in Operation Over the Border, a USF-I directed mission that conducted maintenance along MSR Tampa ensuring its serviceability for follow-on U.S. convoys withdrawing from Iraq. The *Steel Dragons* completed their withdrawal from Iraq to Kuwait in December 2011, and have the distinction of being one of the last units to leave Iraq.

In January 2012, the battalion reorganized into a Paladin firing battalion to align with its original mission. Beginning in September 2012, the battalion began live-fire training and crew/section certifications. For many Steel Dragon crews, this is their first experience with live-fire exercises in two years. The battalion will continue with live-fire exercises and certifications throughout the fall, all in preparation for a decisive action rotation at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., in early 2013.

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

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Red Dragons*, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas, following their mission in support of Operation New Dawn, where they performed an artillery mission providing counter-fire operations, while performing a light cavalry maneuver mission throughout southern Salah ad Din province, Iraq.

Deploying in May 2011, the battalion reorganized itself into a light cavalry formation conducting mounted and dismounted operations throughout the province. At the same time, A Battery, maintained its traditional core competencies and provided artillery Fires in support of the counter-fire operations protecting Joint Base Balad, Iraq. B Battery continued the *Red Dragon* tradition of excellence in fire support by acting

as the only indirect fire asset as part of the Theater Strategic Reserve in Kuwait following Operation New Dawn, enhancing their traditional core competencies through live-fire section certifications and platoon operations.

Upon redeployment to Fort Hood, the battalion quickly began training on core tasks focused on the 1st Cav 'Big 5': physical training, marksmanship/gunnery, medical, maintenance and warrior tasks and drills.

On July 4, 2011, the battalion displayed its professionalism as Soldiers and artillerymen firing the III Corps and Fort Hood salute howitzers during the post's annual Freedom Fest, supporting more than 100,000 Soldiers, Families, and friends of the Fort Hood community.

Today, the battalion continues to train as artillerymen, as we prepare for Howitzer Table Qualifications to ensure we are ready to answer our nation's call, when it comes.

## **5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Black Dragons***

For most 2011, 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, *Black Dragons*, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, served in support of Operation New Dawn, where we advised and trained the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), highlighted by executing M198 howitzer, new equipment fielding/training for the Iraqi army.

Upon redeployment, the battalion quickly and deliberately executed equipment and personnel reset during 1st and 2nd quarter fiscal year (FY) 2012; focusing on individual training, tasks such as small arms ranges, warrior tasks, and battle drills. During 3rd quarter, the battalion shifted its focus to collective training; qualifying our Paladins through Artillery Table XII and transitioning into the train-ready phase of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN).

During 4th quarter FY12, the battalion conducted decentralized operations, simultaneously training at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., and Fort Drum, N.Y., in preparation for our deployment to Afghanistan. At Fort Drum, A Battery transitioned from a Paladin howitzer battery to an M777 howitzer battery, conducting OPNET and Artillery Table XII qualification. At JRTC, the battalion headquarters and B Battery provided lethal Fires (more than 1,000 rounds) while training on partnered operations from the gun section to battalion level on artillery and security tasks. We also took leaders at all levels to Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., to train on the D30 howitzer, allowing us to better partner with our Afghan artillery partners.

The battalion will deploy in the 1st quarter of FY13 trained and ready to provide lethal Fires and partnered operations, not only due to our hard training, but in large part due the incredible support we receive from our amazing Families – we could not do it without you! *Black Dragons!!*

## **1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, *Big Red One*** **1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, *Hamilton's Own***

In early 2011, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, *Hamilton's Own*, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, was given the mission to deploy in support of Operation New Dawn, to Kirkuk, Iraq, in order to advise and assist the Iraqi army and Iraqi police with the ultimate goal of molding them into a capable fighting force. The battalion immediately went to work to prepare for the mission, transitioning from a Fires battalion, to a security force in a short amount of time.

In Iraq, *Hamilton's Own* was responsible for an area of operation that was over 3,700 square miles and included the entire province of Kirkuk. They advised and assisted the Iraqi army and police in every type of mission, while also conducting security patrols in the city. *Hamilton's Own* achieved

great success in the strengthening of the Iraqi army and Iraqi police, building cohesive units that were able to function on their own once U.S. forces departed.

The 1-5 FA was also given the mission to close U.S. bases in USD-N, and retrograde vast amounts of vehicles to Kuwait, as the United States military drew down. This operation was on a scale the U.S. military had not faced in recent history, yet the battalion excelled in moving hundreds of pieces of equipment to Kuwait; setting the stage for mission completion in Iraq. The battalion redeployed in December 2011, completed resiliency and reintegration training, and began a tiered artillery training program to return to artillery proficiencies, and assume the role as a traditional Fires battalion in 1-1 ID in 2012.

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

The 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, *Centaurs*, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, continued to provide timely and accurate Fires, and counter-fire radar support to

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, conduct training in Khowst province. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 6th FA)





Task Force Duke, and partnered units in the three Afghan provinces of Khwost, Paktiya, and Ghazni, a battle space larger than 26,000 square kilometers. In addition to firing more than 6,000 rounds during more than 450 fire missions, the Soldiers of Task Force Centaur, provided force protection to a forward operating base of more than 3,500 personnel, and secured a battle space larger than 200 square kilometers, known as area of operation (AO) Centaur. Our training teams also successfully supported the transfer of control of Afghan security by training 480 leaders and soldiers of the 4-1 Afghan National Army, Kandak.

Upon successful completion of Task Force Centaurs' mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery redeployed from Regional Command East, to Fort Knox, Ky. The *Centaur* Battalion quickly moved through its reset process and is now strictly focused on individual section level training and certification for its two firing batteries and the brigade's fire support teams. This training will carry the battalion through two gunnery focused field rotations, a brigade fire support exercise, and culminate with platoon certification in late November 2012.

The battalion is also strengthening its ties to the local community by reaffirming our partnership with the Meade County School District and the City of Brandenburg, Ky.

The battalion is currently immersed in the train/ready phase of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle and eagerly continues to plan and prepare for future operations.

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

The 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, *First Lightning*, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division redeployed from Iraq in October 2011, after completing a successful deployment in support of Operation New Dawn. The Soldiers displayed adaptability and flexibility during operations

SMA Raymond F. Chandler, III, presents coins to a 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Soldier during a tour of the unit's tactical assembly area. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 7th FA)



in Baghdad as part of the 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Following its reintegration and block leave, the battalion began the arduous task of reset and reconstitution as a direct support Field Artillery battalion.

The 1-7 FA conducted its first Field Artillery live-fire exercise in more than two years as it completed reset. In April 2012, *First Lightning* certified its 16 howitzer sections, five fire direction centers, and Q-36/37 Radar sections with the support of the Field Artillery School Mobile Training Teams.

As the fiscal year comes to a close, the battalion continues to focus on its core Field Artillery mission as it prepares for its upcoming Decisive Action rotation at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., Following NTC, the *First Lightning* Battalion will be ready to provide forces in support of 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry's Regionally Aligned Force (RAF) mission to Africa Command (AFRICOM).

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

The *Proud Americans*, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, embraced the challenge of integrating M777 howitzers into an M119 howitzer battalion while also training to provide highly decentralized Fires in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion did not just train on U.S. howitzers. Due to a requirement to partner with an Afghan artillery battery, select 2-32 FA gunners received familiarization training on the 122 mm D30 howitzer.

In October 2011, fire support personnel proved their proficiency during the brigade's week long best fire support team (FIST) competition. In February 2012, the battalion deployed to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., for its final certifications. From running a base defense operations cell to coordinating Fires in the replicated decentralized fight, the *Proud Americans* demonstrated their preparedness for their upcoming deployment.

At home station, training accelerated as the complexities of the deployment gained resolution. The brigade's fire supporters received specialized training on the equipment required for requesting precision munitions. Due to rigorous training program, the number of certified and qualified joint forward observers (JFO) surpassed requirements. Sling load, force protection, and counterinsurgency (COIN) training finalized efforts to prepare the battalion in the remaining days prior to deployment.

Within hours of the transfer of authority, the *Proud Americans* became the first Fort Riley-based 1st ID unit to fire in support of combat operations in Afghanistan. As of mid July, the battalion fired almost 800 rounds in support of combat operations resulting in numerous enemies killed in action, the disruption of enemy attacks, and maintaining the storied traditions of the *Proud Americans*.

## 2nd Infantry Division, South Korea, *Second to None* 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, Korea, *First to Fire*

During the course of the year, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, known as the *Guns* Battalion, safely fired more than 8,100 155 mm rounds in support their Republic of Korea (ROK) partner units, two 25th Infantry Division units deployed to Korea for combined exercises, the 12th Marine, and the three maneuver battalions of the *Iron* Brigade Combat Team. In addition, the battalion conducted an Excalibur live-fire exercise to demonstrate its capabilities to the ROK army.

The *Guns* Battalion conducted several joint and combined live-fire exercises throughout its training year. In February, the battalion conducted a live-fire exercise with the 661 FA Battalion and 5th ROK Corps Artillery. In addition to working with our ROK counterparts, the 12th Marines stationed on Okinawa, came to the peninsula to conduct training with the *Guns* Battalion in July and August. Marine elements conducted maneuver training while utilizing the abilities of the battalion's M109A6 howitzer crews to deliver indirect Fires in support of their training. They combined the indirect fire support of the *Guns* Battalion with the Fires capability of Air Force A-10s stationed at Osan Air Base. In April and September, the *Guns* Battalion provided Fires in support of the combined training of 1-21 IN and 1-27 IN from 25th Infantry Division.

Throughout the course of the year, the *Guns* Battalion also provided Fires in support of 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry, 1st Battalion, 72nd Armor and 4-7 CAV gunnery, and was able to twice qualify the batteries on Table VIII and the battalion on Table XVIII.

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

The *Marne* Fires cell has prepared for two combat deployments during the past 12 months. From September through November 2011, we completed a command post exercise (CPX) and a mission readiness exercise (MRX) in preparation for an Operation New Dawn (OND) deployment. Following a change of mission in November, *Marne* Fires quickly shifted gears to begin focus on Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and conducted two more CPX's and an additional MRX (UE 12-02) in preparation for the Regional Command-South (RC-S) mission.

Throughout the deployment train-up periods, the Fires cell initiated multiple division level programs, namely joint Fires observer (JFO), precision Fires, and electronic warfare. The division JFO program produced a JFO standard operation procedure (SOP), which directed BCTs to appoint JFO managers and initiated a JFO working group. As a result, we saw the number of JFOs and the graduation rate at the JFO Course im-

prove significantly. The next major undertaking for the Fires cell was the Division Precision Fires program. Under this program, the division brought in MTTs from the Joint Targeting School to conduct target mensuration, and collateral damage estimate (CDE) training, established a precision Fires working group, and ensured that every brigade had a dedicated precision Fires manager.

In addition to starting several programs from the ground up, the division Fires cell conducted a major re-write of the old division artillery (DIVARTY) Policy Letter #13. The new 'Live Fire Safety Standards' memorandum was drafted with input from all four Fires battalions and Fort Stewart range control, and now resides in FS Reg 350-1, along with separate appendices for each FA delivery system. *Marne* Fires is currently prepared to deploy in the near future as part of RC-S in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. 'ROCK OF THE MARNE!'

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

2012 was a great year to be a *Battleking* – and the battalion did a phenomenal job displaying the versatility of the Field Artillery. The *Battlekings* conducted Paladin Tables VI-XVIII then deployed numerous elements to Afghanistan to include security force assistance advisor teams (SFAAT), provincial reconstruction team (PRT) security force (SECFOR), and a M777 firing unit.

In February, the *Battlekings* became the first Fort Stewart, Ga., battalion to conduct a division led Table XVIII/EXEVAL in more than 10 years. The *Battlekings* completed a rigorous 96-hour scenario that tested their ability to mass Fires, react to multiple forms of contact, and conduct out-of-sector, emergency, and degraded missions.

The *Battlekings* then showed their tremendous versatility after receiving numerous different missions in support of the *Spartan* Brigade. One quarter of the battalion formed into SFAATs, completing a culminating training at the Fort Polk,

Soldiers from A Battery prepare to conduct an emergency mission during 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery's Paladin Table XVIII. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 9th FA)





La., Advisor Academy and with a JRTC rotation before deploying to Regional Command-East (RC-E) Afghanistan, in September to serve as advisors to Afghan police and army units.

*Assassin* Battery then formed and trained a PRT SECFOR Platoon, completing a culminating training event at Camp Atterbury, Ind., before deploying to RC-S Afghanistan in October. In addition, the *Assassins* earned the Hays Award for the best battery in the division.

Finally, *Bulldog* Battery conducted M777 Tables VI-XII and deployed in October with the *Spartan* Brigade Headquarters to RC-S Afghanistan to provide indirect artillery support.

The *Battlekings* remain trained, disciplined and stand ready to support any mission, anytime, anywhere. 'Keep the Fire! Send Me! Rock of the Marne!'

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

Artilleryman from 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, *Rock's Support*, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, as the theater reserve for United States Army Central Command (USARCENT) following an extensive train up focusing extensively on core Field Artillery tasks.

In July 2011, the battalion took advantage of their close proximity to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger. The 1-10 FA fired multiple standard and non standard missions allowing *Rock's Support* to reinforce core competencies, simultaneously exposing Soldiers to the full capabilities of indirect Fires. After in-

Paladins from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery fire in support of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment shoot.

(Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 10th FA)



tegrating with maneuver assets in company and platoon live-fire exercises, the unit became the first 3rd Infantry Division Field Artillery battalion in more than eight years to execute Table XVIII qualifications. Furthermore, the battalion's template became the starting point for other Field Artillery units within the division. In March 2012, the battalion deployed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., for rotation NTC 12-05. Once again, *Rock's Support* focused heavily on artillery tasks, as they were the first Field Artillery battalion to conduct a Decisive Action rotation in more than 10 years. The lessons learned proved critical in honing their Field Artillery skills in preparation for the current deployment.

In June 2012, 1-10 FA deployed to Kuwait and assumed the mission as the Theater Reserve for USARCENT. Upon arrival, 1-10 FA re-organized as an artillery task force and was assigned C Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battery. While in Kuwait, the task force continues to conduct intensive Field Artillery training while partnering with the Kuwaiti Field Artillery.

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

After almost a decade of support to non-standard missions, the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, *Glory's Gun*, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, returned to the fundamentals, reestablishing its core Field Artillery competencies. The unit built a solid foundation and fostered competition amongst the firing batteries by reinstating Top Gun and Top Platoon operations center awards during section evaluations. It then progressed through the Field Artillery tables, rebuilding proficiency at each echelon.

This training culminated in a battalion external evaluation that challenged the unit on all aspects of its Unified Land Operations mission essential task list (METL). During this exercise, the unit utilized the Fort Stewart, Ga., training area to its full potential, firing rocket assisted projectiles and conducting emergency missions, howitzer direct-fire, and artillery raids over extended distances in limited visibility. This training demonstrated the battalion's capabilities as it served as the brigade's counter-fire headquarters and provided Fires in support of offensive and defensive operations.

In addition, we emphasized precision gunnery with emphasis on using all available tools for precise target location. We established digital sustainment training across the brigade and saw tremendous dividends as we progressed to more complex combined arms operations. This training allowed the brigade's fire supporters to gain confidence in their capabilities and equipment in preparation for any kind of deployment.

In the months ahead, *Glory's Gunners* will continue to focus on Field Artillery fundamentals, ensuring we remain ready to provide timely, accurate Fires in support of the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team. 'GLORY'S GUNS, RAIDERS FIRST, ROCK OF THE MARNE!'



Howitzer crew members of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery conduct a high angle adjust fire during Table VI Section Qualification at Fort Stewart, Ga. (Photo by 2LT Ryan Huggins, U.S. Army)

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

In August 2011, Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, *Patriots*, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, began reset operations after successfully redeploying from Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn. During reset the battalion drew approximately 150 pieces of rolling stock from load-bearing equipment (LBE), conducted command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR), and focused on core competencies by training on manual gunnery, Advanced Field Artillery Targeting and Direction System (AFATDS), and hosting a U6 mobile training team.

In February, the *Patriots* conducted key leader certification of the 'Big 3.' After a two-year hiatus from artillery gunnery, the battalion certified and qualified its M119A2 howitzer, fire direction center, meteorological, and survey sections in a two-week Table V and VI field training exercise in April. In June, the battalion conducted Table XI/Table XII platoon certifica-

tion and qualification, another step in preparing for future deployments.

Modernizing the battalion has been critical to providing timely and accurate Fires to the *Vanguard* Brigade (4-3ID). The battalion fielded, trained, and certified on the M1200 KNIGHT, AN/TMQ-52A Profiler, and the AN/TPQ-36 Fire-Finder radar. The battalion is scheduled to field the AN/TPQ-53 FireFinder radar and field upgrades to the Improved Position and Azimuth Determining System.

Between fielding new equipment and conducting gunnery, Soldiers of the *Patriots* Battalion provided Fires in support of the *Vanguard* Brigade's two-week fire coordination exercise, actively facilitated the brigade's consolidated fire support training, executed air assault training, and conducted changes of command for all four batteries. Key leaders from the battalion also provided combat trainers to assist 2/3ID's external evaluation and Table XVIII for 1-9FA.

The battalion will continue to focus its efforts on platoon and battery-level collective training in anticipation of its upcoming combat training center rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, La., in November. As always, the *Patriots* stand ready to do their duty and provide timely and accurate Fires in support of the *Vanguard* Brigade. 'Liberty or Death!'

### **4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, Ivy Division 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, Rolling Thunder**

The Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, *Rolling Thunder*, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, began 2012 deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 11-12 as a maneuver battalion, responsible for advising and assisting Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) across Regional Command-West. Partnered with numerous ANSF units, the battalion mentored units across three provinces while simultaneously transferring security responsibility to the ANSF. The battalion successfully transitioned two provinces to Afghan control, and set the conditions for a follow on unit to transfer the third province during their tour. After redeployment in June 2012, the *Rolling Thunder* Battalion executed reintegration and reset operations and reorganized back into a Fires battalion. The focus of the Soldiers and leaders of the *Rolling Thunder* Battalion is artillery skills in order to provide timely and accurate Fires in support of 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT). The battalion executed Artillery Table (AT) VI section certification in December, recognizing the battalion's 'Top Gun' and 'Top Fire Direction Center (FDC)', as well as the ABCT's Best Fire Support Team (FIST). In preparation for the battalion's Decisive Action rotation to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., in June 2013, the *Rolling Thunder* Battalion will execute AT XII-XVIII and support the ABCT's maneuver battalions' gunnery. Following gunnery, the *Rolling Thunder* Battalion will deploy to Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site, Colo.,



to support maneuver company lanes as final preparation for NTC. During the past year, the Soldiers and leaders of the *Rolling Thunder* Battalion demonstrated their adaptability as they executed a multitude of missions. *'Rolling Thunder!'*

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

The 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted operations around the globe over the past year ranging from security force assistance to delivery of timely and accurate Fires. In March the battalion deployed Security Force Assistance Teams (SFAT) to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Pacesetter SFATs redeployed to Fort Carson, Colo., in December, after an effective tour of duty. During their nine-month deployment the SFATs were responsible for training and assisting Afghan uniformed police formations in Regional Command-South. The battalion was also deployed as a task force in charge of 1,500 Soldiers in a non-standard mission to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), at Fort Polk, La., where it was responsible for sustainment, white cell operations and host nation security force trainers to support 3rd ABCT, 4ID's SFAT mission readiness exercise.

After the SFAT mission took the majority of the battalion's leadership, including three of four battery commanders, 80 percent of assigned lieutenants and nine senior NCOs, the battalion at Fort Carson transitioned efforts to its Field Artillery mission, dedicated to developing the best howitzer sections in the Army and reestablishing artillery core competencies. Despite the loss of senior leadership, junior leaders have risen to the challenges and 3-29 FA has conducted several live-fire exercises in order to build, train, certify, & qualify expert sections. Throughout three fast-paced field exercises in the summer months, 3-29 FA certified and qualified all howitzer, fire direction and support sections. The battalion focused on reestablishing artillery core competencies after many years of non-standard missions in Iraq by conducting a phased and iterative approach to section certifications. Training and utilizing four school-trained master gunners, the battalion conducted three consecutive Table VI's, with each live-fire exercise (LFX) building on the lessons of the last and culminating in 'Top Gun' and 'Top FDC.' The battalion has since moved into platoon level training in preparation for Table XII certifications in second quarter FY13.

The *Pacesetter* Battalion stands ready to reintegrate redeploying personnel, reset equipment and continue training to develop expert platoons and batteries to provide Fires in support of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in future missions.

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

Following redeployment from Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11 in July 2011, the *Straight Arrow* Battalion rapidly transitioned from deployed counterinsurgency and security force assistance missions to reset operations while simulta-

neously developing challenging and comprehensive training focused on core Field Artillery tasks.

The battalion utilized a gated training model to ensure systematic training on individual Soldier skills and leader certification prior to execution of Field Artillery Gunnery Tables I-V and Table VI live-fire qualification. With qualified sections, batteries shifted focus to platoon collective training and battery live-fire exercises to increase proficiencies at occupation of position areas, establishing firing capability, and conducting howitzer fire missions. During Gunnery Tables XII and XV, platoons and batteries were certified during intensive, mission event synchronization list (MESL) driven field training exercises replicating a decisive action training environment.

Throughout the training program, batteries were integral to the brigade's field training exercise, Raider Strike, and combined arms live-fire exercise. During National Training Center (NTC) Rotation 13-02, at Fort Irwin, Calif., one of the first decisive action rotations, the battalion provided responsive and accurate Fires, a direct reflection of vigorously training core artillery competencies throughout the previous year.

While always focusing on daily home station operations and training for decisive action, the battalion took the lead in aggressively executing the Adopt-a-School Program through support of a local elementary school's field day, reorganization of classroom equipment, and providing a positive and professional example to its students.

Through the battalion's focused training strategy, attained proficiencies and proven versatility, it enters 2013 postured to deploy to overseas contingency operations.

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

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, *Steel Warriors*, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, deployed to Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar, and Laghman provinces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2012, where they have been responsible for providing direct supporting Fires for 4th IBCT, 4th ID, partnering and training the D-30 batteries of the Afghan National Army 201st Corps, and battle space owners and military advisors in the Khyber Pass and the strategic point of entry; Torkham Gate.

In October 2011, the battalion completed a successful rotation to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., where the unit validated their training on the M777. The unit manned both M119's and M777's providing timely and accurate Fires in support of the 4th IBCT, 4ID. In addition to their Fires mission, the unit trained to operate as battle space owners responsible for securing and patrolling a point of entry in preparation for their anticipated deployment mission.

Currently, the battalion has fired more than 5,000 rounds with devastating effects on the insurgency operating in N2KL. The battalion has established a training center on Forward Operating Base (FOB) Gamberi that has trained and certified all three aspects of the Fires triad within two brigades of the ANA 201st Corps. These actions have enabled the ANA to fire

more than 200 missions safely and accurately in support of ANA 201st Corps operations.

The *Steel Warriors* anticipate redeploying around December 2012 and conduct focused training in anticipation of future deployments.

You can follow the *Steel Warriors* on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/226557457393814/>.

## **7th Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington** **2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery, Vikings**

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery, *Vikings*, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, has spent the past year focused on training core artillery competencies. In August, 2-12 FA completed a successful battalion field training exercise, firing 1,302 rounds and culminating with *Viking Family Day*, which gave Families the opportunity to see the guns in action up-close. In October, the *Vikings* provided near danger close Fires to the *Raider* Brigade at the Yakima Training Center, Wash., supporting the maneuver battalions during their combined arms live-fire exercises (CALFEX). During the exercise, 2-12 FA conducted a combined live-fire with the 5th Field, Royal Canadian Artillery. Soldiers from the U.S. and Canada exchanged knowledge of their respective weapons systems and established bonds that have lasted well beyond the training event.

The *Vikings* returned to Yakima in February 2012, and within 48-hours of arriving on the ground, conducted the first live-fire artillery raid in 4/2 SBCT's history, sling loading two M777A2s and providing timely and accurate Fires in support of a brigade attack. The *Vikings* fired approximately 1,500 rounds while supporting the brigade CALFEX and executed battery-driven defensive live-fire ranges combining M777A2 direct fire, Killer Junior, and crew-served weapons.

Following the return from Yakima, 2-12 FA rapidly change missions to support non-standard maneuver tasks while continuing to provide the BCT with Fires at the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif. During the rotation, the *Vikings* conducted responsive live counter-battery Fires and accomplished the most accurate Excalibur shot in NTC history, placing a round within one meter of the target. 2-12 FA is now preparing to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The *Vikings* will continue to provide maneuver and fire support to the *Raider* Brigade and will always be ready for any mission the nation requires.

## **2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, Steel**

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, *Steel*, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, deployed in April 2012, to Kandahar province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Combined Task Force Steel, in conjunction with Special Operations Task Force-South (SOTF-S) and U.S. government agencies, is responsible for protecting the people of Shah Wali Kot, Mya Neshin and Khakrez districts; enabling the Afghan uniformed police and

Afghan National Army to conduct independent operations to disrupt insurgents; and providing Fires in support of operations in Shah Wali Kot, Mya Neshin, Maiwand, Panjway and Zharay districts.

In May 2011, the battalion reorganized into a nine firing platoon formation. In August 2011, in preparation for operational deployment, the battalion further reorganized into four firing platoons and six motorized platoons, and in November 2011, conducted its mission rehearsal exercise at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. The battalion received attachment of the brigade's anti-tank company (A/52 IN), an engineer platoon from 562nd Engineer Company and a Stryker infantry platoon from 4-23 IN.

The battalion is currently scheduled for a nine-month deployment.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/2-17-Field-Artillery-Steel-Joint-Base-Lewis-McChord-WA/143297922379956>

## **1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, Red Lions**

The 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, *Red Lions*, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, began 2012 with back-to-back field training exercises at Joint Base Lewis-McChord that culminated in platoon live-fire certifications to prepare for Operation Enduring Freedom 11-12. On March 19, the first elements of TF 1-37 departed JBLM for the nine-month deployment to Regional Command South, Afghanistan. The *Red Lions* organized into two firing batteries spread across six two-gun firing points in Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces. A Battery task organized for combat to provide security to four security force assistance teams (SFATs) and to provide the base defense operations center for Forward Operating Base (FOB) Lagman, in Qalat City.

In June, the task force reorganized. Four firing points in Kandahar province were transferred to 2-17 FA, while two firing points were created in Zabul province. Additionally, the *Red Lions* began mentoring Afghan National Army 122 mm

Soldiers from C Battery 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, conduct a fire mission in Al Masaak, Zabul, Afghanistan. (Photo by LTC Boehmer, U.S. Army)







D-30 Tolay's (batteries) to increase the lethality and combined arms capability of the Afghan army. The *Red Lions* conducted multiple live-fire certifications with two Afghan D-30 Tolays to establish an enduring Afghan fire support capability, adhering to the Afghan National Army (ANA) School of Artillery program of instruction.

As of October, the *Red Lions* have fired more than 1,500 rounds of high explosive (HE), rocket assisted projectiles (RAP), Excalibur, smoke, illumination and infrared (IR) illumination for maneuver elements. These included general support and direct support Fires to U.S. conventional and special operations forces elements, Australian army, Romanian army, and partnered Afghan National Security Forces.

## 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York, Mountaineer 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, Centaurs

The 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, *Centaurs*, completed a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a battle space integrator. The *Centaurs* were tasked with an advise and assist mission to Afghan uniformed police in western RC-North in Faryab province. On redeployment to Fort Drum, N.Y., they re-organized as a Field Artillery battalion, completed reset and quickly resumed artillery gunnery.

The 3-6 FA's deliberate artillery training focused on platoon and battery missions, as well as the fire support training plan for the brigade. The training culminated in several combined arms exercises, as well as the first battalion mass-missions fired in more than three years. They relearned and sharpened their skills in cold weather operations over the winter and early spring months. A Battery, *Rock*, contributed to the success of their parent brigade's first complete fire control exercise, providing artillery Fires alongside close air support, attack helicopters and mortars. B Battery, *Bulls*, proudly showed their skills supporting cadet training at West Point, firing more than 7,000 rounds during the summer. The *Swift and Bold* Battalion will deploy to RC-East as a composite Fires battalion with the M119 and M777 systems in direct support of the 1st Brigade 10th Mountain Division, in January 2013. In addition to the guns, 3-6 FA is supplying three security force assistance teams to enable Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in RC-East to better accomplish their mission.

The 'Swift and Bold' Battalion is poised for its next 'Climb to Glory' with the *Warrior* Brigade.

## 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, Allons

The 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, *Allons*, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division had both a busy and exciting year. The battalion conducted both Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., and National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin Calif., rotations over the previous 12 months and successfully transformed itself from a centralized M119A2 cannon battalion into a decentralized hybrid (M119A2/M777A2) battalion between both rotations. At JRTC



Soldiers from 1st Platoon, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, pause in the warm morning sun mere moments away from firing their first live rounds from their newly fielded M777A2 155 mm howitzer. SSG Kim and his section completed the training certified and qualified on both the M119A2 and the M777A2 howitzers. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 15th FA)

in March 2012, the battalion conducted live-fire operations, executed air assault operations, and provided M119A2 indirect fire support to maneuver task force commanders.

Following JRTC, the battalion fielded six M777A2 howitzers and certified/qualified sections chiefs for each by early August. In August, the battalion certified fire direction center (FDC) crews, howitzer crews, and section chiefs on both howitzer systems and qualified each of three 'hybrid' platoons to fire either howitzer system culminating with a week-long exercise where each platoon fired coordinated illumination utilizing both howitzer systems (155 mm illumination and 105 mm high explosive) in a decentralized role and firing all missions entirely digitally from sensor to shooter [MARK VII to pocket-sized forward entry device (PFED) to fire support elements (FSE) Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) to fire direction center (FDC) AFATDS to gun display unit (GDU)]. The *Allons* Battalion arrived at their October NTC rotation with three decentralized hybrid platoons (105 mm and 155 mm) providing dedicated howitzer Fires to each of the brigade's three maneuver battalions. *Allons* also completed Excalibur new equipment training and successfully fired their first-ever Excalibur round into an NTC 'insurgent safehouse.'

Just prior to NTC, the *Allons* Battalion received orders that their parent brigade, 2nd Brigade Combat Team would deploy to Afghanistan as a security force assistance brigade. In conjunction with the *Commando* Brigade's reorganization, the *Allons* Battalion fielded two security force advise and assist teams (SFAATs), one to advise an Afghan army combat support battalion and a second designed to advise and assist Afghan D30 artillery platoons. Select *Allons Red Legs* attended

counterinsurgency (COIN) seminars at Fort Polk's SFAAT Academy, trained on D30 howitzer maintenance at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., and also conducted two weeks of D30 howitzer certification training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Germany (JMRC).

Armed with the ability to advise and assist Afghans to further develop their own indirect fire capabilities and developing their own ability to protect the force with decentralized hybrid artillery Fires...there can be no doubt that the *Allons* Battalion is ready for its forthcoming mission. 'LET'S GO!'

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

The 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery proudly serving within the *Spartan* Brigade Combat Team (3 IBCT), 10th Mountain Division (Light), spent the last year deployed to Afghanistan and resetting its formation from a provisional infantry unit to an M119A2 unit. The *Wolfpack* battalion also underwent a change of command this year from LTC Chris Taylor to LTC Robert Marshall.

In March 2011, the battalion deployed to the Maiwand and Zharay districts of Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of OEF XI- XII. The *Wolfpack* Battalion had more than 400 IED events with a 93 percent clearance rate, the highest for the year throughout International Security Assistance Force. The battalion had more than 390 direct-fire engagements, 11 air assaults and most importantly suffered zero fatalities. In addition, the *Wolfpack* Battalion built essential combat roads, three Afghan National Police (ANP) patrol stations, two fortified outposts, and one Afghan National Army (ANA) checkpoint.

After returning from this successful deployment, the *Wolfpack* Battalion conducted reset operations. The battalion fired

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SSG McComb, A Battery, 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery fires the first 105 mm round during section qualifications. (Photo courtesy of 4th BN, 25th FA)



its first rounds 190 days after re-deployment, commemorating its official transfer back to a M119A2 unit. The *Wolfpack* Battalion continues to prepare and train for whatever mission it is assigned. The hallmark to the battalion's success this year was leader development, combat discipline, under-promising and over-delivering on every mission it was assigned. For 2012, the *Wolfpack* Battalion truly lived up to its motto: 'Be Silent and Act!'

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

Task Force Thunder redeployed from Operation Enduring Freedom X/XI in 1st QTR FY 12. The 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery, *Thunder*, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division operated as a ground maneuver task force, while simultaneously providing indirect Fires in support of the 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division in Logar and Wardak provinces located in RC-East.

After completing the reset phase of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN), the battalion assumed tactical control (TACON) of all fire support assets in the brigade for the purpose of standardizing fire support training, certification qualification from ASPT through Table VI for both fire support and fire delivery. The battalion executed final certification and qualification over an 11-day field training exercise in June certifying and qualifying all available howitzer sections, fire support teams, COLTs and battalion fire support elements through Table VI.

In conjunction with the Fort Polk, La., and JRTC, the battalion's Soldiers executed the largest food drive in the history of Fort Polk. The Soldiers collected more than 10,000 pounds of food for the Leesville Food Pantry.

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SSG Parsons verifies his gunner, PFC Morris, has properly leveled the bubbles prior to firing a qualification mission as the assistant gunner, SPC Esparza, watches. The qualification mission was part of 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery's Table VI training exercise. (Photo courtesy of 5th BN, 25th FA)





The battalion is currently conducting platoon certification and qualification in preparation for the JRTC DA Lane Validation Exercise scheduled for late 4th quarter fiscal year 2012.

## **25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, *Tropic Lightning* 25th Infantry Division Fire Support Element, *Tropic Thunder***

Soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division Fire Support Element (FSE), *Tropic Thunder*, redeployed to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, following their mission to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, where they were responsible for advising, training and assisting Iraqi security forces, as well as synchronizing lethal and nonlethal Fires in support of operations within United States Division-Center (USD-C).

As the staff lead for USD-C's Strengthen the Iraqi Security Forces Line of Effort, the FSE oversaw the efforts of multiple security transition teams and advisory teams, ensuring that the division maintained a productive partnership with Iraqi forces in four operations commands, two area commands, nine Iraqi army divisions and three federal police divisions.

Simultaneously, the fire support element (FSE) continuing to accomplish its core tasks of supporting the division commander with all available means of fire support, contributing significantly to force protection efforts by synchronizing surface-to-surface, attack aviation and close air support Fires in support of subordinate units and maintaining firefinder radar coverage over all key installations.

Following its return to Schofield Barracks, the FSE entered the reset phase of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN), focusing on providing responsive and effective fire support to 25th Infantry Division units deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and participating in joint and multinational exercises throughout the Pacific Command (PACOM) area of operations in support of the Theater Security Cooperation Program.

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

In April 2011, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division deployed to Eastern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XI-XII. The battalion executed a dual mission of delivering field artillery and mortar Fires for two brigade combat teams while simultaneously serving as a battle space owning unit along the eastern border of Nangarhar province.

Over the course of the deployment, platoons from A and B Batteries, 3-7th FA, and attached elements from C Battery, 3-321st FA and B Battery, 1-377th FA delivered more than 10,000 rounds of continuous fire support. The battalion manned nine fire bases in four provinces with a variety of weapons systems, including M119A2s, M198s, and M777 howitzers, as well as M120 Mortars.

While a large percentage of the battalion and attached batteries executed the delivery of Fires mission, the remaining

Soldiers from both Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and A Battery executed partnered stability operations in and around the vital border crossing point of Torkham Gate, increasing capacity and revenue collection while building their Afghan partners ability to interdict insurgent and criminal activities. The battalion's Golf Forward Support Company performed magnificently while providing logistical support across the battalion formation, as well as all aspects of base defense and life support.

In early 2012, the *Never Broken* Battalion returned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and is currently conducting reset operations in preparation for future operations. The 'Steel' Soldiers of the *Never Broken* Battalion stand ready and reliable as valued members of the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

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

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, *Automatic*, began the year deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Originally organized into nine firing elements with a mission to provide Fires for five brigade task forces across Regional Command South (RC-S), the battalion re-task organized, closed and opened several firing points. Additionally, Task Force Automatic conducted counterinsurgency operations in a large portion of the Daman District, managed Forward Operating Base (FOB) Lindsey, secured the District Police Center-Daman, and trained and professionally developed Afghan National Security Forces. During the course of its 12-month deployment the *Automatic* Battalion fired more than 3200 rounds in support of RC-S operations, as well as 11 XM982 Excalibur missions.

The *Automatic* Battalion redeployed to Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in May 2012. As they continue to conduct reset operations, the battalion is beginning to train for future missions. The battalion's efforts are focused on core Field Artillery tasks and providing Fires in support of the 1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, *Arctic Wolves*. Next year, the *Automatic* Battalion will execute a rigorous training cycle that will culminate with a capstone rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. At the conclusion of its training cycle, the battalion will assume a regionally-aligned mission and be prepared to respond to contingency operations in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility, or anywhere worldwide.

## **2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, *On Time***

In June 2011, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, redeployed to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, following the completion of their mission, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND), where they took part in advise and assist operations supporting Iraqi army/local governance and providing fixed site security.

Upon redeployment to Schofield Barracks, the number one priority became reestablishing Field Artillery core competencies. The battalion also integrated the 2nd STRYKER Brigade Combat Team commander's 'Big 5' training focus which in-



A Soldier, from B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, fires the M777A2 during direct-fire missions as part of training conducted during the battalion's deployment to the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawaii. (Photo by SPC Brian Reier, U.S. Army)

cluded: physical/mental toughness, marksmanship, medical skills, small unit drills, and maneuver/communicate capabilities. 2-11 FA completed a very successful training exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, in May 2012, qualifying all howitzer sections and platoons. Additionally, 2-11 FA was able to conduct battalion level fire missions digitally from sensor to shooter. This training enables Fires capabilities that set conditions for the success of the 2nd STRYKER Brigade Combat Team.

On August 28, 2012, 2-11 FA made history by becoming the first organization to conduct M777A2 howitzer live-fire exercises (LFXs) on the island of Oahu. The historic LFX also marked the first howitzer LFX conducted on Oahu in more than 10 years. On September 17-18, 2012, a second LFX was conducted on Oahu attended by a number of foreign military members from Korea, to include Gen. Oh Sung Kwon, the commander of the Republic of Korea's (RoK) Ground Component Command and the deputy commander of the RoK-USA Combined Forces Command.

Going forward, the battalion will begin building a decentralized capability by placing individual batteries in support of maneuver battalions for off island training. These training events will include the Yakima Training Center, Wash., and the Pohakuloa Training Area. The battalion will also participate in numerous Theater Security Cooperation Programs (TSCP) with regional partners within the Pacific Command (PACOM) area of responsibility.

The battalion is currently in the train/ready phase of Army Force Generation and continues to prepare for future unified land operations.

## **2nd Battalion, 377th Field Artillery, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, *Steel***

The 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment (PFAR), deployed to Regional Command-East, Afghanistan, beginning in November 2011, in support of Operation

Enduring Freedom. This deployment highlighted the diverse set of skills possessed by 2-377 PFAR, not only providing Fires across Khowst and Paktya provinces in support of Task Force (TF) Spartan, but also conducting foreign internal defense (FID) operations, providing base defense for the largest coalition forces base in Khowst province, and teaching our Afghan counterparts how to better defend their homeland and ultimately bring peace to Afghanistan.

In addition to supporting the brigade with indirect Fires, the battalion assumed a security mission in a portion of Matun district, Khowst province. This coincided with the crucial mission of defending Forward Operating Base (FOB) Salerno and managing the no-fail daily operations of the brigade's detention facility.

Throughout the deployment, Task Force (TF) *Steel* was partnered with the 4th Combat Support Kandak of the 203rd Afghan National Army Corps. This partnership grew from a small team to the main effort of the battalion. Through this mission, TF *Steel* was able to see the 4-1 Kandak grow into an effective fighting force. The partnership team implemented the Forward Observer Academy, streamlining and enhancing the training of the Kandaks forward observers. Through programs like these, Afghan National Army (ANA) officers and NCOs were able to refine their skill sets, and after six months of training, the 4-1 was firing in support of troops-in-contact.

Since returning from Afghanistan in October 2012, the focus of the battalion is to prepare for future contingencies in the Pacific Theater. The *Steel* Battalion continues to excel at any mission and live up to its motto, 'Steadfastly and Faithfully.'

## **82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, *All American* 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, *Loyalty***

As the nation's dedicated Global Response Force (GRF),



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, perform a drop zone live-fire exercise to train for the upcoming Joint Operational Access Exercise. (Photo by SFC Matthew Kelley, U.S. Army)

the 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, remains postured to “rapidly alert, marshal, deploy in order to conduct an airborne assault and deliver Fires in support of no-notice strategic contingencies.” Throughout 2012, the *Loyalty* Battalion continued to refine our airborne artillery core competencies in support of maneuver elements assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Over the last year, 1-319th FA continued to strengthen our BCTs fire support network through combined arms maneuver training. Our multi-echeloned training included two joint operational access exercises (JOAX), four combined arms maneuver live-fire exercises (CAMLFX) and numerous fire support coordination exercises (FSCX) or ‘walking shoots.’ Each combined arms training exercise enabled *Loyalty* to train and instill confidence across our BCT on the art and science of effectively integrating and synchronizing indirect Fires with maneuver.

The *Loyalty* Battalion further displayed our tremendous pride in celebrating the storied history of the 319th FA. During 2012, *Loyalty* celebrated our 95th birthday and appointed an honorary colonel & sergeant major. *Loyalty* recognized our obligation to preserve 319th lineage and our responsibility to honor airborne *Redleg* gunners for their continued service of delivering Fires in support of the *All American* Division...dating back to WWI and continuing today in Afghanistan.

After firing 2,500 rounds, executing 2,000 parachute jumps and maintaining the highest readiness posture, the Paratroopers of the *Loyalty* Battalion remain “set – ready” to answer our nation’s call.

*‘Loyalty, H-Minus!’*

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

The 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery, *Black Falcons*, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, completed a six-month deployment in support of Operation New Dawn, fulfilling a security force mission in support of the 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. While deployed, the *Black Falcon’s* secured the brigade’s base of operations, provided two howitzers platoons across western Iraq, and manned a Q36 and LCMR to support the brigade and USD-C. The battalion completed its deployment with a transition of Camp Ramadi to governmental officials of Iraq followed by an 18-vehicle convoy to Kuwait.

Upon redeployment, the *Black Falcons* began the Army Force Generation process, resetting its equipment and focusing training on core competencies across the fire support warfighting function. In April 2012, the battalion completed section certification for all howitzer, fire direction centers, radar, and fire support teams. Both firing batteries participated in 2nd Brigade’s Joint Operations Access Demonstration (JOAD) in June 2012, by conducting drop zone airborne assaults followed by live Fires from Sicily Drop Zone. The battalion continued its focus on Field Artillery core competencies by certifying all platoons while providing Fires in support of maneuver live Fires during the unit’s intensive training cycle (ITC). The battalion continues to aggressively support brigade training events, improving its technical abilities while building maneuver leader’s confidence in its fire supporters. The battalion will complete ITC with a forcible entry during a Decisive Action Joint Readiness Training Center rotation. The *Black Falcons* stand ready to provide responsive Fires for the Falcon Brigade in support of the Global Response Force Mission.

*‘All the way, Airborne, Let’s Go, Black Falcons!’*

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

Over part of 2011 and most of 2012, 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division rigorously prepared for and executed a demanding deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XII.

During the past year, the *Gun Devils* have traversed the spectrum of training and certification. They began the process by preparing to assume the nation’s Global Response Force, followed by training for a maneuver mission, a Fires mission and a combination of the two as the *Devil* Brigade’s mission set evolved.

When the brigade received its mission to deploy in support of OEF XII, the *Gun Devils* were directed to support the effort by providing a mixed battery consisting of three platoons of M777s and one platoon of M119A2s. Throughout the deployment preparation, every paratrooper in the battalion dedicated themselves to maintaining proficiency in artillery tasks and skills. They gained the trust and support of the brigade

by supporting multiple training events including a company walk and shoot with danger close Fires, nine Joint Operational Access Exercises (JOAX) and multiple battery and platoon level live-Fires. The *Gun Devils* also won the coveted 82nd Airborne Division 'Top Gun' title. During this time, the battalion fired more than 8,000 rounds in training and combat.

The *Gun Devil* Battalion is currently deployed in support of OEF XII, occupying austere firing points across Ghazni province, Afghanistan, and providing counter-fire and close supporting Fires for their maneuver brothers. Upon redeployment the battalion will enter the Army Force Generation Program and prepare to assume the nation's Global Response Force.

## **2nd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery, Professionals**

In early September 2012, Paratroopers from 2nd Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, returned from a seven-month deployment to Kandhar province, Afghanistan. Focusing on operations on the border of the Zharay and Maiwand Districts, the artillerymen of the *Professional* Battalion, worked 'shone ba shona' (shoulder to shoulder) with counter parts from the 4th Kandak (KDK) Afghan National Army (ANA), 2/1 and 2/2 Afghan Civil Order Police (ANCOP) in securing the districts against insurgent activities.

The *Professionals* were tasked with providing provisional infantry, fire direction center support to M777 sections, providing indirect fire support to the entire BCT with 81 mm and 120 mm mortars, mentoring the 4th ANA KDK, training the ANA on D30 (155 mm) howitzers, training Afghan Local Police (ALP), and developing goals and programs to strengthen the fragile seam along the districts.

Over the course of the deployment, the Soldiers of 2-321 FA displayed remarkable adaptability and tenacity. The unit relied heavily on their training prior to deployment in counter improvised explosive devices (C-IED) operations, fixed base crew stations (FBCS), and 120 mm Precision Guided Mortar Systems. The ability to employ enabler training helped the battalion secure the most contested area of the BCT battle space in little over four months once on the ground.

Highlights of the deployment were the units securing of key sub-districts within the battle space, allowing local citizens to transport agricultural goods to Highway 1, increasing the amount of produce available for sale by more than 110 percent. The unit trained close to 150 ALP which returned to their villages with the training that made them a more reliable force for the ANA and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to work with.

The diversity of the required mission shows that TF Professional was truly a go-to battalion. The artillerymen are always prepared to assume any mission required of the operating environment. 'Fury From the Sky,' All the Way – AIRBORNE.

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

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

Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF), *Top Guns*, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and Afghan National Army's 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps) finished off 2010 by neutralizing the Taliban in the Arghandab River Valley, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) X-XI. CJTF *Top Guns* was responsible for enabling the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA), village stability operations (VSO)/civil reconstruction, Afghan National Police (ANP) mentorship, Afghan Local Police (ALP) establishment and development, and eradication of a Taliban presence within their area of responsibility. Soon after CJTF *Top Guns* led VSO/reconstruction operations (Operations Eagle Claw, Eagle Turn, and Eagle Knot) in order to bring the civilian community back to lands denied to them by the Taliban for years. Reconstruction started with the local mosques, rebuilding houses and farms, and re-engaging GIROA with the populace. Villagers not only returned to these lands, but eagerly established an Afghan local police force with guidance from CJTF *Top Guns* and support from GIROA.

In late April 2011, Soldiers of *Top Guns* redeployed to Fort Campbell, Ky., where they were re-task organized back into a Field Artillery battalion. Over the following months *Top Guns* conducted grueling training exercises, to include section certifications, validation live-Fires and gunners testing: achieving first time pass ratings on all certifications/validations.

*Top Guns* concluded 2011 with a warning order for a new mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Members would deploy as 12-man teams in advisory roles with the Afghan Border Police and Afghan national Civil Order Police. Through hard work and training, deploying Soldiers of *Top Guns* successfully transitioned into advisors, while the remainder of the battalion continues on a training path as an elite Fires battalion. Team *Top Guns* are developing Afghan Border Police (ABP) and Afghan National Civil Order Police (ANCOP) proving they are a flexible and adaptive Field Artillery battalion.

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

Over the past 18 months, 2nd battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, has executed eight battalion field training exercises, a Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, La., rotation and a deployment to Afghanistan as the first SFABCT (Security Force Assistance Brigade Combat Team).

The battalion deployed to Fort Knox, Ky., in 2011, where they shot Table 8-12 missions utilizing voice and digital systems, massing the battalion. The inclement weather, terrain, low cloud cover, and mass of artillery fire caused a near panic



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, participate in an airlift of a M777A2 howitzer. (Photo 1LT Michael Brennan, U.S. Army)

in the local Fort Knox community, since they had never heard the 'mysterious sonic booms' emanating from Fort Knox. This made the local Fox news in Louisville, Ky. In the spring of 2012, the battalion executed a 'Walk-Shoot' for the 1st Brigade Combat Team Bastogne, training more than 17 company/troop/battery commanders on the integration and synchronization of Fires and maneuver. In March, the battalion fielded 6 x M777's upon completion of the mobile training team (MTT) training from Fort Sill, Okla. The battalion executed multiple air assault raids with both weapon systems. The *Balls of the Eagle* Battalion deployed to Fort Polk, La., in July as a battle space owner and provided lethal indirect fire. Upon completion of a great training environment the battalion then fielded five security force advisor teams (SFAT) and completed the SFAT Academy at Fort Polk.

Currently the *Balls of the Eagle* is in the process of deploying multiple SFAT Teams to train Afghan border police, Afghan uniform police, D-30's, Afghan National Army, and will deploy a Battery (+) to provide lethal and accurate Indirect Fires with M777s and M119A2's.

## 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, *Red Knights*

It has been a tremendously successful year, marked by great distinction for the *Red Knights* of the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. Notable successes were achieved at the individual, collective, and tactical levels.

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery received the 2012 Knox Award, marking it as the best battery in the Field Artillery. This was a phenomenal accomplishment rewarding their hard work during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) X-XI and subsequent intensive training. The Soldiers of A Battery were recognized at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., as being the first battery in 15 rotations to achieve accuracy and time standards

more than 75 percent of the time, a testament to the platoon sergeants, section chiefs, and Soldiers of this great team. In keeping with the high standards of the battalion and the 3rd BCT, Rakkasans, SSG Warren Jenkins, of B Battery, '*Bandits Lead the Way,*' placed first as the 3rd Brigade NCO of the Year and received second place honors within the 101st Airborne Division.

Notable other firsts for the *Red Knights* were hybridizing the battalion into a M777 and M119 capable unit, deploying into combat in hybrid platoons, capable of massing 2 X M119s or firing precision guided munitions (PGMs) from the M777 and fielding the first Q53 Radar in the Continental United States (CONUS), then deploying it into theater. The Q53 is a marked improvement over the Q36. According to Chief Warrant Officer, Martavus Westbrook, the battalion targeting warrant, a vast array of communication and digital upgrades, makes the system faster, and more reliable.

The *Red Knights* fast-paced training for the year included multiple field training exercises from a base piece live-fire in August 2011, through all echelons of artillery tables, culminating in Table XVIII battalion live-fire and platoon in the defense live-fire exercise (LFX), in January 2012. A rotation through the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., further honed the staff and tactical skills of the battalion and firing platoon proficiencies in both weapon systems. The battalion is now deployed into RC East Afghanistan, in support of OEF XII-XIII and the mighty *Rakkasans*, for their fifth combat tour in support of the Global War on Terror.

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

Leaders and Soldiers, of 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, Currahee *Guns of Glory*, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, returned from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in August 2011. While deployed the battalion performed the task of delivering artillery Fires in support of the 4th BCT Currahee firing more than 26,000 rounds with precision and accuracy. Additionally the *Guns of Glory* tackled the task of force protection through the organization's oversight of base defense operations at multiple locations.

Immediately upon return, 4-320th committed and once again embarked on glide path in preparation for the next rendezvous with destiny. *Guns of Glory* leaders and Soldiers began in March with the completion of section certifications, platoon firing tables, maneuver STX lanes, counter improvised explosive device (CIED) lanes and a continuous thirty-six hour command outpost (COP) defense lane. The battalion additionally executed numerous two and four gun Artillery raids, validating their air assault Mission Essential Task List (METL). Finally the battalion conducted a capstone exercise, a week-long field training exercise (FTX) focused on precision gunnery, which confirmed our proficiency in delivering Field Artillery Fires and air assault gun raids (day or night).

Future training includes section re-certification, a brigade-level 'Walk and Shoot,' and a brigade war-fighter exercise. On the horizon is a Combat Training Center rotation to Fort Polk,



Soldiers from B Battery, 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery participate in an air lift during a field training exercise. (Photo by LTC John Bowman, U.S. Army)

La., to validate the capacity to perform OEF/unified land operations. All of this training is geared toward preparing the Curahee *Guns of Glory* Battalion for our next rendezvous with destiny.

Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, 17th Fires Brigade, fire high mobility artillery rocket systems (HIMARS), during a live-fire exercise on Yakima Training Center (YTC), Wash. The live-fire was a portion of the brigade's large-scale exercise held at YTC. (Photo by SPC Elayseah Woodard-Hinton, U.S. Army)



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

The *Thunderbolt* Brigade continues to support world-wide operations. From Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom to U.S. Army Cadet Command's Operation Warrior Forge, units of 17th FiB demonstrate their resilient and adaptive Soldiers and leadership skills.

The 17th FiB units are providing bi-lateral training to build host nation capacities within the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility, support mission command at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., to the ROTC Cadets assessment training, and provide sense and warn coverage to identify indirect fire threats in Afghanistan. All the while maintaining focus on core competencies and building the Fires support artillery skill set.

Units of 17th FiB developed their skills through command post exercises and Battle Command Systems Integration Training; multiple brigade field exercises; and the combined training exercise Operation Rising Thunder at Yakima Training Center, Yakima, Wash.

The *Thunderbolt* Brigade remains flexible and ready to provide for the next mission. Visit 17th FiB online at [www.facebook.com/17thFiresBrigade](http://www.facebook.com/17thFiresBrigade).

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

Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, *First Round*, trained and deployed three firing batteries in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. A Battery provided in-lieu-of radar support and B Battery provided





Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, walk to the village hospital with members of the Jordanian army while conducting a situational training exercise. The exercise was one of many during Operation Flexible Saif, a joint-training effort between the Jordanian armed forces and a Task Force from 1st BN, 94th FA. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 94th FA)

HIMARS precision guided Fires in Afghanistan. C Battery, deployed to Kuwait, also provided HIMARS precision guided Fires.

In preparation for these missions, 5-3 FA conducted training focused on joint integration and delivery of Fires through rotations at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., and joint training exercises in Florida and Nevada. The unit's training at Yakima Training Center (YTC) included additional focus of a brigade mission readiness exercise. The MRX was a huge success as *First Round* launchers conducted multiple HIMARS raids using aircraft from the 62nd Airlift Wing at JBLM, and conducted distributed mission command with units at YTC, Umatilla Army Depot, Umatilla, Ore., and McChord Field, JBLM.

When not directly supporting the firing batteries, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and the Forward Support Company focused on mission command and joint Fires through participation in the U.S. Air Force Weapons School's Employment class 12A at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and Coalition Virtual Flag 12-4 from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. Additionally, *First Round* Soldiers played an integral part in Warrior Forge 2012, providing logistics support, inspector general inspections, mission command briefings, and leadership symposiums.

With all three firing batteries deployed, the battalion's focus for the remaining HHB and Forward Support Company at JBLM is to conduct command post operations, provide logistics support, and integrate Fires training. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/5th-Battalion-3rd-Field-Artillery-/217441211624317>

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

The summer 2012 saw all elements of 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery, reunited for the first time in more than a year following the successful completion of multiple missions throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility supporting both Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom. The *Deep Steel* battalion validated its al motto, 'Flexible', by sending subordinate units to Kuwait, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Kazakhstan to conduct bi-lateral training to build host nation capacity. Task Force 1-94 trained the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) as part of the Jordanian Operational Deployment Program in Al Zarqa, Jordan. The task force successfully trained a second JAF Infantry task force for deployment to Regional Command-East, Afghanistan and worked with Army Central (ARCENT) to increase regional security throughout the area of responsibility. C Battery, 1-94 FA epitomized the chief of staff of the Army's 'Prevent, Shape, Win' concept by participating in several bi-lateral training events with the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

After successfully certifying and qualifying the entire battery in January 2012, C Battery showcased the HIMARS system for the Kuwaiti military during a live-fire event in February. Later in May, the battery demonstrated the effects of precision munitions to Kuwait and United Arab Emirates senior military leaders at the Udari Range in Kuwait by firing four GMLRS. Simultaneously, the rear detachment conducted an inter-post move, occupying a new battalion footprint on North Fort Lewis. The subsequent return to JBLM at the end of June further tested the unit's flexibility while, in addition to reintegration and reset, the unit deactivated C Battery

and successfully reorganized into a two-by-eight configuration. [www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Battalion-94th-Field-Artillery-/196445187046710](http://www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Battalion-94th-Field-Artillery-/196445187046710)

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

The 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery, *Gunslingers*, conducted operations across two continents for most of 2012. B and C Batteries were deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and conducted operations in RC-E. During their deployment, the two firing batteries fired thousands of rounds for both observed fire training and in direct support of their maneuver brothers. The batteries also partnered with the Afghan army and conducted D-30 howitzer training and partnership.

In September, the *Gunslingers* of B and C Batteries returned to JBLM to reintegrate and begin the reset phase of the ARFORGEN cycle.

The battalion HHB, A Battery, and the 606th FSC remained at JBLM and focused on maintaining core competencies. A Battery received six M777A2 howitzers in January and immediately began certification.

After a rigorous battalion training exercise at Yakima Training Center (YTC), Wash., in March, A Battery began rehearsals with 3rd Squadron, 38th Cavalry and 16th Combat Aviation Brigade in preparation for the ROTC Warrior Forge combined arms live-fire demonstration. The live-fire demonstration was a resounding success for the 'King of Battle' as A Battery's timeliness and accuracy made a considerable impression on the ROTC Cadets. *Gunslingers* also provided support to seven other ROTC sites including significant support to the first aid lane. The 606th FSC provided flawless logistical support to

Artillerymen with A Battery, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery, 17th Fires Brigade, load rounds into a 155 mm howitzer during a live-fire demonstration at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. (Photo by SPC Nathan Goodall, U.S. Army)



the ROTC summer training with the distribution platoon delivering Class I, III, and V to locations throughout JBLM.

In September, the battalion built on the foundation established during the ROTC mission and provided indirect Fires in support of Operation Rising Thunder – a bilateral exercise conducted with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force in Yakima, Wash. [www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Battalion-Air-Assault-377th-Field-Artillery-/164186730330365](http://www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Battalion-Air-Assault-377th-Field-Artillery-/164186730330365)

## **F Battery, 26th Field Artillery, Wolfpack**

The Soldiers of F Battery, 26th Field Artillery (ADCON to 1-377 FA) spent 2012 deployed to Afghanistan manning four radar sites in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During the deployment, the Soldiers of the *Wolfpack* acquired more than 130 rounds of incoming indirect fire directed against U.S. forces and facilities. In September, F Battery returned to JBLM to reintegrate and begin the reset phase of the ARFORGEN cycle. [www.facebook.com/pages/Battery-F-26th-Field-Artillery--WOLFPACK/288025524577538](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Battery-F-26th-Field-Artillery--WOLFPACK/288025524577538)

## **308th Brigade Support Battalion, Red Lion**

The 308th Brigade Support Battalion consistently provided superb logistics coverage to make all of 17th Fires Brigade's training and key events successful. As a testament to its standards, 308th won the 2012 Phillip A. Connelly Award at the FORSCOM level and the 2012 Supply Excellence award.

This year, the *Red Lion* battalion was also tasked with providing U.S. Army Cadet Command ROTC Support Mission Command and provided command oversight and coordination to the more than 1,300 Soldiers it provided from JBLM to ensure USACC's Operation Warrior Forge was successful. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/308th-Brigade-Support-Battalion/237811382926527>

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

It was another busy year for the men and women of the 18th Fires Brigade (FiB). From the mountains of Afghanistan to the drop zones at Fort Bragg, FiB paratroopers continued to show why they are among America's best.

April 2012, the FiB travelled to Fort Sill, Okla., for an airborne-artillery operation that highlighted the unit's ability to fight anywhere at any time. The spectators were treated to a demonstration of the world's most rapidly deployable artillery force in action. The brigade dropped a M777A2 howitzer, conducted a live-fire and paratroopers executed a combat equipment jump into Snow Ridge drop zone.

In July, more than 4,500 Soldiers and Families watched as the brigade hosted the 82nd Airborne Division Field Artillery's first Molly Pitcher day since 2002. The event brought Soldiers and Families together for an artillery demonstration and Family day. As the event closed, the brigade plunged head on into its summer schedule.

The FiB balanced its duties in the XVIII Airborne Corps' Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise while simultaneously executing a seven-day field training exercise. The FTX fulfilled



two major objectives. First, the FiB massed Fires as a brigade for the first time in more than a decade. Secondly, two battalions, 188th Brigade Support Battalion and 3rd Battalion 321st Field Artillery conducted external evaluations. The diligent training executed by the FiB marked a focused return to the core competencies of the Field Artillery. 'Tough, Proud, Discipline. Airborne, All the Way!'

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

The 1st Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery, *Warriors*, spent the past year honing their Field Artillery skills and focusing on their core competency mission: conducting forcible entry parachute operations and providing reinforcing Fires to the 82nd Airborne Division.

As the U.S. Army's only 155 mm airborne Field Artillery battalion, 1-321 FA continued to support the 82nd Airborne Division's Joint Operational Access Exercise (JOAX) program, each time, parachuting M777A2s onto the drop zone in support of a BCT airfield seizure. The 1-321 FA continued to demonstrate that it is a significant enabler to the Global Response Force (GRF) by providing accurate lethal and non-lethal long-range Fires.

The *Warriors* supported 1st Brigade's deployment to Afghanistan by training and equipping a 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery firing battery with M777A2s. During training, howitzer master gunners focused on the maintenance, occupation and firing of the 155 mm lightweight howitzer.

The *Warriors* of 1-321 FA, supported the 82nd Airborne Division and Regional Command-South by sending a Fire Support Assessment Team to Afghanistan. The purpose of this team was to assess the RC-S firing unit's ability to manage the five requirements for accurate predicted Fires and their adherence to standards. The trip was beneficial and provided

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PFC Ethan Knoblett, from B Battery 1st Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery, fires the M777A2 howitzer during a live-fire exercise at Fort Bragg. 1st BN, 321st FA, the world's only airborne 155 mm battalion, provides the 82nd Airborne Division firing capability as part of its Global Response Force. (Photo by SGT James Bunn, U.S. Army)



a way ahead to increase firing capabilities across the Regional Command.

In April, 1-321st FA, conducted a flyaway exercise demonstrating unique capabilities the battalion provides to the GRF. The *Warriors* dropped two M777A2 heavy drop platforms and conducted a live-fire at Fort Sill, Okla.

Looking toward the future, 1-321 FA stands ready to support unified land operations.

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

In 2012, the *Thunderbolt* Battalion, focused on resetting A and C Batteries after their deployment to Afghanistan. They fired more than 8,000 rounds including 12 Excalibur missions while B Battery conducted Artillery Tables at home station. Additionally, the battalion redeployed a General Support Fires Cell/Force FA Headquarters Liaison Office (LNO) to Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)-101 and 1st Cavalry Joint Staff Operations (CJ3). With the assistance of the Fort Sill Mobile Training Team, A and C Batteries certified on Tables VI and conducted Table VII training, setting conditions for the battalion's intensive training cycle. A and C will conduct Table XII Platoon Certifications with B Battery conducting Table XV External Evaluation in preparation for their JRTC rotation. B Battery also provided M777A2 support for numerous Fire Support Coordination Exercises that trained three BCTs in the 82nd Airborne Division.

The 3-321 also redeployed a Fires Assessment Team to Af-

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The 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery conducts a sling load mission at Fort Bragg, N.C. The battalion was the first in the Army to conduct sling load operations with the M777A2 howitzer and has employed the howitzer consistently in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by SGT James Bunn, U.S. Army)



ghanistan to conduct an assessment throughout RC-South on each Task Force's fire support systems, sensor systems, identify unit systems, procedures for maintaining proficiency, standards of precision, and certification practices. The FSAT reinforced with Task Force Commanders the importance of home station certification programs and the need for ongoing certification while deployed.

This year saw the attachment of 583rd Forward Support Company to the battalion. This enabled the battalion to increase mobility and hauling capacity, as well as overall readiness with the addition of three Maintenance Support Teams. 583rd will conduct its first external evaluation in August, greatly enhancing the overall readiness of the battalion to deploy and provide fire support in support of Unified Land Operations.

### **3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, *Steel Rain***

On June 5, 2012, 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery welcomed home A Battery from an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan. After seven years of deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, their redeployment marks the conclusion of continuous support from 3-27 FA to OEF. During the deployment, A Battery's seven High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launchers, located at three separate outstations, provided rocket and missile fire support to special operations and conventional forces. With the range of the HIMARS, 3-27 FA was able to provide support operations for more than three quarters of the country of Afghanistan.

Now that 3-27 FA has handed off its seven-year mission to the 17th Fires Brigade, it will shift its focus to the core competencies of HIMARS training. This includes C-130 on and off load training and being involved in multiple Joint Exercises with the BCTs from the 82nd Airborne Division. Additionally, as the only HIMARS Battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division, 3-27 FA has a Global Response Force platoon always at the ready to deploy in support of the Division's mission as the nation's Strategic Response Force. With its constant demand for readiness, 3-27 FA continues to be at the forefront of the HIMARS community.

Soldiers from B Battery, 3rd battalion, 27th Field Artillery, conduct a live-fire exercise as part of their fire direction center certification. (Photo by SGT James Bunn, U.S. Army)



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

The 41st Fires Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrated its versatility as a modular Fires brigade by focusing on both core Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) competencies and non-standard Field Artillery missions. In September 2011, 41st FIB deployed 161 Soldiers, NCOs and officers to Afghanistan in support of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A). Simultaneously, the rest of the *Rail Gunners* continued to train on the delivery of rocket and missile Fires. In March, the brigade assumed the quick reaction force (QRF)/rapid response force (RRF) mission in support of U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). The QRF/RRF mission required the brigade to prepare to deploy to any operational environment within CONUS in support of homeland defense and to provide defense support to civil authorities. Simultaneously, the brigade trained for rapid deployment to any area of responsibility (AOR) to integrate accurate, timely, and decisive Fires in support of Unified Land Operations. In July, the brigade served as the III Corps Force FA Headquarters during its Warfighter exercise. This valuable training event was the first Corps level Warfighter in 10 years and proved to be a tremendous training opportunity for the brigade. The *Rail Gunners* synchronized the deep Fires of four Fires brigades, conducted more than 1,200 fire missions in support of III Corps, refined tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) and standard operating procedures (SOPs), and helped set conditions for the Force FA Headquarters' future employment in decisive action operations.

The *Rail Gunners* are a fully modernized and modularized Fires brigade consisting of three subordinate battalions and three separate companies:

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery continued to provide logistics and medical support to the brigade command post. The battery also continued to demonstrate its combatives prowess and led the brigade's team to a first place victory in the Fort Hood Combatives tournament in April. The 324th Network Support Company provided the critical communications links for both brigade and battalion training exercises and prepared to deploy as part of the NORTHCOM mission. A Battery, 26th Field Artillery provided radar, meteorological and survey support for the brigade as the battalions completed artillery tables.

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

The 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, *Deep Strike*, conducted both core METL tasks and non-standard contingency training over the past year. The battalion was tasked to serve as the NORTHCOM Task Force HQs for three quick reactionary force/ready reaction force (QRF/RRF) companies. Simultaneously, the battalion transitioned to the 2012 Modified Table of Organization and equipment (MTOE), reorganizing



from a three battery, six launcher configuration, to a two battery, eight launcher organization. The battalion progressed through the gated artillery tables completing AT VII-XII in September 2012, in preparation for a decisive action National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., rotation in early FY13. Despite the heavy operations tempo (OPTEMPO), B Battery continued to demonstrate its pursuit of excellence by winning the Forces Command (FORSCOM) Award for Maintenance Excellence for the second year in a row and took second place at the Department of the Army level.

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

In September 2011, 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery, *First Strike*, deployed 160 Soldiers to Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A). The mobile education training teams (METT) effectively trained Afghan National Army (ANA) Field Artillery units at the ANA's Field Artillery officer, NCO and Soldier training school. They trained crew drills on the D30 122 mm cannon, fire direction center (FDC) manual gunnery, and fire support, and in doing so, inspired the Afghans to accomplish unprecedented achievements. In February 2012, the battalion also received orders for the NORTHCOM quick reaction force/rapid response force (QRF/RRF) mission and provided one battery for the duration of the mission.

## **589th Brigade Support Battalion, Iron Caissons**

*Iron Caissons*, the 41st Fires Brigade's multi-functional logistics battalion, provided continuous, world-class sustainment support to the brigade, while also reorganizing to meet the FY12 Modified Table of Organization and equipment (MTOE) transition requirements. In January, the battalion was awarded the Forces Command (FORSCOM) Supply Excellence Award for the superb performance of the supply support activity (SSA) and continues to compete at the Department of the Army level. Also tasked with providing logistics support to the NORTHCOM mission, the battalion enhanced its readiness posture by conducting a deliberate, resource-intensive operation in order to identify, cross-level and turn-in of more than \$300,000 worth of excess equipment. The battalion also played an integral role in 'Team Hood' winning the 37th Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va.

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

The 'Tough as Diamonds', 75th Fires Brigade spent the last year training core competencies, as well as deploying formations in support of the Global War on Terror in both in lieu of and core competency missions.

## **3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, 75th Fires Brigade, Red Dragons**

The 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, (MLRS) *Red Dragons*,



A 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Soldier calls for medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) during a simulated exercise at Fort Sill, Okla. The exercise, which involved a UH-60L MEDEVAC helicopter, provided by the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, from Fort Riley, Kan., was part of 3rd BN, 13 FA's capstone exercise in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 75th FiB)

closed 2011 by converting from a 3 x 6 to a 2 x 8 launcher configuration, and began 2012 by transitioning from a traditional Multiple Launch Rocket System Fires battalion, into a multi-purpose security force organization trained and ready to support missions in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). In February 2012, two security force platoons from Assassin Battery and support elements from across the battalion deployed to Fort Riley, Kan., to conduct a two-week mission-readiness exercise focused on improvised explosive device preclusion, mounted and dismounted maneuver, mission command and civic engagement. The task force deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in April 2012, under the operational control of Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Infantry Division. Additionally, in February 2012, B Battery reorganized into a multi-purpose security force battery composed of four security force platoons. The *Bulldogs* stand ready to deploy with Task Force Mission Ready, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, 75th Fires Brigade, to the CENTCOM AOR later this year. In May 2012, three security force platoons from 66th Forward Support Company conducted a mission rehearsal exercise at Fort Sill, Okla., in preparation for a deployment to the CENTCOM AOR this fall. Under the new leadership of LTC Steven Carpenter and CSM Derrick Flowers, the battalion initiated a Fires gated training strategy in order to increase Fires core competencies and develop confident, fit, disciplined and mentally tough warriors, and professional, competent and caring leaders. The *Red Dragons* continue to stand ready to rapidly deploy to any theater of operations to provide accurate, timely and decisive rocket and missile Fires in support of unified land operations.



A round is fired toward a target from a M109A6 Paladin as Artillerymen, from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, conducted a live-fire, semi-annual qualification table on July 24, 2012 at Fort Sill, Okla. The event was a culmination of a two-week long section-certification for the Soldiers on the Paladin weapon system. (Photo courtesy of 75th FiB)

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## **1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, 75th Fires Brigade, *Copperheads***

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The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, (Paladin) *Copperheads*, 75th Fires Brigade, spent the last year completing their regeneration in the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN)

process and reestablishing their core competency as a cannon battalion. The battalion redeployed from Afghanistan in the summer 2011, and conducted reset of personnel and equipment through the summer and fall. Beginning in October, they drew howitzers and vehicles, and in January 2012, the *Copperheads* began retraining on core Field Artillery competencies. This led to the battalion's first Table V certification and Table VI qualification in more than two years in April and May. During the summer, they had the opportunity to support a warfighter exercise with a response cell and a unit rotation at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., with augmentee observer/controllers. This allowed leaders within the battalion to observe systems used by other units and incorporate lessons learned into their own formations. Later in the summer, they received the mission to reinforce 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery, in support of the United States Army Field Artillery Schools' (USAFAS) 13F Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) live-fire training. This provided them with a tremendous opportunity to live-fire artillery. Looking forward into the next year, the *Copperheads* are postured to conduct the collective platoon and battery training that will make them fully trained in all of their mission essential tasks.

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## **2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, 75th Fires Brigade, *Mission Ready***

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The 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, (MLRS) *Mission*

A rocket is fired from an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Launch System (HIMARS) as Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, observe a gunnery training event at Fort Sill, Okla. The gunnery was a culmination of a two-week crew certification in order to transition from M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) to HIMARS in support of upcoming deployment. (Photo courtesy of 75th FiB)





*Ready*, began the year with a battalion change of command in February, and immediately thereafter received a Prepare to Deploy Order (PTDO) to provide strategic High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) fire support to the CENTCOM AOR. In less than 90 days, the *Mission Ready* Battalion transitioned from the M270 launcher to the M142 HIMARS by conducting hands-on certification and live-fire qualification for all HIMARS crews, ammunition sections, and fire direction centers. Augmented by a security force battery and sustainment Soldiers from two of the brigade's sister battalions, 2-18 is eager to represent the First Infantry Division, and continue the proud history of Field Artillery Branch in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

## **100th Brigade Support Battalion, 75th Fires Brigade, *Century***

The 100th Brigade Support Battalion, *Century*, continued to provide unparalleled logistical support to the 75th Fires Brigade, as well as providing individual and team deployers for all brigade deployments. Additionally, they assumed the Fort Sill and Fires Center of Excellence, Quick Reaction Force mission, while providing a company for the United States Army Forces command (FORSCOM) Defense chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) Response Force. The 100th BSB also deployed to several locations for off-site training to include Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Fort Riley, Kan. This allowed the battalion to test their logistical support and command and control abilities in various scenarios and environments, ensuring they can continue to support the *Tough as Diamonds* Brigade regardless of mission. Multi-echelon training was conducted with the Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Riley, allowing the *Century* Battalion the opportunity to train

on sling-load and medical evacuation training. The 100th BSB conducted more than 177 training events, enabling the Soldiers to hone their Soldier skills and proficiencies. The result is a well-trained battalion, capable of providing seamless support to the 75th Fires Brigade and the 1st Infantry Division.

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

In 2012, the 210th Fires Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, *Warrior Thunder*, received the Army Superior Unit Award for its operating record and its actions following the Yeonpyeong-Do incident 2010. During this brief, but intense, exchange of artillery fire between North and South Korea, the 210th Fires Brigade uploaded 100 percent of its pre-positioned authorized combat load of Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) ammunition, uploaded mission essential equipment, deployed counter-fire radars and launchers, and rushed to fighting positions to support United States Forces-Korea and the Combined Forces Command as part of the Republic of Korea-United States alliance.

In July 2012, the brigade's Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) changed, bringing with it greater capability and flexibility. They gained an organic supply support activity and two additional companies in their brigade support battalion. The new MTOE also authorized multiple new billets in fields as diverse as legal services, maintenance support, targeting, and information operations. The 210th Fires filled many of those billets over the course 2012.

As the only permanently forward-deployed MLRS unit in the Army, the brigade maintains constant 'fight tonight' read-

A Soldier, from 100th Brigade Support Battalion, engages a target with the M2 machine gun on Feb. 16, 2012, at Fort Chaffee, Ark. (Photo courtesy of 75th FIB)





Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Fires Brigade, execute a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) live-fire exercise on June 12, 2012, in the Republic of Korea. (Photo by CPT Matt McMillan, U.S. Army)

iness. Despite a challenging training and manning cycle, the unit completed multiple live-fire qualifications, including a joint MLRS live-fire with the Republic of Korea Army, 2000th Field Artillery Battalion.

As members of the Korean community, 210th Fires Brigade Soldiers participated in Korean language classes, home visits, charity operations including orphanage visits, and a great number of Korean cultural events.

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

Since the 212th Fires Brigade activated on August 15, 2010, at Fort Bliss, Texas, the *Gunstone* Brigade has focused on building Fires brigade capabilities while serving as a vital member of the 1st Armored Division and the El Paso, Texas, community.

In February, just six months after activation, B Battery, 26th Field Artillery (TAB) conducted a joint live-fire exercise with Marines on McGregor Training Complex at Fort Bliss. In the next month, the brigade conducted Mission Command

Systems Integration Training (MCSIT) and stood up its command post.

From April to May, the brigade command post served as operations group for 1st AD's Iron Focus exercise, a combat training center (CTC)-like, four-week division field exercise and the largest training exercise on Fort Bliss in eight years.

From May to June, the *Gunstone* Brigade's command post served as a Division Force Field Artillery Headquarters during the III Corps Warfighter at Fort Hood, integrating joint Fires for the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division. The *Gunstone* Brigade also supported the 2nd Brigade, 1 AD's Network Integration Evaluation 12.2.

In August, the *Gunstone* Brigade celebrated its anniversary by dedicating its parade field to SSG Joe N. Wilson, who died in Iraq during a surface-to-air helicopter attack in 2003. SGT Joe Mlinar, who credits SSG Wilson with saving his life, provided remarks during the ceremony.

In September, the 212th FiB conducted the first Mission Command Training Program (MCTP) led active force FiB Warfighter Exercise in years.

The *Gunstone* Brigade closed out 2012 with an external evaluation of 2nd Brigade's 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery,





Soldiers from B/26th Target Acquisition Battery, 212th Fires Brigade, fire rockets during a training exercise with the Marines of D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division. (Photo courtesy of 212th FiB)

deploying leaders to participate in exercise Eager Light in Jordan, and orchestrating the 1st AD's first Excalibur live-fire training mission on Fort Bliss. 'Courage and Command!'

## **214th Fires Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Leaders**

This spring, the *Leaders* Brigade deployed 128 Soldiers on 11 security force advisor teams (SFAT) consisting of senior personnel from across the brigade. Despite the depletion of the unit's senior leaders, the brigade maintained the ability to deploy with brigade level field training exercises (FTXs) and quality off post training. In addition, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion, redeployed an in lieu of infantry company-sized element of 141 Soldiers, who were in support of the largest detention facility in the Parwan province, providing a personal security detail (PSD) and managing entry control point (ECP) operations for international security assistance force (ISAF) Joint Command Headquarters. The 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, reorganized and trained for a 90-Soldier, artillery training team (ATT) mission to Afghanistan to train our partner nation's Field Artillery soldiers on the D30 howitzer. 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, took a unique training opportunity to deploy to Hulbert Field, Fla., to participate in Emerald Warrior with the 9th Special Operations Squadron where they demonstrated 'C-130 Hot Panel-Quick Strike Capability,' conducted static load training and fire mission processing with U.S. Air Force joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs). All ex-

ercises were expertly supported by 168 Brigade Support Battalion who pushed equipment to Fort Polk, La., in support of the security forces advisory team (SFAT) culminating training event; provided real world convoy support to Detachment 1, C Company, 2-149th General Services Battalion at Camp Gruber, Okla., and pushed a logistical slice of their battalion to Fort Chaffee, Ark., in support of 1-14 FA's firing battery's validation. The year concluded with the third annual "Daring Warrior" exercise with the Singapore Armed Forces and U.S. Air Force National Guard at Fort Sill.

The *Leaders* Brigade, always ready, always willing.

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

The 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, *Deep Attack*, 214th Fires Brigade, established itself as one of the most versatile units in the Field Artillery. Over the past year, 2-4 FA redeployed multiple batteries from Operation Iraqi Freedom/ Operation New Dawn (OIF/OND) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), deployed a battery to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., deployed senior leadership on security forces advisory teams (SFAT) to OEF, and conducted core competency skills training.

In August 2011, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, started redeploying radar sections from both Iraq and Afghanistan. In June 2012, the battery headquarters and target processing section redeployed from Afghanistan, where they performed command and control functions over Regional Command-South's target acquisition assets.

In September 2011, C Battery, 2-4 FA, deployed an infantry



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, fire rockets during a March 2012 training rotation to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 4th FA)

company-sized element of 141 Soldiers in support of NATO Rule of Law Forces-Afghanistan. They conducted base defense operations for the largest detention facility in the Parwan province, provided a personal security detail (PSD) for the Rule of Law Commander in Kabul, and managed entry control point (ECP) operations for international security assistance force (ISAF) Joint Command Headquarters. The battery built a reputation for excellence providing security for 7,000 Soldiers/contractors and 3,000 detainees, processing more than 250,000 personnel and 70,000 vehicles without incident, while conducting more than 280 mounted combat patrols.

In March 2012, A Battery, 2-4 FA deployed to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., for rotation 12-05, in support of 3rd Armor Division, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, provided reinforcing Fires to 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, and, participated in section training exercise (STX) lanes and force-on-force on operations where they provided devastating Fires in support of maneuver forces during various battlefield scenarios. In June 2012, the battery provided support to White Sands Missile Range, N.M., in support of TCM where they executed 4 x guided multiple launch rock-

ets (GMLRs) and 1 x Unitary Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMs) missions.

*Deep Attack* is fully prepared to answer the nation's call at any time.

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

Finishing section certifications in July 2011, the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, *Rock Hard*, 214th Fires Brigade, took to the field in August for the Operation Inferno, battalion field training exercise (FTX), conducting operations across Fort Sill, Okla., in spite of the triple digit temperatures. With the battalion delivering Fires, B Battery, 2-5 FA, used the exercise to wrap up its radar section training for deployment to Operation New Dawn.

By October, the *Rock Hard* Battalion had returned to the field, providing Fires for the Daring Warrior Exercise with the Singapore armed forces. During the week-long exercise, the battalion executed its portion of the exercise fire plan in conjunction with fellow artillerymen from Singapore. With the cancellation of the B Battery radar mission in November,



the battalion began the first of several deployment related reorganizations.

With reorganization complete, the battalion took to the field again to cap off 2011 with section certifications for the reorganized batteries. Returning from leave in January, the battalion received orders to prepare personnel for deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) on security force assistance teams (SFATs) and artillery training teams (ATTs) in the early spring. The battalion undertook its second reorganization to begin deployment training as quickly as possible while maintaining firing capability

By February, the second reorganization had been completed and the SFAT personnel mission deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, La., in order to train. At the same time, the battalion began training the ATT to meet the requirements of its mission, including the rebuilding of a D30 howitzer, with assistance from the Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., the Fort Sill Artillery Museum and the 168th Brigade Support Battalion. Throughout March and April, the battalion trained on its multiple missions.

By the first of June, the SFAT personnel had deployed to OEF and the battalion was again in the field supporting the ATT culminating training event. A well deserved block leave brought the summer to a close and saw the third reorganization this year as the ATT mission was relieved from its deployment to OEF.

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

The Soldiers of the *Steel Warrior* Battalion continue to stand ready to provide timely and accurate rocket and missile Fires in support of worldwide contingency operations. In February 2012, the battalion trained and deployed 39 Soldiers in support of security force assistance and advisory teams (SFAAT). The teams provided coaching, teaching and mentorship to Afghan security forces, improving host nation capability. In

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, fire rockets as part of the "Best by Test" competition at Fort Sill, Okla., in August 2012. (Photo by 2LT Jason D. Stogner, U.S. Army)



February, the battalion conducted the first of numerous successful live-fire training events, executing Artillery Tables I-VI, qualifying all HIMARS sections for live-fire operations.

In August, *Steel Warrior* Soldiers trained and qualified on all crew-served weapons to include: M240B, M2 .50CAL, and MK-19. Following crew-served range week, the battalion quickly transitioned to section qualification, executing a best by test and live-fire certification Table VI. *Assassin* Battery swept the best by test competition, winning top Launcher, top Fire Direction Center (FDC), and top Ammunition Section in the battalion.

From September through October 2012, the *Steel Warrior* Battalion trained on all METL related collective tasks during its annual off post training event at Fort Chaffee, Ark. The battalion convoyed 135 vehicles over 300 miles for a one-month training event. The battalion conducted live-fire ranges on all individual and crew-served weapons, and improvised explosive devices (IED) and convoy live-fire lanes. Off post training culminated with platoon live-fire STX lanes, qualifying all platoons up to Artillery Table XII.

The battalion continues to conduct METL focused training in preparation for future operations.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/1-14-FA/145701958783389>

## 168th Brigade Support Battalion, *Make It Happen*

In December 2012, the 214th Fires Brigade was tasked with providing the personnel to fill 11 security force advisor teams. The 168th Brigade Support Battalion, *Make It Happen*, 214th Fires Brigade, was ready to answer the call to support. Not only did the 168th provide several personnel to make up the teams, but played a key and essential role in the training for those deploying Soldiers. The Soldiers from 168th convoyed to Fort Polk, La., pushing essential equipment to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), Fort Polk, that provided the security force assistance teams (SFATs) with a logistical transparency that enabled the successful completion of the rotation; a move unprecedented for a unit from Fort Sill, Okla.

The 168th BSB rounded out the year with exercises at Camp Gruber, Okla., and Fort Chaffee, Ark. For two weeks in July, Soldiers of the 168th BSB provided real-world convoy support to Detachment 1, C Company, 2-149 General Services Aviation Battalion (GSAB) at Camp Gruber, Okla., to assist with that unit's Afghanistan deployment preparation. Detachment 1 provided MEDEVAC and cargo helicopter support for convoys in and around Camp Gruber. The 168th BSB utilized this preparation as a rehearsal for the support of 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery. During the fall, 1-14 FA deployed to Fort Chaffee, to validate its firing batteries for deployment. The Soldiers of 1-14 FA were able to complete their preparation for deployment due in part to the seamless logistical support provided by the 168th BSB.

During this last year, 168th BSB has flexed its logistical muscles. The *Make it Happen* Battalion has helped to sharpen the tip of the spear.



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery, *Big Deuce*, execute howitzer crew drills for a fire mission in support of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Okla., in September 2012. (Photo by SPC Amir Kurdy, U.S. Army)

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

The 428th Field Artillery Brigade, *Cornerstone*, establishes the building blocks for U.S. Army and Marine Corps Field Artillery men and women. The brigade trains and develops the technical-skill sets for our Advanced Individual Training trainees, and trains, mentors and develops leaders in the Basic and Advanced Officer courses to fight and win on today's battlefield.

This year, the brigade trained more than 9,000 Soldiers and Marines, and reviewed all programs of instruction to ensure focus on our artillery core competencies: delivering and integrating Fires with maneuver in full spectrum operations. Over the next year, the brigade will train more than 10,000 proficient, competent, confident, and adaptive Soldiers and leaders for Army and Marine Field Artillery units.

## **2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery Brigade, Big Deuce**

The mission of the 2nd Battalion 2nd Field Artillery, *Big*

*Deuce*, 428th Field Artillery Brigade, is without parallel – to deliver Field Artillery Fires and provide logistics to support the training of more than 1,500 artillerymen annually. The 2-2 FA fires more than 50,000 rounds each year in support of 13F Advance Individual Training (AIT), Marine Artillery Scout Course (MASOC) and the FA Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sill, Okla. Additionally, the battalion delivers approximately 80,000 artillery rounds and 100,000 small arms in support of training each year. The battalion also serves the Fort Sill salute unit, providing professional cannon salutes in support of major ceremonies on post.

Over the course of 2012, the *Big Deuce* Battalion racked up some impressive numbers executing its mission. Headquarters Service Battery conducted 630 logistic missions in support of the FA School and the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), hauling more than 75,000 artillery rounds and logging more than 12,600 road miles without incident. A Battery fired 21,049 rounds during 84 fire support requirements (FSRs) in support of approximately 1,000 BOLC-B students, 600 AIT 13F students, and 400 MASOC students. A Battery fired an additional 800 rounds during a field training exercise (FTX) in September, where the battery trained sweep/



zone missions and direct fire. This year, B Battery fired a total of 39,508 M1 rounds during 60 FSRs. B Battery was chosen to support the operational testing of the digitized M119A2, firing 12,072 rounds in support of the test. The battery also participated in the howitzer slingload phase of the testing, rigging and flying seven different configured loads with a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. As the designated salute battery, B Battery executed 17 firing salutes.

The *Big Deuce* Battalion remains focused on supporting the 428 FA BDE's mission of producing highly trained and adaptive Field Artillerymen. This unique mission allows the battalion to showcase the power, precision, and tradition of our time-honored branch. The *Big Deuce* Battalion sets the standard for howitzer and fire direction crew drill, ammunition delivery, and ceremonial salutes.

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

The 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, executes initial military training, professional military education to develop fit, competent, disciplined Field Artillery (FA) leaders of character to enable maneuver commanders to dominate in unified land operations.

Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) is adapting to reflect the modernization and growth of the FA. Students receive training and education on 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 (JFO) training, with many reporting to their unit as certified JFO lieutenants. Upon graduation, students are able to perform duties as a fire support officer, fire direction officer, and platoon leader in cannon or rocket units.

The FA Captain's Career Course has been updated using the Mid-grade Learning Continuum (MLC) and Common Core (CC) model, increasing FA tactical and technical instruction by 160 hours, increasing instructor contact hours, and increasing cultural instruction by 19 hours with common core instruction and Washita staff ride. The cadre focus on developing fit, competent, disciplined, positive, engaged, empowered Soldiers and Marines, who are team players that lead and live their core organization values, skilled in their craft and able to integrate and execute fire to enable maneuver commanders to dominate in unified land operations.

In FY12, our 131A Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) decreased from 33 to 30 weeks, reducing the instruction of firefinder maintenance. Due to the changes in the Army Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs), the cadre adapted the focus of 131As. The 131As are no longer directly responsible for any single system, but an entire platoon. The cadre now provides the training and education to WOBC students to become targeting experts.

The Warrant Officer Advanced Course is increasing from nine weeks to 12 weeks, facilitating the FA commandant's initiative for precision Fires. The cadre provides additional education and training to the WOAC students through a three-

week, three-block course featuring weaponeering, target coordinate mensuration and collateral damage estimation.

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

The 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery trains Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and deploying Soldiers to be Skill Level One qualified in Field Artillery core competencies to provide the Army with combat ready, Field Artillery Soldiers. The 1-78 FA trained 6,157 Soldiers in FY12 and projects to train 5,649 Soldiers in FY13. Annually, 1-78 FA fires more than 16,000 rounds and spends 238 days in the field in support of the seven 13-series AIT courses.

In FY12, 1-78 FA worked diligently with the Fires Center of Excellence Directorate of Training and Doctrine and the Deputy Commanding General for Initial Military Training (DCG-IMT) to revise the 13 series' Programs of Instruction (POIs). Specifically, Pocket-Sized Forward Entry Device (PFED) familiarization is now included in the newest 13F AIT POI and each POI reflects updates associated with new systems such as the M777 and AN/TPQ-50 LCMR. The 1-78 FA also ensures all fire support platforms are utilized during the week-long, end of course Teamwork Capstone Live Fire Exercise.

The technical and tactical skills of the Teamwork Battalion's NCOs were on display as 1-78 FA cadre provided subject matter expertise to cable television programs highlighting Field Artillery weapon systems. The 1-78 FA cadre demonstrated the capabilities of the M109A6 Paladin, M777, and M119 as part of the Discovery Channel's 'Top 10's' series and in support of the Military Channel's 'Triggers' series.

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

The 434th Field Artillery Brigade conducts reception operations and Basic Combat Training by integrating and transforming civilian volunteers into disciplined, motivated, and fit Soldiers to provide the Army with competent and confident warfighters, willing to live the Army Values. The 434th Field Artillery Brigade consists of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery; 95th AG Reception Battalion; 1st Battalion, 19th FA; 1st Battalion, 31st FA; 1st Battalion, 40th FA; 1st Battalion, 79th FA; and the Support Detachment.

In 2012, the brigade trained more than 17,000 Soldiers during 77 battery training cycles. Throughout this transformation of citizen to Soldier, our cadre of the Army's finest trainers and mentors executed rigorous instruction that emphasized basic warfighting skills and the Profession of Arms. Our program of instruction incorporates feedback from combat experienced officers and NCOs from across the Army, focusing on the most important basic skills required of today's Soldiers. The Army Values are interwoven throughout this training regimen in order to force Soldiers to internalize these principles as the most important part of their transformation from civilian to Soldier.

The 434th Field Artillery Brigade provides world-class training and Soldier support facilities and continues to improve training infrastructure. Significant capital improve-

ments in 2012 include the construction of two new consolidated dining facilities and continued training barracks upgrades. In 2013, we will begin construction of the Army's newest reception center, a chapel complex and family day facility. All of these projects will enable the 434th FA Brigade to continue to provide highly trained Soldiers to the Army.

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

The 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, *Gauntlets* receives Initial Entry Training (IET) Soldiers, conducts Basic Combat Training (BCT) in order to transform volunteers into Soldiers who demonstrate the requisite character, values and possess a warrior spirit; competent and confident in their warrior tasks and battle drills; who can successfully contribute to their first unit of assignment.

The battalion is organized into six training batteries, each with the mission to transform civilians into Soldiers. The battalion motto is 'All For One,' which is fitting considering the number and type of Soldiers who undergo Basic Combat Training here. We execute an average of 25 BCT cycles a year, training approximately 5,000 Soldiers annually, touching virtually every MOS in the Army.

On October 16, 2012, the battalion finished its first year in our new state of the art training facility, or 'Starship,' located at 6050 Rothwell, Fort Sill, Okla. We were the first battalion in the 434th Field Artillery Brigade to participate in the Training Barracks Upgrade Program (TBUP). This new facility has enabled our dynamic team of drill sergeants and cadre to showcase our Army's commitment to caring for its Soldiers. Regardless of the facilities we occupy or where we are physically located, the 'All For One' battalion stands ready to train our future force ensuring our Army remains the greatest fighting force in the world.

## **1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery**

The 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery consists of A through F Batteries. The battalion, as part of the 434th Field Artillery Brigade, conducts Basic Combat Training by transforming civilian volunteers into disciplined, motivated and fit Soldiers.

Throughout 2011-2012, the 'Peach Through Victory' battalion refined the execution of the new Basic Combat Training program of instruction, with renewed emphasis on back to basics focusing on standards and discipline. Utilizing feedback from combat-experienced officers and NCOs across the Army's broad spectrum of Military Occupational Specialties; the points of instruction (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 and resiliency training; the maintenance of situational awareness, 'Every Soldier a Sensor,' voice communication skills; and basic map reading and dismounted navigation skills. The Initial Entry Soldiers conduct an intensive basic and advanced rifle marksmanship series, firing more ammunition than before and simulating stressful combat-like conditions. The battalion

annually transforms more than 4,200 civilian volunteers into focused and disciplined Soldiers.

## **1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery, War Eagle**

The 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery conducts Basic Combat Training to transform volunteers into Soldiers that are disciplined, competent and confident in the essential warrior tasks and battle drills, understand and live the Army values, and are physically and mentally prepared to complete initial military training and contribute to their first unit of assignment. The battalion also has the responsibility of conducting the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Echo Mission IAW TR 140-3.

In 2012, the battalion's five organic batteries conducted the standardized Basic Combat Training program of instruction; training and graduating more than 4,000 Soldiers. Through its mobilized reserve battery, the battalion also partnered with six different Reserve battalions and more than 160 USAR drill sergeants and cadre, validating their readiness and training an additional 553 Initial Entry Training Soldiers. Through the course of the year, the Soldiers and cadre of 1-19 FA safely fired more than 3.7 million small-arms rounds and threw more than 12,000 hand grenades during hundreds of training events. This training was supervised and executed by a cadre of world-class drill sergeants drawn from 31 different military occupational specialties (MOSs).

In April 2012, 1-19 FA was named as the TRADOC nominee for the 2011 Exceptional Organizational Safety Award for the second consecutive year. The *War Eagle* Battalion accomplished its mission throughout 2012, setting the standard for all BCT battalions within the brigade and across the Army. Today, the battalion continues to build the next generation of America's Soldiers, taking regular citizens and turning them into competent and professional defenders of freedom.

## **1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, Always First!**

The 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery conducts gender integrated Basic Combat Training to transform volunteers into Soldiers who are disciplined, competent, and confident in the warrior tasks and battle drills, and who understand and live the Army values. Newly minted Soldiers leave physically and mentally prepared to succeed at Advanced Individual training (AIT) and contribute to their first unit of assignment. The battalion is composed of six Basic Combat Training batteries capable of training up to 240 volunteers per cycle. Regular Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard volunteers begin their transformation from civilian to Soldier as members of the *Always First!* Battalion.

Reactivated in fiscal year (FY) 2011 to relieve the reserve component Training Requirements Analysis Process (TRAP) mission, 1-31 FA has trained nearly 8,000 Soldiers in the past two years. In addition to fostering excellence in Initial Entry Training Soldiers, members of the battalion have introduced the basic training experience to the Alan Jackson Summer 2012 concert tour during a visit to Fort Sill, and hosted 'Leadership Oklahoma Class XXVI,' a state service organization of



Soldiers from 1st Section, B Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry, fire the M777A2 in support of 2nd Cavalry Regiment's Troop live-fire exercises in Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, in June 2012. (Photo courtesy of FA SQDN, 2nd CAV)

Oklahoma's top business, industry, education, and government professionals.

In June 2012, B Battery, 1-31 FA earned honors for the TRADOC Supply Excellence Award after successfully competing through installation inspections, advancing to represent TRADOC at the All Army level. The 'Proud Americans,' of the *Always First!* Battalion continue to find innovative ways to improve training, sustain the resilient families that support our drill sergeants and cadre, and improve our profession while training the next greatest generation of Soldiers who volunteer to serve this great nation.

## **Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry, Rose Barracks, Germany, Artillery Hell**

Over the past year, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry has intrepidly laid the groundwork necessary to employ massing Fires into an inherently complex and uncertain battlefield. The squadron has transitioned from counterinsurgency operations (COIN) into combined arms maneuver,

while continuing to strengthen the skills that allow the batteries to succeed on the battlefield. As the new fight unfolds, the focus of the squadron remains two-fold. The new battlefield represents a non-linear design built on those principles that defined previous force-on-force operations, while incorporating those lessons garnered from the past 10-years of war as the new fight transitions into combined arms maneuver and wide area security.

In late fall 2011, the squadron began initial preparations for the certification and qualification process, the cornerstone of the measure of combat readiness and effectiveness. The unit was re-unified after providing outstanding support to the maneuver squadrons during the Afghan deployment. While the batteries were attached, they executed lethal and non-lethal Fires, as well as performing additional missions such as ground maneuver forces. The squadron's primary focus following redeployment was to initiate the certification and qualification process in order to ensure the batteries were able to competently meet the demands of the combined arms maneuver fight.

In order to meet those demands, the squadron implemented rigorous training over the past year. Training was multi-

faceted and included an analog and digital approach. Core competencies in communications, emplacement drills, survivability moves, and technical and tactical fire direction were the spearhead of operations within the squadron in order to strengthen the gun and fire direction center (FDC) sections. The new training model also adopted additional requirements in order to address new mission sets. Additional requirements included air assault qualifications integral to the certification process. The end state met the intent of proper preparation necessary to effectively combine artillery Fires with the maneuver squadron's concept of operations in order to achieve victory during a combined arms maneuver fight.

The primary steps in training began at the section level and continuously built on the core gun and fire direction sections. In October 2011, each battery rigorously trained in the Grafenwoehr Training Area, as well as the German Maneuver Rights Area (MRA), beginning with gunners and leaders testing, and then advancing quickly through artillery table certifications and qualifications. By April 2012, each battery was conducting unified maneuvers to complete advanced table certifications in order to prepare for support of the 's troop live-fire exercises.

Communications also played an important role in mission training. Two aspects included competency using organic digital artillery systems and analog mission processing. The digital sustainment operations played an integral role both at the individual and squadron levels. The squadron ensured the newly-fielded Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) was properly used both for fire mission processing and the clearance of Fires across the maneuver squadrons and directly to the firing platoons. Digital sustainment also played heavily on the gun line. Soldiers from different artillery piece backgrounds mastered the rapid operation of the M777A2, a fully digital piece. The secondary aspect of communications training focused on analog communication methods. Within the FDCs, manual gunnery and voice fire commands were emphasized and executed to the same standard as digital missions. At the squadron level, maps and acetate played the primary role in mission planning, allowing the squadron to operate quickly in the event digital system are inoperable.

As part of the broader training, the squadron conducted extensive training with the fire support teams (FIST) from across the . In January 2012, the FISTs from each squadron, were attached to Field Artillery Squadron for fire support certifications, extensive call-for-fire simulation training, as well as acting as observers for the howitzer certifications. The time within Field Artillery Squadron allowed the FISTs to focus solely on their fire support mission, as well as providing them with key mentorship from the senior field artillery officers and NCOs within the .

Training in logistics and maintenance transitioned from forward operating base (FOB) to an expansive maneuver battlefield focus. The squadron met the challenges of resupplying and conducting field maintenance during a constantly changing and ever-moving battlefield. As part of the Dragoon Artillery Readiness Test (DART), batteries conducted refuel

on the move (ROM), as well as operating through a rearm, refuel, resupply, and survey point (R3SP).

The past year has been a rewarding year for Field Artillery Squadron. The artillery skills set have been refined to a high degree necessary to execute the combined arms maneuver fight. The batteries are capable of executing lethal Fires in support of their maneuver counterparts, as well as directed missions including air assault and wide area security. The past decade of experiences has also prepared the Squadron to meet the irregular threat of the evolving battlefield. The Field Artillery Squadron has continued to deliver outstanding lethal and non-lethal effects with the attention to detail that have made the Field Artillery so effective. 'Artillery Hell'

## **3rd Armored Cavalry, Fort Hood, Texas**

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Fires Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry was activated on Nov. 16, 2011; its foundation was the three separate Paladin howitzer batteries of the 3rd Armored Cavalry. From this foundation, Fires Squadron began its conversion to become the Army's newest M777A2 Fires Squadron. This would not be just conversion of equipment, but a new way to think, organize, and fight. The squadron has fielded all its major components of the Field Artillery systems: Q36/37 radars, the M1200 Knight, squadron tactical operations center systems, and we have begun fielding the M777A2.

## **First Army, Fort Dix, New Jersey 72nd Field Artillery Brigade, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey**

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The 72nd Field Artillery Brigade is assigned to First Army Division East and performs duties as an Operations Brigade at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

The 72nd FA plans, synchronizes, and validates pre-deployment training, from notification of sourcing through deployment, for U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard Deployment Expeditionary Force (DEF) units, and demobilizes them upon redeployment.

The 72nd FA specializes in mobilizing finance detachments, multi-role bridge companies, public affairs detachments, ordnance companies (ammunition handlers and heavy equipment mechanics), quartermaster companies, heavy water craft transportation units, adjutant general (postal and casualty liaison) units, military police law and order units, civil affairs and psychological operations units, theater aviation maintenance sustainment groups, chaplain detachments, information operations units, military history detachments, combat camera, and other units.

The brigade's subordinate battalions, the 2-315 FA and the 3-314 FA, exercise mission command of mobilizing/demobilizing units and assess training conducted by First Army Training Support brigades and battalions.

Last year, the 72nd FA trained more than 16,000 joint war-





riors at JB MDL and sent trainer/mentors to support several exercises conducted by other First Army brigades. Members of the 72nd FA deployed to Afghanistan as part of three different First Army training mentor teams (TMT) and as part of one security force assistance advisor team (SFA AT).

Looking into the future, the 72nd FA's main effort remains the mobilization and demobilization of DEF warriors. Shaping efforts include providing personnel to deploying First Army formations and providing trainer/mentors to train and mentor contingency expeditionary force (CEF) units.

## 402nd Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, *Rough Riders*

During fiscal year 2012, the 402nd Field Artillery Brigade mobilized or demobilized 276 units, 59 of which were battalion-level or higher, en route to or returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait or Guantanamo Bay.

Several standout *Rough Rider* Soldiers earned accolades in various competitions, sending them travelling throughout the United States. LTC Rodney Fischer, commander of the 2-356 Logistics Support Battalion (LSBn), was named Reserve Officer of the Year for the Military Officer Association of America (MOAA). CPT Ryan La Voie, HHD commander of 2-356 LSBn, won the Bradley Leadership Award (Reserve and National Guard Component Officer Category) for the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) competition. SFC Roberto Gonzalez, also of HHD, 2-356 LSBn, was an honored recipient of the Bradley Leadership Award (Guard and Reserve Component Enlisted category) for AUSA. SPC Julie Dao from 3-363d Training Support Battalion in Los Alamitos, Calif., travelled to multiple states where she competed and won

MG Perry L. Wiggins (right), First Army Division West commander and Division West CSM Ronald Orosz (left) with SPC Julie Dao of the 363rd Training Support Battalion, who represented the 402nd Field Artillery Brigade to compete and win the Soldier of the Year Competition for First Army headquarters. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Army)



the Soldier of the Year Competition for Division West, then for First Army, and then competed at FORSCOM.

On July 24, 2012, the 402nd closed one chapter and began a new one with a change of command ceremony on Noel Field at Fort Bliss, during which COL Kirk H. Nilsson (SF) relinquished command to COL Carolyn S. Birchfield (AD). Soldiers and Families of the 402nd FA BDE bid farewell and best wishes to the Nilsson family as they begin their new assignment in Belgium. We enthusiastically welcome COL Birchfield to the brigade. "*Rough Riders...Saddle up!*"

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

The 479th Field Artillery Brigade is a multi-component organization composed of four active component (AC) and five U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) training support battalions under the command of First Army Division West and augmented by more than 100 mobilized Reserve Component (RC) Soldiers. The 479th Field Artillery Brigade serves as the training support brigade at Fort Hood's Mobilization Training Center, providing post-mobilization training to Deploying Expeditionary Force (DEF) Army Reserve and Army National Guard units preparing to deploy. The brigade specializes in small arms weapon qualification, combatives, culture and language training, counter-IED, base security-entry control point operations, mounted gunnery and convoy live-fire operations, and driver training. During fiscal year (FY) 2012, the brigade supported the successful mobilization of 5,993 Soldiers in 64 units and the demobilization of 7,822 Soldiers in 73 units.

In March, the 479th Field Artillery Brigade assumed medical (casualty care, medical evacuation and medical logistics) and military intelligence mission sets as First Army reorganized in support of changing theater priorities. In July, the brigade picked up medical detainee and transportation mission sets and the Replacement Warrior Training Program. In October, the 479th assumed responsibility for training signal units.

The 479th Field Artillery Brigade's internal training focus this year was the partnering of our USAR battalions with our AC battalions. Each USAR battalion provided multiple observer controller/trainer teams to augment the capabilities of their AC partner during periods of increased mobilization load, ensuring every DEF unit received the best training prior to deploying into harm's way. "*On Target - Strike Hard!*"

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/479th-Field-Artillery-Brigade/109402449083944>

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

Returning from a recent deployment from Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in late 2010, the 1st Battlefield Coordination Detachment began 2011 with a focus on renewing the unit's ability to accomplish our primary mission. Throughout 2011-

2012, 1st BCD performed its' role as liaison for ARSOUTH HQ, our designated ARFOR (Army Forces), in the 612th Combined/Joint Air and Space Operations Center (C/JAOC); providing synchronization of air and ground operations within the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility (AOR). This year, 1st BCD was able participation in several significant joint and coalition training exercises where we successfully developed and validated critical airspace management and air-ground integration tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) and battle drills between U.S., coalition, and partnered-nation training audiences. These exercises included not only our annual PANAMAX 2011/2012 and Coalition Virtual Flag 11-4/12-4 exercises, but several first-time training opportunities where 1st BCD worked with organizations like the United States Air Force (USAF) Weapons School, 505th CTS, 705th CTS, and U.S. III Corps staff to develop real solutions to the most difficult problems we face on a unified land operational battlefield. Many of these solutions were captured in 2011-2012 Center for Army Lessons Learned articles, which can help establish clear training and certification models for the entire force, as well as attempt to break the OEF/OIF paradigms we have established over the past 10-years of conflict. In 2011-2012, we also continued to support training and mission deployment qualifications for more than 20 designated 12th USAF Training, AMC, and Fighter Squadrons with assigned Ground Liaison/Reconnaissance Detachments (GLDs/RLDs). While accomplishing our primary mission, we also answered calls to support Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) requirements including providing 24/7, 365 day RLD support to remotely-piloted aircraft (RPA) squadrons operating in OEF, as well as providing multiple GLDs for deployment in support of 4th BCD's Al Udeid mission requirements.

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

The recent announcement of the 'Pivot to the Pacific' is both a conceptual and real change in mindset and future force structure for all U.S. forces in the Pacific region. The 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) has been in a middling position during much of the debate and change, witnessing both the Army and Air Force shifts that are resultant from this period.

The 5th BCD remains a pivotal node in the integration of air power for the U.S. Army forces in the Pacific, and serves as liaison from the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) headquarters. This year has also changed the liaison relationship to the Air Force, as the 13th AF headquarters cased its colors permanently in September 2012. Going forward, air power integration at the Air Operations Center (AOC) will occur just one level below the Pacific Air Force headquarters.

As a senior-leader centric organization, the 5th BCD liaises across all warfighting functions within the air tasking cycle and in support of the Integrated Air-Missile Defense posture. The Air Defense section recently participated alongside the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in Operation

Tropic Thunder; provided updates to the joint force air component commander and area air defense commander of the real-time data and sensitive information relative to this event. The airlift section synchronized Army requirements with airlift assets to support both a command-post emergency deployment readiness exercise and a partnered mission to send combined training assets to New Zealand.

This past year has proved a rewarding experience for the unit and its personnel. The 5th BCD received the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award, MAJ Josh Severs received the Army's Safety Guardian award for his actions in saving the life of a civilian, and two personnel were awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal for their duty during Operation Tomodachi, the 2011 tsunami disaster relief mission in Japan.

In support of the USARPAC Theater Security Cooperation Program (TSCP), the 5th BCD has built capacity across 15 partner nations, and provided peer expertise in five theater-level exercises. Air-ground integration has improved with each exercise or partner site visit, and the USARPAC commander has placed TSCP as a priority effort across the force.

As the executive agent for the Pacific Ground Liaison Detachment Program, the 5th BCD has quickly moved forward on initiatives to place ground liaison detachments (GLD) at the right time/place across our joint and allied-partner force. The Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise brought opportunity to place two GLD personnel on the historic U.S.S. Nimitz, an aircraft carrier that was an exercise participant and afterward sailed out for its last deployment. The GLDs also paved the way for the Army within Exercise Red Flag-Alaska, helping to shape the ground scenarios for the white cell and developing liaison standards for exercise participants across all U.S. and allied nation Air Forces. The GLDs have provided pilot briefs for U.S. and partner nations within these events, improving both our internal warfighting capability, as well as our partner capacity.

The 5th BCD remains trained, ready, and integrated; prepared to synchronize air power, informing our Army and air components across U.S. and partner nations, with subject-

Soldiers from the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment pose for a unit photo. (Photo courtesy of 5th BCD)





matter expertise across all warfighting functions. We are inside this 'Pivot', and are well-postured for the future Army and air power requirements of the Pacific region. One Team! United in Victory!

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

It's been a productive and transformative year here at Ramstein, Germany. The 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) moved into the brand new 603rd Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) facility, which for the first time housed the entire detachment under a single roof.

This year, four Team 19 Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as ground liaison officers with U.S. Air Force and Navy squadrons returning safely after 12 months. Additionally, Team 19 deployed Soldiers forward to conduct operational training with the 4th BCD (FWD). Each day, the 19th BCD liaises and advocates for its two theater

Army forces (ARFOR), United States Army Europe (USA-REUR), and United States Army Africa (USARAF).

As the 19th BCD expanded its section, collective, and joint training with the 603rd AOC Wolfhounds, we participated in a series of floor exercises with the 603rd AOC to test functionality and perfect battle drills. The most significant of these 'Floorex'es' was combined with a mobile training team visit from the Army joint support team who helped Team 19 with fundamentals, exercise design and systems architecture improvements.

The 19th BCD participated in a host of multinational conferences. The 19th BCD's plans section championed the revival of the ASCA (Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities) program building upon live Fires last fiscal year. This year efforts continue with the German artillery passing firing data from Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) to Artillerie-Daten-Lage und Einsatz-Rechnerverbund (ADLER).

In the coming year, Team 19 aims to grow our relationships with our two supported ARFOR HQs supporting exercises, digital interface and battle rhythm events in two geographic combatant command area of responsibilities. Team 19! ★★

Soldiers of the 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment pose with the 603rd Air and Space Operations Center for a unit photo. (Photo courtesy of 19th BCD)





# US Marine Corps Active and Marine Forces Reserve Field Artillery Units



A Marine from 10th Marine Regiment fires a 120 mm towed rifled mortar system, known as the Expeditionary Fire Support System. (Photo courtesy of 10th Marine Regiment)

## 10TH Marine Artillery Regiment, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Located at Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune, N.C., 10th Marine Regiment is one of the oldest and proudest of the Marine regiments. The regiment's primary focus this last year was on training, equipping and deploying units in support of overseas contingency operations (OCO), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Landing Force Sixth Fleet (LF6F), Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) that executed training in Africa and combat operations in OEF, and the Unit Deploy-

ment Program (UDP). The 10th Marine Regiment provides fire support to the 2nd Marine Division, employing the M777A2 towed 155 mm howitzer and the M327 towed 120 mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS). Concurrently, the regiment continued to source global manning requirements that fulfilled individual augments (IA) and joint manning document (JMD) billets. Training highlights include a Marine Expeditionary Force exercise, two regimental, seven battalion, and 28 battery-level live-fire exercises, two tactical air control party (TACP) and two naval surface fire support (NSFS) shoots, two regimental digital fire support training exercises, joint Fires observer (JFO) and joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) primer courses, and JTAC live and simulation training evolutions.

In June, 10th Marine Regiment officially decommissioned 5th Battalion. The ceremony was conducted before an audience of Marines, both past and present, and included remarks from a World War II veteran who accompanied that very same battalion to Iwo Jima.

Future operations include several regimental digital fire support training (DFST) exercises, culminating in October with Exercise Rolling Thunder and 1-13th at Fort Bragg, N.C.

### 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

The 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, supported the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) Exercise Bold Alligator 12, during January and February 2012. Bold Alligator constituted the largest amphibious exercise over the past 10 years and provided Marines and Sailors the opportunity to prepare for the Marine Corps' amphibious mission. The exercise's capstone event was a MEB-sized amphibious landing, where Headquarters Battery and Battery A, debarked via landing craft in support of the maneuver element.

Concurrent operations included Battery C supporting 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines' tactical air control party (TACP) exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C. Over the course of the two-week exercise, Battery C supported multiple platoon and company level attacks and provided fire support during sustained operations.

The battalion then deployed to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in support of exercises Enhanced Mojave Viper 5-12 and 6-12, providing indirect Fires in support of three Marine infantry battalions. Throughout the exercise, the batteries fired more than 3,300 projectiles while supporting numerous platoon, company and battalion-level attacks. Additionally, the batteries integrated closely with air support, suppressing and marking targets in support of the maneuvering infantry and armored units.

Future operations include Battery B's deployment for train-



A Cannoneer from 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, fires a round from a M777A2 howitzer at Camp Lejeune, N.C. (Photo courtesy of 1st Bn., 10th Marines)

ing (DFT) exercise to Marine Corps Air Installation, Yuma, Ariz., in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course. The remaining batteries will deploy to Fort Bragg, N.C., to participate in the semi-annual, 10th Marine Regiment's exercise *Rolling Thunder*, all while Battery A prepares for their upcoming deployment to Okinawa, Japan.

## **2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina**

The 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, started the year with a deployment for training exercise (DFT) to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms (MCAGCC 29 Palms), Calif., to participate in Exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper. The exercise was designed to prepare the battalion for the upcoming deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 12.1-12.2.

After successful completion, the battalion redeployed to Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune, and spent a short time refining tactics, techniques and procedures, completing final predeployment requirements, and enjoying a short leave period.

The advanced party departed in early March 2012, with the remaining Marines departing through the end of April. Once in country, the battalion focused on a two-fold mission: providing fire support within Helmand province and a provisional security mission. In addition to the M777 cannons of the battalion, T Battery, 5-11 (HIMMARS) was attached to the battalion to provide additional precision firepower. The battalion was instrumental in providing timely and accurate Fires throughout the Marines' battle space. Additionally, the battalion was the security force headquarters for the Leatherneck base complex, the home of Regional Command Southwest. In this capacity, 2-10 conducted external security and COIN operations to secure the critical command node. The battalion redeployed to the United States in mid-November.

## **3rd Battalion, 10th Marines Regiment, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina**

The 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment continued its storied tradition as one of the most combat-tested and deployed battalions in Marine Corps Artillery. In addition to supporting the constant requirements for individual augments for

staff, advisor and combat roles in Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror, the battalion has maintained its proficiency for battery and battalion deployments in an artillery fire support role.

To maintain that proficiency, the battalion has participated in numerous live-fire training exercises to enhance M777A2 howitzer and 120 mm Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS) employment capabilities. A great deal of 3rd Battalion's focus has been on refining the ability to conduct split battery and split caliber operations to increase flexibility and options for the maneuver commander. Monthly internal and external MV-22 and CH-53 lifts of M777A2 and the EFSS have improved the battalion's ability to get to the fight.

In addition to conducting battalion and battery-level sustainment training, the battalion provided artillery and mortar live-fire in support for multiple tactical air control party (TACP) exercises and fire support coordination exercises (FSCEX) to include EFSS capability exercises.

The 3rd Battalion participated in numerous community relations activities including New York, Boston, Norfolk, and Baltimore Fleet Weeks.

Despite the high pace of deployments and the demand for flexibility from the detachments and independent actions, the battalion remains dedicated to the goal of preparing the firing batteries to continue their excellence in fire support and combat even after 2013 deactivation of 3-10 Headquarters Battery.

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

In August 2011, Headquarters Battery, 11th Marine Regiment, participated in the 11th Marines Summer FIREX exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., followed quickly in October by Exercise Steel Knight, in which Headquarters Battery acted as Regimental Combat Team 11, in support of 1st Marine Division's training objectives. February 2012, again saw the battery in the field in support of 11th Marine Regiment's Winter FIREX 2012 at Camp Pendleton and DESFIREX 2012 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., which saw Headquarters Battery controlling and supporting regimental Fires throughout the robust and extensive training areas in Twentynine Palms. The Civil Affairs Detachment provided teams in support of Operation Enduring Freedom throughout the fall 2011 and spring 2012. These teams proved vital to civil engagement and reconstruction efforts throughout Helmand province, Afghanistan. The Civil Affairs Detachment spearheaded Theater Security Cooperation deployments throughout South and Central America from 2011 into 2012, conducting assessments in Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador, the Caribbean Islands, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guyana.

Additionally, Headquarters Battery has deployed well-trained fire support teams and joint terminal attack controllers (JTAC) to eight infantry battalions deploying in support



A detachment from Headquarters Battery, 11th Marine Regiment, pose with local nationals while deployed to Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of 11th Marine Regiment)

of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, as well as teams for four Marine Expeditionary Units.

## **1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, California, Cobra**

The 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, located at Camp Pendleton, Calif., is currently composed of Batteries A, B, C, I 3-12, and F 2-11. The battalion provides direct support Fires for 1st Marine Regiment. The battalion provides batteries capable of firing the M777A2 155 mm howitzer and the M327 120 mm mortar, along with fire support teams for Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs). The 1-11 has fielded three batteries with the M327 to support three deploying MEUs while participating in more than eight division and lower exercises.

Battery A redeployed in December 2011, after providing Fires in support of 1st Marine Division in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Battery A, in Yuma, Ariz., supported Marine aviation at Exercise Scorpion Fires. In June, they supported Exercise Galvanic Kiwi, a joint artillery and mortar training exercise with New Zealand artillery.

Battery B attached to the 15th MEU in February. After conducting pre-deployment training with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, they will deploy in the fall.

Battery C participated in training at Camp Pendleton, as well as the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course in March at Yuma, Ariz. This summer, a cannon platoon was attached to a HIMARS battery to form a composite battery that deployed in support of OEF.

Battery I fielded the M327 EFSS during March, and then deployed with the 31st MEU in late spring to Okinawa.

Battery F, 2-11th, supported Operation Shatrujeet at Camp Pendleton, Calif. They provided indirect and direct Fires in support of the Indian Army. The battalion continues to perform across the spectrum of artillery missions.

## **2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, California, Patriot**

Headquarters, E and G Batteries, 2nd Battalion, 11th Ma-



A Marine from 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, carries an Excalibur round for a M777A2 howitzer. (Photo courtesy of 2nd Bn., 11th Marine Regiment)

rine Regiment deployed to Afghanistan in October 2011. Headquarters Battery began their deployment as the artillery battalion headquarters for 2nd Marine Division Forward. Within 17 days of assuming their primary mission, the battalion headquarters moved to Camp Leatherneck to reorganize and assume a provisional infantry and security force mission. As the primary maneuver force for Task Force Belleau Wood, the battalion headquarters led combined operations with British, Jordanian, Bahraini, and Afghan forces.

E Battery provided artillery support to Regimental Combat Team 5 in the Marjah area of Helmand province and later conducted security force operations at two major Forward Operating Bases (FOB) Delaram and Dwyer.

The battalion also provided a combat support advisor team (CSAT) to the Afghan Combat Support Kandak. The CSAT was instrumental in improving the Afghan artillery battery's ability to fire 122 mm D-30 howitzers in support of fellow Afghan forces.

G Battery was assigned an artillery mission and provisional infantry mission near the Kajaki Dam in northern Helmand province, where it became first U.S. artillery battery to fire the M982 Excalibur projectile in combat achieving two target hits on an enemy position at a range of 36 kilometers.

K Battery, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) attached to battalion Landing Team 3-1 in November 2011. They embarked four M777A2 howitzers and four 120 mm Expeditionary Fires Support Systems (EFSS) and employed both weapon systems in support of Kuwaiti and Saudi forces during Exercises Eager Mace and Nautical Union.

## **3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, California, *Thunder***

The 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, continues to shoot, move, and communicate at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Twentynine Palms

remains the Marine Corps' premier training center and gateway for all Marine units deploying in support of combat operations. The battalion continues to hone its skills in its core mission essential tasks by firing in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper and other named exercises. Additionally, 3rd Battalion has also deployed more than 40 individual augments and supported five infantry battalions and 7th Marine Regiment with fire support teams in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Battery L deployed to Okinawa, Japan, in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Spring Patrol. During this deployment, the Marines participated in operations such as Cobra Gold 2012 in Thailand, training Royal Thai Marines, as well as soldiers of the Royal Thai Army. Battery L also participated in the Korea Marine Exercise Program 2012, training sections from the Republic of Korea Marines, building cultural ties between the two countries. In August, the battalion participated in Exercise Khaan Quest 2012, in support of U.S. Pacific Command. Personnel from Battery I deployed to Mongolia to work in conjunction with international forces from Mongolia, Korea, Cambodia, and India, as well as other representatives from countries including China, and Vietnam in a United Nations' peace keeping exercise. Late 2012, 3rd Battalion will begin providing forces in support of the Unit Deployment Program on Okinawa, Japan. The 3rd Battalion remains prepared and ready to support operations across the globe.

## **5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, California, *Steel Rain***

The 5th Battalion, 11th Marines continues to provide High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) batteries in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion continues to provide a precision, long-range lethal fire support capability to the Marine Air Ground Task Force Commander. In addition, the battalion has been refining its techniques and procedures in order to broaden the scope of HIMARS integration with ground forces to include C-130 deployability, extended range command and control, distributed/disaggregated operations, and assessing the capability to employ HIMARS aboard amphibious shipping.

## **12th Marine Artillery Regiment, Okinawa, Japan**

### **1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Camp Hansen, Okinawa Japan, *Spartans***

The Marines and Sailors of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, *Spartans*, completed their pre-deployment training program as they participated in the Enhanced Mojave Viper program at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) in early 2011. In May 2011, the battalion deployed three cannon and one headquarters batteries to Helmand province, Afghanistan, until November 2011. The battalion's mission, composition and disposition were all uniquely tailored to conduct a wide array of counter insurgency and support op-



Marines from 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire a missile from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). (Photo courtesy of 11th Marine Regiment)

erations, to include: provisional infantry, target acquisition, general support with cannon and rocket Fires, and partnered training and mentoring of the 4th Combat Support Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Afghan National Army Corps. Additionally, the battalion maintained a fourth firing battery at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in support of 3rd Marine Regiment.

While deployed as the only Marine artillery battalion in support of 2nd Marine Division (Forward), the battalion occupied 25 locations across 300 kilometers of the division's battle space and fired 1,100 rounds of cannon projectiles (to include 162 XM 982 Excalibur rounds) and 45 rockets in support of numerous named operations and targets of opportunity. Further, the battalion mentored the 4th Kandak as they executed a live-fire artillery exercise which further facilitated their ability to conduct independent combat operations. After seven months, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines returned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii and began post-deployment training and the resumption of the Unit Deployment Program to Okinawa, Japan.

### **3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, *Bulldogs***

The Marines of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, *Bulldogs*, continued providing an artillery presence in the Pacific Command area of responsibility AOR throughout 2011. Much of this year was spent re-establishing the Unit Deployment Program (UDP) and the Artillery Relocation Training Program (ARTP). The battalion has maintained operations with two firing batteries on-hand throughout five UDP rotations. Units that participated were B Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, R Battery, 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, K Battery 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, G

Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment and H Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment.

The 3-12th deployed off-island for training on five occasions to mainland Japan and South Korea. In February, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, successfully completed ARTP 10-4 at Hijudai, Japan, and in March the battalion completed bi-lateral training with the 22nd Republic of Korea Marine Corps Artillery Battalion in South Korea as part of the 3rd Artillery Group for Kitp/Dragon Fire Exercise 11-2. In June, the battalion deployed to East Fuji Maneuver Area for ARTP 11-1 and in addition to the slated UDP batteries, K Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit was attached to the battalion, allowing for command and control of three firing batteries conducting distributed/platoon operations. The battalion deployed to North Fuji Maneuver Area in November for ARTP 11-3 in conjunction with 12th Marine Regiment for Fire Dragon 12-1.

The 3-12 gained significant ground this year on the modernization of the ARTP through frequent negotiations with U.S. Forces, Japan and government of Japan representatives to better meet training needs for the current operating environment. In the fall 2012, the battalion will resume its full end strength of three UDP firing batteries, enhancing the battalion's ability to meet mission and bolstering operational presence in the area of responsibility.

### **Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, *Too Long!***

The United States Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Okla., commanded by Colonel Douglas P. Thomas, is home to all artillery training in the Marine Corps. With 120 permanent party Marines, the Marine Detachment (MarDet) teaches 11 Marine specific courses and collaborates with the Army on eight 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 MarDet is organized into several branches to accomplish its mission and tasks. They include: the Marine Corps Cannoneer School, the Target Acquisition Branch, Marine Corps Fires Branch, Officer Instruction Branch, and a Marine Logistics section. All of these branches are supported and supervised by the detachment headquarters element comprised of a special staff, S1, S3, S4, an Academics Department, and the Marine Battery.

The Marine Corps Cannoneer School is responsible for entry-level and advanced training on the M777A2 howitzer, the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), and the Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS), a towed 120 mm rifled mortar.

The Target Acquisition Branch is organized into four sec-



# US Marine Corps Active and Marine Forces Reserve Field Artillery Units



Marines from the Marine Artillery Detachment fire a M777A2 at Fort Sill, Okla. (Photo courtesy of Marine Artillery Detachment)

tions. The Radar Section provides entry-level and advanced training for Q-46B and Q-49 radars, as well as radar theory and target processing techniques. The Artillery Electronics Maintenance section provides entry-level training for intermediate level repairs of all artillery electronics. The Sensor Support Section instructs entry-level and advanced skills in acoustics, artillery meteorology and survey. The Marine Scout Observer Section provides entry-level training in scout observer procedures, advanced instruction in battalion and regimental fire support coordination, and instructor and operator certification for the Marine Corps Target Mensuration Only Program. All sections provide some level of instruction to the Marine Warrant Officer Follow-on Course, Captains Career Course, Marine Artillery Officer Basic Course, and the Army Warrant Officer Basic Course.

The Officer Instruction Branch (OIB) 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 Marine, Army, and international officers to be artillerymen in a combined setting.

The Logistics Section provides instruction to entry-level officers and career progression courses for staff non-commissioned officers (SNCOs) and officers in the areas of combat service support, material management, supply, fiscal, arms, ammunition and explosives (AA&E), publications, maintenance UMIPPs, and Global Combat Support System (GCSS).

Finally, the Marine Battery consists of the battery commander, battery first sergeant, battery gunnery sergeant and four platoon sergeants, who supervise, mentor and assist in the training and administration of all entry-level enlisted Marines. The battery is responsible for executing the Marines

Awaiting Training Program in support of new entry-level enlisted Marines that report to Fort Sill for Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training.

The year 2012 proved, yet again, to be a busy and demanding time for the MarDet. The respective branches trained a total of 1,417 officers and enlisted Marines in their entry-level and career progression courses.

In fiscal year 2011, the decision was made for the MarDet to establish its own resident Joint Fires Observer (JFO) course at Fort Sill, comprised of one uniformed officer in charge (OIC) and four contract instructors. The course has proven to be a successful addition to the entry-level training received by 802 graduates. To date, the JFO program has trained 121 JFOs through five resident courses and two mobile training teams.

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 the Expeditionary Warfare School through an Occupational Field Expansion Course (EWS OFEC) and a two-week long, simulated and live-fire support coordination center (FSCC) training package. This training included U.S. Army Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), an Army Paladin battalion, and Marine close-air support aircraft. The MarDet also supported numerous fire support and sensor equipment tests, artillery and fire support working/advisory groups to include the Joint Fire Support Executive Steering Committee. The MarDet also participated in updates to numerous Marine Corps and joint doctrinal publications.

As the MarDet looks forward to the year ahead, it will continue to focus on making artillerymen and providing timely support to the operating forces. The dedication and professionalism of the instructors and staff of the MarDet will en-

sure that its training produces knowledgeable and professional artillerymen who can operate in any climate 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. *At the Ready* units are spread across the continental United States, from Fort Dix, N.J., to Seal Beach, Calif., and multiple locations in between. The regiment consists of two M777A2 cannon battalions, one High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) 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 which provides command, control, and coordination of force artillery delivered Fires. To prepare for this mission, the regiment's primary focus is to man, train and equip deploying units in support of overseas contingencies, theatre-level warfare and theatre security cooperation missions, such as African Lion in Morocco, and Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Key Resolve in Korea. The secondary objective is to reconstitute returning forces and hone our core competencies as fire supporters. We serve to defend The Constitution of the United States and the American way, and for that purpose alone, 14th Marines remains *At the Ready!*

### **2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment**

The 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines, has the following firing units: Rocket Battery D in El Paso, Texas, Rocket Battery F in Oklahoma City, Okla., and Rocket Battery K in Huntsville, Ala. 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. During their annual training in June 2012, 2nd Battalion came together at Fort Sill, Okla., with all three rocket batteries and a Headquarters Battery to conduct operations as a complete HIMARS battalion for the first time. The tactics, techniques, and procedures underwent refinement and were subsequently used to update the battalion tactical standard operating procedures (SOP), which has been implemented into all exercises 2/14 participates in, namely, Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Terminal Fury.

### **3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment**

The Marines of 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment have continued their focus on conventional artillery training in order to hone their fire support capabilities and maintain combat readiness. Always ready for a potential activation and deployment, they are prepared to deliver timely and accurate indirect fire support. The battalion is comprised of four firing batteries, each equipped with six M777A2 howitzers and a Headquarters Battery, all of which are located in the Eastern United States. In October 2011, Battery H mobi-

lized in support of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Unit Deployment Program in Okinawa, Japan. Throughout the seven-month deployment, the battery's focus was to refine split-battery operations while building a mutually beneficial bilateral training partnership with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force. In April 2012, Battery M and Headquarters Battery participated in African Lion 2012 in Morocco, which is AFRICOM's largest exercise and is designed to promote interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures through bilateral operations and training. This culminated with a multinational combined arms exercise. Battery M operated as two separate and distinct firing elements, while focusing on their mission essential tasks and forging bilateral relationships with their Moroccan partners. In June 2012, Batteries G, I, and HQ 3/14 executed 'Operation Heavy Metal' at Joint Base Maguire, Fort Dix, Lakehurst, (JBMDL) N.J., together with elements of 4th Marine Logistics Group, detachments from both 4th and 2nd Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), as well as HMLA-773. Underpinned by an emphasis on logistical operations, the battalion conducted countless digital fire missions from sensor-to-shooter as HMLA-773 conducted forward air controller (Airborne) training, which resulted in the first combined arms tactical air control party (TACP) live firing exercise at JBMDL in known recent history.

### **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, Battery N, and Battery O are located in Seal Beach, Calif., Battery P is located in Spokane, Wash., and Battery Q is located in Aurora, Colo., Battery O is currently activated and deployed to Okinawa, for seven months in support of the Unit Deployment Program. In July, Battery N participated in Javelin Thrust, a large scale exercise involving 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, conducted at Marine Corps Air Ground Training Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. The exercise consisted of two weeks of integrated training with 25th Marine Regiment while providing fire support for 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines and 2nd Tank Battalion. Additionally, the battalion liaison section formed the backbone of 25th Marines' fire support coordination center and provided battlefield coordination and planning of Fires in support of the regiment. 5/14 recently completed two weeks of annual training with the battalion headquarters, Battery P, and Battery Q at Camp Pendleton, Calif., a unique feat due to the distant locations of Batteries P and Q. Future focus will continue to be on the training and combat readiness of the Marines and Sailors of the battalion to prepare them for activation and deployment, both as a unit and as individual augmentees. Additionally, the battalion will continue to foster the habitual supporting relationship with the 25th Marine Regiment, and emphasize the Operational Reserve Concept by training and integrating with the 11th Marine Regiment on a regular basis. ★★



# US Army National Guard

## Air Defense Artillery Units

### 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, U.S. Army Florida National Guard

Since July 2011, the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade has continued service in support of Operations Noble Eagle (ONE) and Enduring Freedom (OEF), become experts on set-up of the Air and Missile Defense Planning and Control System (AMDPCS), transitioned to the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) and supported a variety of other critical Air Defense missions.

In recognition of their continued service defending the nation's capital from air and missile attack (AMD) in support of Operation Noble Eagle, three units within the brigade received a piece of the Pentagon wall that crumbled during the 9/11 attacks. Each unit held a dedication ceremony in September 2011, to honor their ongoing service to the safety of the National Capital Region (NCR), this country and in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

### 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, Florida U.S. Army National Guard

In October, a detachment of 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Soldiers returned home from a year-long Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) mission in Afghanistan. The 1-265th also welcomed the rest of the battalion from a year-long deployment to the National Capital Region (NCR), where the bat-

SSG Larry McDonald of 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, reunites with his family after a year-long rapid aerostat initial deployment (RAID) tour in Afghanistan. (Photo by CPT Theresa DiPinto, U.S. Army).



talion manned ground-to-air weapon systems and radars, defending our nation's capital.

### 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, Florida U.S. Army National Guard

The 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade spent most of the year preparing to mobilize again to the National Capital Region (NCR) in late 2012. The battalion focused most of its resources on the critical tasks of Avenger/MANPADS and Sentinel crew certifications, Army warrior task training and Soldier readiness processing while still maintaining training and readiness in the event of a statewide emergency.

### Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Florida U.S. Army National Guard

In August 2011, 164th's Task Force Knight, the National Capital Region (NCR) Air and Missile Defense (NCRAMD) Task Force, returned from the NCR - Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS) mission in Washington, D.C. The unit provided critical Air Defense of the nation's pillars of democracy with air defense weapons systems, sensors, and visual warning systems. This marked the fourth D.C. rotation for the 164th's command and control (C2) with the brigade preparing to resume control of the NCR AMD Task Force mission in early 2013.

In January, the brigade headquarters deployed in support of Yama Sakura 61: an annual, bi-lateral training exercise in Japan. With its C2 element at Camp Itami, Japan, and a support section at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., the exercise was an opportunity for the brigade's headquarters to fully engage and manage assigned air defense assets in support of large-scale, full spectrum operations, while also performing split-based operations.

During annual training (AT), the headquarters conducted a complete setup and operation of its new \$16.5 million AMDPCS tent system. The Air and Missile Defense Planning and Control System (AMDPCS) afforded the brigade the opportunity to exercise its ability to command and control its various air defense assets using air picture data provided via Sentinel radars, and corresponding fire protection via the Avenger/MANPADS weapon systems.

The exercise challenged the brigade's headquarters to erect and secure the tent, configure power and data lines, and establish connectivity between the numerous AMDPCS systems. A culminating exercise during the final week of AT confirmed each element's ability to communicate during critical, mobile, and tactical air defense missions. ★★



# US Army National Guard Field Artillery Units

## 28th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Pennsylvania National Guard 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Florida U.S. Army National Guard

In December 2010, 2nd Battalion 116th Field Artillery, 53rd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division, successfully redeployed from Kuwait, in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Returning in time for the holidays, Soldiers immediately began the reintegration process with their community, Families and employers. In 2011, the battalion faced the challenge of reestablishing its Field Artillery proficiency during the reset year in the midst of several leadership changes within the battalion. During 2012, the battalion shifted focus to updating their approach to FA training to better employ the M119A2s; the battalion was fielded the M119A2 howitzer to replace the M102 in 2009, while engulfed in extensive pre-mobilization training.

As the battalion prepares for annual training, the emphasis has been placed on the execution of Artillery Tables I through VI, and preparing for the battalion's first live-fire exercise since the fielding of the M119A2. Additionally, the battalion looks to boost morale and build unit cohesion while competing for the 'Top Gun' and continuing many *Redleg* traditions. Finally, with the 2012 presidential election in full swing, the battalion will play an integral role in the security of critical infrastructure during the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla. The 2-116th FA remains true to its motto – 'Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum'; 'Never Retreat!'

## 29th Infantry Division, Virginia, U.S Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina U.S. Army National Guard, *Axehandles*

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, *Axehandles*, 30th Brigade Combat Team, 29th Infantry Division, returned from Iraq in 2010, and were charged with assuming North Carolina's Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) mission. In summer 2011, the battalion completed a successful RRF validation at the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point (MOTSU) in North Carolina, and assumed the RRF mission on July 1, 2011.

In 2012, the *Axehandle* Battalion maintained their RRF readiness while concurrently transitioning back to their core Field



A crew from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, North Carolina U.S. Army National Guard, conduct live-fire operations during annual training at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 120th FA)

Artillery competency. Despite having countless Soldiers who had not live-fired since AIT due to multiple deployments and a year of RRF training, the *Axehandles* conducted a successful crew certification and qualification during annual training at Fort Bragg, N.C., firing more than 500 rounds.

Fire supporters from the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, who are permanently attached to the battalion based on North Carolina's stationing plan, completed their M7 BFIST and M1200 Armored Knight fielding during 2012. Due to outstanding NCO leadership and experience, fire support teams completed the grueling 15-month Bradley new equipment training, culminating with crew certification at Fort Pickett, Va. COLT teams completed the M1200 Armored Knight fielding, while simultaneously leading the battalion through its live-fire.

The 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery is poised to continue strengthening crew proficiency in 2013, and move on to platoon and battery collective training. The battalion is expected to conduct platoon and battery firing exercises while continuing to provide direct support to the 30th HBCT and train for future operations.

## 34th Infantry Division, Iowa U.S. Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Wisconsin U.S. Army National Guard, *Red Fox*

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, *Red Fox*, continued training on M119A2 Howitzers, culminating



Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Wisconsin U.S. Army National Guard, prepare to fire a M777A2 howitzer. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 120th FA)

in platoon qualification. A Battery in Marshfield, Wis., B Battery in Stevens Point, Wis., and HHB in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., with support from G Company, 132 BSB in Mosinee, Wis., as the battalion's Forward Support Company built on last year's momentum.

The *Red Fox* Battalion participated in the 32nd IBCT's Full Spectrum Exercise (digital warfighter) in May 2012. During this exercise, the battalion staff implemented full usage of Command Post of the Future (CPOF), Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS-A), Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade-and-Below (FBCB2), and Movement Tracking System (MTS) computer systems. It was the first time they were used in concert in order to streamline the digital information collection, processing, and dissemination. The warfighter culminated in two events of BCT wide continuous combat operations.

The *Red Fox* Battalion gun sections certified on Artillery Howitzer Tables I, III, IV, V, and VI, while the fire direction center (FDC) sections sustained digital fire mission processing from the hill to the gun line. Section level tasks were the focus in training year (TY) 2011; TY12's objectives are to challenge the battalion with Platoon Tables VII – XII. Platoons will focus on reconnaissance, selection, and occupation of position (RSOP), survivability moves, and emergency fire missions.

The battalion has not certified platoons in over seven years due to non standard mission deployments. Training will be executed during annual training from Aug. 2-18, 2012, and will keep the battalion on track for its Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) requirements.

## **1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery, 116th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Idaho U.S. Army National Guard, *Scorpions***

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery Regiment, 116th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, headquartered in Pocatello, Idaho, recently returned from deployment in Operation New Dawn. The battalion conducted a wide variety of missions, scattered throughout Iraq, with marked distinction and service.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery executed the rear area operation center (RAOC) mission in Baghdad, Iraq, coordinating International Zone security operations and incident response with the 56th IA BDE, U.S. Embassy-Baghdad, and USD-Center. Security operations included access control; also, Forward Operating Base Prosperity, and Union III mayoral responsibilities.

A Battery was assigned to Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force - Arabian Peninsula. During this time the battery was spread out from Basra to Tikrit, supporting special operations locations. The unit was involved in base defense operations, primarily with a secondary role of mission support, providing drivers, maintenance support for vehicles/weapons systems, and gunners.

B Battery was assigned the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) providing force protection personnel to UN compounds in Baghdad; a mobile personal security detachment to the UN SRSG – Iraq and UN Primary staff, also, International Zone quick reaction force (QRF) for incident response.

G Company converted into a convoy security company, providing three convoy escort teams and an on-order, personnel security detachment (PSD) in support of tactical convoy operations in USD-North.

The battalion is currently in reset phase of Army Force Generation and on track to execute FAT VI during Annual Training 2012. The 1-148th FA is always ready to go, 'Whenever, Wherever!'

## **1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Iowa U.S. Army National Guard**

The Iowa Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery (105 mm), completed its reset year of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) and Field Artillery training since deploying with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Division (IBCT) to Afghanistan, in 2010-2011, by live-firing more than 1,700 rounds at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minn., during annual training in June.

The 1-194th Field Artillery (FA) has fully integrated the

M119A2, completing its second annual training period on the howitzer fielded in 2009.

The battalion began the training year in reset, completing mandatory post mobilization events such as Reserve Soldier Readiness Processing (RSRP) and Yellow Ribbon events. The goal for the year was to raise personnel readiness, re-red on FA core competencies, and certify/qualify as many sections as possible on Table V & VI. The shortened training year, to focus on Field Artillery, was the greatest hurdle, complicated by the fact the entire battalion was task organized throughout the 2-34 IBCT during the deployment. January was the first time in 18 months units were training together as a whole. The Soldiers and leaders within the battalion stepped up to the challenge with a high level of motivation getting back on the guns and putting rounds down range. Howitzer sections moved through FA table certifications quickly and were Table V certified in May prior to annual training. While at annual training, all sections easily became Table VI qualified and began training at the platoon level. The Fort Sill Fires Center of Excellence Reset MTT assisted the battalion through the re-redding process in May and during annual training. The MTT

identified the battalion as the second best overall unit they had seen since the MTT was formed, and the only unit that was completely digital from battalion fire direction center Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) to gun display unit-replacement (GDU-R).

The battalion ended the year in position to continue to platoon-level certification and qualification during the training year 2013, moving into train/ready year one on the ARFORGEN cycle. Personnel readiness is continually improving and will allow fully manned crews setting up the battalion for success.

## **35th Infantry Division, Kansas U.S. Army National Guard**

### **1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Georgia U.S. Army National Guard**

The 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, *Hickory's Howitzers*, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 35th Infantry

Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery fire a 105 mm rocket assisted projectile (RAP). This was the first RAP fired at Fort Stewart, Ga., by active duty or reserve components. (Photo taken by LTC John Gentry, U.S. Army)





Division, completed a six-year journey to 're-red' the battalion by culminating the 48th IBCTs Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) Cycle train-ready-year-two, with Artillery Table XII certification at Camp Ripley, Minn.

Following the fielding of its own M119A2 howitzers in August 2011, the 1-118th began quarterly live-fire training events at Fort Stewart, Ga., in November 2011, with Table VI Section Certification. December through February training included military decision making process (MDMP) training and a BCT fire support digital exercise, re-establishing the sensor-to-shooter link. March and May 2012 included Table VII-IX training, culminating with the 1-118th firing 105 mm rocket-assisted projectiles (RAP) as a first fired at Fort Stewart by active or reserve component. This historic event required extensive prior coordination with Fort Stewart's Range Control, 3rd Infantry Division, Fires Cell and 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, who provided a Q36 radar section. The successful firing of this special munition demonstrated the technical and tactical competence of the 1-118th during the 're-red' training continuum.

In August, the battalion deployed to Camp Ripley, Minn., where for the first time since 2005, the 1-118th conducted Table XII certification. As part of the certification process the 1-118th enlisted its Alignment for Training Fires Brigade (142nd FiB) to provide external observer's and mission timers for platoon operations. The 1-118th will enter train-ready-year-three of their ARFORGEN cycle fully 'red' and ready to provide responsive Fires in support of the 48th IBCT commander.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/1st-Battalion-118th-Field-Artillery-Regiment/109671772386920?ref=hl>

## **36th Infantry Division, Texas U.S. Army National Guard**

### **1st Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, Texas U.S. Army National Guard, Thunder Battalion**

The Soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and officers of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, Thunder Battalion, were set to begin Army Forces Generation (ARFORGEN) Train Year One in October 2010.

The significance of this statement is beguiling. Rewind to August 2008, when the battalion had just finished transformation from heavy (155 mm SP) to light (105 mm), received notification of an impending deployment to Iraq in support of OIF, broke ground on a new facility more than 150 miles away from their current home station, and were just learning about this thing called ARFORGEN.

Fast forward to January 2011, the battalion had still only received eight of its 16 M119A2s, was reorganized into two line batteries (a headquarters battery and a forward support company), and had just finished a successful ARFORGEN reset year. The battalion also had in hand the newly printed Training Circular 3-09.8, or as it is affectionately known in these parts, the bible...according to the King.

With the battalion focused on individual and squad level

training with their new equipment, the leaders quickly recognized a deficit of tacit knowledge on the new systems, and shortly realized that while the tables and measures of success have not changed, the order of battle has. Training must be done in accordance with the ARFORGEN cycle. And while each year is a part of the whole five-year cycle; the whole is not simply a sum of its parts. To skip a year or change the order significantly degrades the integrity of the building blocks, interdependent processes, and opportunities for assessment, which are byproducts of the ARFORGEN cycle.

Training and individual readiness must build late in the training cycle. This is significant for the National Guard, who has Soldiers only two days out of each month. Time is the most precious resource, and fortunately ARFORGEN accounts for this, but only when annual training is used as more than just the apex of training culmination for the past year. Leaders must lean forward, build on the confidences that success during AT can afford, and use it as a platform from which to dive into the next level of training. Thus, during AT our individual training springs to crew training (TR1), crew to platoon (TR2), platoon to battery (TR3), and eventually, at the end of the ARFORGEN cycle, battery to battalion (available).

As we apply nuances of ARFORGEN, the overarching concept prevails; however, ARFORGEN offers significantly more opportunity for success in its totality and not merely a five-year timeline.

## **40th Infantry Division, California U.S. Army National Guard**

### **1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, 70th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, California U.S. Army National Guard**

The 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 40th Infantry Division, came off a demanding training schedule over the past year and immediately started preparing a firing platoon to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The battalion conducted consolidated fire support teams (FIST) training for the 79th IBCT in the 1st and 2nd quarters of FY12, and executed the first combined arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX), on record, with all the mortar platoons from the brigade. In the 3rd quarter, the battalion deployed to the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif., and successfully completed a demanding decisive action operation scenario as part of NTC Rotation 12-07. Following the rotation, the battalion fired an inactive duty training (IDT) record of 1,412 rounds in one muster unit training assembly (MUTA-7) weekend at Camp Roberts Maneuver Training Center, Calif. In FY13, the battalion is preparing to send one firing platoon to Afghanistan as part of the 79th IBCT security force assist and advise team (SFAAT) mission. This will be the first artillery unit from California to deploy to theater with howitzers, and it may be the first time the regiment has fired in combat since the Korean War.



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery scan the horizon within Paladins as the weather breaks to reveal a rainbow. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 146th FA)

## **2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team, Washington U.S. Army National Guard, *Action Front***

The *Redlegs* of 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 81st Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 40th Infantry Division had an exciting and challenging year in 2012. Most notably, the *Action Front* Battalion is under new leadership with a renewed commitment for training on our core task: Shoot!

The battalion completed annual training (AT) at the Yakima Training Center in Washington this summer. Highlights from AT include: joint training with Air National Guard (NG) JTACs on the hill, fire missions initiated and conducted by the brigade tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (TUAV) employing live video feeds at the brigade tactical operations center, the firing of emergency missions (hip-shoots), and participation in a brigade command post exercise. Additional accomplishments include radar support, both Q36 and Q37, for live-fire events supporting the Oregon National Guard. The radar section was busy this year, as they also supported the California National Guard at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. The training relationships built will pave the way for future combined training.

Recruiting events have taken center stage this year as our Paladins were on display for two National Football League

games and a Major League Soccer match in Seattle. These events have helped to strengthen our recognition within and relationship with the community. *Action Front*.

## **2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon U.S. Army National Guard, *Jungleer***

The 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon, U.S. Army National Guard, with Headquarters in Forest Grove, Ore., is the direct support, Field Artillery (FA) battalion for the 41st IBCT. The battalion, equipped with the M119A2 towed howitzer, A Battery located in Portland, Ore., and B Battery in McMinnville, Ore. HHB and Service Battery (G FAFSC, 141 BSB) are also located in Forest Grove, Ore.

In July, the 2nd Battalion conducted Annual Training (AT) 2012 at Yakima Training Center, Wash. Highlights of this year's AT include a five-day live-fire exercise of more than 2,400 rounds, as well as crew-served weapons ranges, a hand grenade range, a battalion digital command post exercise, and the Combat Lifesaver Course.

Throughout training year 2012 (TY12), 2-218th FA has conducted several live-fire exercises, as well as B Battery serving as the decontamination element of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Electronic Enhanced Response Force





Package (CERFP) civil support mission. Additionally, the Service Battery food service section, won the state level Connelly Competition for Excellence in Food Service, and participated in the regional Connelly Competition during AT. During the training year, target acquisition Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, trained with Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery, Washington Army Reserve National Guard, on their AN/TPQ-36 Weapon Locating Radar (WLR). Interstate cooperation was necessary as the 2-218 FA's Q-36 was transferred to a deploying unit in early 2002, and has yet to be returned. This AT provided the first opportunity for these Soldiers to train with a WLR during a live-fire exercise period in more than 10 years.

B Battery, the governor's own honor battery, fired cannon salutes at several events including the recent inauguration in Salem, Ore.; and A Battery continued its tradition of providing artillery percussion for the Oregon Symphony's performance of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" at Waterfront Park in Portland, Ore.

The 2-218 FA traces its history to the Portland Light Battery of the Oregon State Militia in 1866, and has served in the Mexican Punitive Expedition, World Wars I and II, and members of the battalion have served in several deployments in both theaters of the Global War on Terrorism. Most recently, the battalion received the Meritorious Unit Citation for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009-2010, continuing to live up to its motto of 'Per Angusta Ad Augusta', or 'Through Difficulties to Things of Honor.'

## **42nd Infantry Division, New York U.S. Army National Guard**

### **3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey U.S. Army National Guard**

The New Jersey Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 42nd Infantry Division, completed its first full year of Field Artillery training, since deploying with the 50th IBCT to Iraq in 2008, by live-firing more than 2,000 rounds at Fort Drum, N.Y., during collective training in August.

The Soldiers of the 3-112th FA completed the M119A2 howitzer New Equipment Training at Camp Grayling, Mich., and has fully transformed to a 2x8 M119A2 howitzer battalion in 2011.

The battalion began the year with section certification and qualification, building on the previous year's new equipment training (NET). Most Soldiers were new to the M119A2, and repetition of crew drills was an early focus. The battalion soon moved on to platoon-level training, and made tremendous progress prior to their movement to Fort Drum for annual training (AT). The battalion performed superbly during AT. All four firing platoons completed section certification and qualification for the first time in nearly a decade, as the battalion fired high explosive (HE), hexachloroethane (HC) smoke,

illumination, infrared illumination, white phosphorous (WP), and rocket assisted projectiles for the first time as a 105 towed unit. One highlight was a 5:30 a.m. time-on-target (TOT), waking the brigade headquarters to let them know they had a direct support Field Artillery battalion again. Meanwhile, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and G-250 Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) delivered all necessary support to the battalion, to include meteorological (MET) data, survey and logistical support, while the staff completed a Standard Integrated Command Post Exercise. The battalion also provided defense support to civil authorities (DSCA) to support the State of New Jersey during Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sandy.

The battalion ended the year in position to achieve battery-level certification and qualification during the 50th IBCT, combat training center (CTC) rotation in Training Year 2013.

## **1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New York U.S. Army National Guard, Washington Grays**

The 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, *Washington Grays*, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 42nd Infantry Division, conducted rigorous training in preparation for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This training included a successful rotation to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., where they were assigned as the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) counter-fire headquarters and provided Fires in support of unified land operations. Following redeployment from the National Training Center (NTC) the brigade was refocused on deployments in support of operations in Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

Due to the change in mission, force requirements drastically changed and the battalion was removed from the deployment. However, a significant number of Soldiers from the battalion did volunteer for the deployment as backfills to other brigade units, completed post mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and deployed. These Soldiers are currently deployed to Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Bahrain. They are conducting missions, such as security forces, route clearance, base closure, medical support, sustainment and fire support.

The remainder of the battalion continued to train strenuously on unified land operations Mission Essential Task List (METL) tasks in order to maintain proficiency on critical artillery tasks. The firing batteries conducted disciplined training on the Field Artillery tables culminating in a successful section certification and air assault artillery raid live-fire conducted at Fort Drum, N.Y. Headquarters Battery maintained proficiency on establishing the mission command center and certification of the meteorological, fire direction, and survey sections. The forward support company fielded the forward repair system, containerized kitchen, and conducted sustainment lanes based training.

The battalion stands 'Ready and Faithful.' Find us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/216324836071/>



The 45th Fires Brigade S2 cell battletracks friendly forces throughout their area of operation during annual training at Fort Chaffee, Ark. (Photo courtesy of 45th FiB)

## **45TH Fires Brigade, Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard**

### **Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard**

During training year 2012, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 45th Fires Brigade pursued a training plan to aggressively prepare its staff and the brigade as it approaches the 'available year' in the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle. HHB assumed the joint task force (JTF) responsibilities for the Oklahoma Army National Guard's reaction force. This allowed the state of Oklahoma to maintain a Homeland Defense Headquarters capable of deploying up to 500 personnel within a short period of time. After assuming this responsibility, HHB participated as the JTF Headquarters in Operation Sooner Response, a simulated national disaster designed to test the state's emergency response capabilities.

In addition to this training, HHB also conducted a thorough annual training plan in order to further develop its core competency as a force Field Artillery headquarters. HHB was successful in controlling Fires for both its organic and aligned-for-training units and for the execution of more than 1,450 rounds by the 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment, and 72 rockets by 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery Regiment.

HHB 45th Fires Brigade is an active participant in community events in Mustang, Okla., and continues to strive to foster a strong community relationship.

### **271st Brigade Support Battalion, Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard**

The 271st Brigade Support Battalion conducted Annual Training 2012 at Fort Chaffee, Ark., supporting the 45th Fires Brigade and one aligned-for-training (AFT) unit from Missouri Army National Guard, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment. The 271st BSB fully employed

the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) system and implemented TACSOP procedures for the first time in a brigade driven exercise. HHC's field feeding section set new records in providing meals to Soldiers in the entire 45th Fires Brigade. A Company conducted convoy missions supporting the 45th Fires Brigade with potable water purified using the Lightweight Water Purification System (LWPS) and Tactical Water Purification System (TWPS) to include continuous Class V (Ammunition) support for weapon range operations. B Company, 271st BSB, set up a field maintenance shop and conducted numerous wrecker support missions, scheduled services, repairs and vehicle maintenance while at Fort Chaffee, Ark. Following annual training on July 14, 2012, LTC Ricky Kimmel assumed command of 271st BSB from LTC Jason Henry.

### **1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard**

The 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment began the year with its focus to integrate the future capabilities of our current warfighter functions and responsibilities with the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH). This shelter supports our Command Post of the Future (CPOF) giving the unit more effective communication and understanding of events on the battlefield from the warfighter on the ground to the commander. Establishing a communication link through digital and voice assets with HHB Brigade at the Mustang Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) was completed for the first time in June 2011.

The second half 2011 was the continuation of individual/section level training proficiency, Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH)/CPOF training, and the culminating event in September 2011, the live-fire exercise (LFX), where we certified the battalion fire direction center.

In October 2011, C Battery held their realignment ceremony. Members from C Battery moved into new positions in A and B Batteries and the battalion reorganized according to current Army doctrine. Instead of three firing batteries of six launchers each, the battalion will have two firing batteries with eight launchers each. The launchers in the battalion were upgraded with the new increased crew protection armor during February and March 2012.

In April 2012, the battalion conducted annual training at Fort Chaffee, Ark., to conduct Field Artillery proficiency training in accordance with Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) year three. The battalion conducted platoon, battery, battalion and brigade collective training, culminating in a live-fire event where the battalion massed Fires with other elements of the brigade.

### **1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, Missouri U.S. Army National Guard, Truman's Own**

The 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment, *Truman's Own*, 45th Fires Brigade, Missouri U.S. Army National Guard, conducted state emergency duty, from June 2 through August 2012. The battalion's mission included flood support for Op-



eration Northern Tide in northwest Missouri. Support missions included levee monitoring, filling 66,754 sandbags, air lifting operations, checkpoint operations, roving patrols, and placing water pumps.

*Truman's Own* performed Annual Training 2012 at Fort Chaffee, Ark., as their first major extensive exercise with the M777A2 howitzers under the 45th FiB as the commanding element. While at Fort Chaffee, the 129th FA executed fire missions, survivability moves, and support operations. By the end of training, the 129th FA fired more than 1,400 rounds that ranged from high explosive, improved smoke, white phosphorus, and infrared illumination. Additional training included convoy operations, crew-served weapons qualification, and Advanced Battle Command Systems (ABCS) systems training.

The next significant event for the 129th FA is the national level exercise, *Vigilant Guard*, in November 2012. This exercise is to prepare the National Guard in the event of a signifi-

cant earthquake occurring in the New Madrid fault line. For this exercise, the 129th FA will conduct joint reception, staging, onward movement and integration (JRSOI) for units processing into Missouri in support of natural disaster response. The unit will then conduct out-processing of these units to return to home station after the exercise is complete.

## **65th Fires Brigade, Utah U.S. Army National Guard, *America's Thunder***

Under the command of COL Loren S. Fuller and the senior direction of CSM Gregg J. Ludlow, the 65th Fires Brigade (FiB) has once again recorded a very busy year. 2012 proved to be the most educational year for the brigade. In San Diego, Calif., the brigade continued to improve their joint-Fires capabilities by executing the Fleet Synthetic Joint Training (FST-J) exercise, conducted with units from the U.S. Navy, Marines, Air Force, and the Australian navy. The men and women of the 65 FiB also took on the III Corps Warfighter in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

It has been years since the 65 FiB has participated in a formal warfighter exercise. At the III Corps Warfighter in June 2012, the 65 FiB made their I Corps Artillery forefathers proud. The Soldiers of the 65 FiB integrated new systems to the modern day battlefield, and lead the way as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for the 28th Infantry Division. Armed with world class fire power the 65 FiB provides, the 28th Infantry Division was able to complete their mission and validate themselves, as well as III Corps.

With the 65 FiB tackling warfighters such as this, each section needs to be experts of their field and their equipment. Internally, the S2 section's Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS), the Fire Control's Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS), the S4's Battle Command Sustainment Support System (BCS3), and the S3's Command Post of the Future (CPoF) computers were able to share data to provide the commander an accurate dashboard of the battlefield situation. The 65 FiB has entered into a dynamic era where all sections working together can accurately paint the picture of the battle in a timely manner.

The 65 FiB also continued to build on its long-lasting relationship with the U.S. Navy. The 65th was once again a large player in the Navy's FST-J exercise. The brigade participated in four of these Navy joint exercises in 2012. During these training events, 65th Fires Brigade Soldiers combined efforts with the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force to simulate coordinated war conditions using advanced battle command systems. These systems, such as the Naval Fire Control System (NFCS) and AFATDS, allows for a unique opportunity to integrate elements of air coordination, air space clearance, land clearance, targeting, and Naval gun fire in a totally virtual environment. These joint exercises allow the brigade to link the AFATDS system with the NFCS to provide naval gun-fire support. The interaction required between joint players and their automation systems in an FST-J has prepared the brigade for future missions requiring joint coordination.

The 65 FiB also took part in one of the largest training

Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery digging in the M777A2's spade. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 129th FA)



events the state of Utah has ever seen. Operation ShakeOut was designed to validate Utah Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Emergency Operations Plan, and the Utah National Guard. Operation ShakeOut tested our ability to support the state of Utah in a catastrophic earthquake scenario.

The 65 FiB took Operation Shake Out head on, and was eager to show the state of Utah what the brigade could do. The 65 FiB provided a large command and control cell to provide civil relief in order to mitigate human suffering, minimize property loss and restore basic necessities. Operation ShakeOut tested our ability to mobilize and deploy our communications assets and establish a command and control package in support of state requests for assistance.

## **1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, Utah U.S. Army National Guard, Big Red**

The 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment, 65th Fires Brigade, had a momentous training year. It entered the year conducting customary battalion certifications and safety tests leading into a platoon and battery certification, live-fire exercise in February, and battalion certification in March, concluding with another overseas deployment training (ODT) mission at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC), Hohenfels, Germany.

The 1-145th FA, along with the 214th Forward Support Company, returned once again to South Korea in March 2012, after their last visit in 1950-1955. The battalion's training from October 2011-February 2012 focused on Mission Essential Task List (METL) tasks, in preparation to deploy and conduct training missions in and around the same areas as their artillery forefathers. Commanded by LTC Adam Robinson and CSM Ryan Josie, the battalion returned to support the defensive posture of South Korea, conducting missions with 628th FA and C/2nd Republic of Korea (ROK) Division. The opportunity provided a once in a life time experience to conduct

First rounds downrange for 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery during Foal Eagle Exercise with Republic of Korean forces. (Photo by MAJ Erick Wiedmeier, U.S. Army)



time on target missions with a ROK battery, an experience that rarely, if ever, happens between U.S. and ROK forces today.

Fiscal year 2013 brings the battalion into its 'ready year.' This year we will curtail our training to focus on the individual Soldier. Emphasizing warrior tasks and battle drills, culminating in a pre-mobilization training assessment element (PTAE) evaluated Certification Exercise (CERTEX) in March 2013. The battalion will then adjust its attention to revolve around individual and section-level artillery tasks for the remainder of the year. Command emphasis will be placed on Soldier readiness; highlighting medical readiness, Non-Commissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) and Mission Occupational Specialty Qualification (MOSQ).

The 1-145 FA stands ready wherever and for whatever mission is required. 'BIG RED.'

## **2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Utah U.S. Army National Guard**

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment, 65th Fires Brigade, deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn in June 2011. The battalion was assigned as a security force (SECFOR) battalion for the 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard. After a year of pre-mobilization training and six weeks of mobilization training at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center (CAJMTC), Ind., the battalion began movement to Iraq, in August 2011.

The battalion was assigned to several different areas of the Iraqi Joint Operational Area (IJOA) from Mosul to Basra. A and C Batteries were combined into one task force supporting Special Operations Command (SOCOM). B Battery was assigned the personnel security detail (PSD) for Victory Base Complex (VBC) Baghdad, Iraq, and the International Zone. They were later reassigned to support base defense and quick reaction forces for VBC in preparation for the withdrawal of forces from VBC. B Battery provided one platoon with four MRAPs as security for the long convoy out of VBC to Kuwait. The 213th Forward Support Company was assigned to the 149th MEB, base defense operations center (BDOC). The company was in charge of the area defense operations center (ADOC) for East Liberty Life Support Area (LSA). They conducted counter indirect-fire mission support with dismounted and mounted patrols in and around VBC. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB) was tasked to several different missions on VBC. Several individual augmentees were assigned to mayor cells that prepared the hand receipt of the LSA's to the government of Iraq. HHB Soldiers also stood up a deployment and redeployment operations cell that helped move thousands of Department of Defense (DoD) and civilian contractors out of the IJOA in support of the directive to clear IJOA before Jan. 1, 2012.

The battalion redeployed starting November 2011, and continued through the end of December 2011, just in time for Christmas.

The battalion is refocusing its mission after the Yellow Rib-



Soldiers from 4th Platoon Personal Security Detail, Task Force A/C, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, pose for a picture after conducting reenlistment ceremonies. (Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 222nd FA)

bon Program and is working toward training and executing once again as artillerymen. The battalion is preparing and training for the changing Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE), and will learn to operate with 12 Paladins, as well as a reduced force structure.

The battalion is currently in the reset phase of Army Force Generation and continues to prepare for future federal and state operations.

## **115th Fires Brigade, Wyoming U.S. Army National Guard**

Training Year (TY) 2012 has been very significant for the 115th Fires Brigade (FiB). The entire brigade, including subordinate organic battalions and our aligned-for-training (AFT) battalions, completed train-ready-year-one (TR1) in our current training cycle. During TR1, the 115th FiB focused its efforts on section-level training with an emphasis on core Field Artillery competencies.

The 115th FiB Headquarters built momentum on staff functions, and Army Battle Command System (ABCS) integration within the tactical operations center (TOC). With the support of our AFT HQ, the 34th Infantry Division, providing training assistance throughout the training year, our brigade staff was able to expand their competencies in core staff functions.

During our TY12 annual training, the 115th FiB established our TOC and integrated all available ABCS systems into a Common Operational Picture (COP). The brigade staff culminated by conducting a mission brief and publishing an op-

erations order (OPORD) dealing with the Caspian Sea region. This OPORD and all corresponding products were provided to our organic and AFT Battalions in the 115th FiB for their internal training use during the upcoming training year.

During TR1, the 115th FiB continued to expand its relationship with AFT battalions and the 34th Division HQ, all located in other states. Strengthening these relationships through co-training events, conferences and sharing of knowledge within the Fires community will enhance our ability to train in our core competencies and prepare to conduct our FSO mission in our 'available' year.

## **1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota U.S. Army National Guard**

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, experienced many changes over the past year. The battalion began reorganizing its firing batteries from the 3x6 configuration to 2x8 in response to R-Series Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE). The changes were implemented in April 2012, allowing Soldiers to train together with the new configuration prior to conducting annual training in July 2012.

The 1-147 FA annual training exercise was conducted in July 2012. Due to a deployment in 2009-2010 and state emergency operations in 2011, this was the first time the battalion as a whole conducted an AT since 2008, to include live-fire training with the launchers. The training event was a great success with 15 launcher crews participating in the live-fire exercise (LFX).

Another milestone for the 1-147 FA occurred on Sept. 6, 2012; Stephanie Kasten made history as being the first female to join the ranks of the Field Artillery in South Dakota. She joined A Battery, 1st Battalion 147th Field Artillery as a 13M, Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember.

## 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, Wyoming U.S. Army National Guard

The Wyoming Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery capped 2012, its first full year of Field Artillery training since deploying on a full-spectrum mission in 2009, by live-firing 72 rockets at the state's Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center.

The battalion fielded the M142 HIMARS in 2008, while preparing for a security forces mission in Kuwait and Iraq. The Soldiers of the 2-300th FA returned home in April 2010, beginning a period of redeployment and reset for the remainder of training year 2010 and into 2011.

During training year 2012, the 2-300 FA focused on section-level training, certifying 13 HIMARS crews and four Fire Direction Center crews in HIMARS/FDC tables I-VI. The crews took and passed the Artillery Skills Proficiency Tests with an overall rate of 94 percent for initial tests. The culminating test included the live-fire event for each of the sections during annual training.

Additionally, the 2-300 FA communicated voice and digital over high frequency Harris radios from distances exceeding 250 miles. The battalion used the radios to fire multiple digital dry-fire missions.

Upon completion of Annual Training 2012, C Battery, 2-300 FA, was deactivated as a result of re-organization into a 2x8 HIMARS battalion, in the 2012 Modified Table of Organization and Equipment. Following reorganization, the 2-300th continues to train and further refine our Fires edge as a M142 HIMARS battalion.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, fire a missile from a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). (Photo courtesy of 115th FIB)



## 138th Fires Brigade, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard, Kentucky Thunder

The past year has seen many changes, from new leadership, to new missions, for the *Kentucky Thunder* Brigade. In October 2011, the 138th Fires Brigade bid farewell to outgoing commander, COL Rondal J. Turner, and welcomed new commander, COL Brian F. Wertzler. Upon assumption of command, the 138th Fires Brigade began a period of increased operation tempo in preparation for upcoming mobilizations, which will take the brigade's units to the Horn of Africa, Jordan, Afghanistan and Kuwait. These 'in lieu of' missions will include, but not be limited to, providing security, training foreign military forces and giving military-to-military training to host nations.

The motto for the Kentucky National Guard is 'Unbridled Service,' indicative of our proud association with horses in Kentucky, while the brigade motto is '*Kentucky Thunder*,' which lends itself to the proud sounds coming from our weapon systems when providing Fires. The following articles highlight some of the accomplishments from units within the 138th Fires Brigade. We are proud to selflessly serve our nation and communities as Army National Guard *Redlegs*.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery has prepared a large part of its Soldiers for the pending mission to the Horn of Africa (HOA). Training highlights in preparation for the HOA mission included completing the Army 15-4 tasks, and familiarization training on weapons and equipment.

Warriors from 138th Fires Brigade take on lane training as part of pre-mobilization training at WHFRTC, Greenville, Ky. June 15, 2012. (Photo by SSG Steve Tressler, U.S. Army)





Upon completion of their three-week culmination training event, CSM Thomas Chumley, command sergeant major for 138th Fires Brigade, stated, "I want you all to know that I am proud of your hard work. I also want you to be proud of yourself, your accomplishments, and your unit. Always remember you are representatives of your communities, your unit, your state, and the nation. Take what you have learned to Africa, and be ready for anything and stand vigilant. Be strong...artillery strong."

## **1st Battalion, 623d Field Artillery, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard, *Morgan's Men***

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery Regiment, *Morgan's Men*, had a busy training year in 2012. The battalion was awarded the Alexander Hamilton Award for the second straight year. B Battery, which is located in Campbellsville, Ky., received the Alexander Hamilton Award for being the outstanding U.S. Army National Guard Field Artillery battery of the year, for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

From standard type warrior task training to honing their specific military occupational specialty (MOS) skills, the Soldiers of the battalion stepped up to every task and duty they were asked to perform. The Soldiers of the 623rd Battalion performed more than 35 state active missions, such as military honors at funerals, and various support roles at county fairs, festivals and parades, as well as disaster relief missions.

Pre-deployment required training highlighted the year, with events such as periodic health assessments (PHA), certification and live-fire of 18 HIMARS crews, and individual weapons qualification (IWQ) with a 99 percent qualification rate on the individual weapons for 2012. The battalion also completed more than 90 percent of scheduled services while in a mobilization train-up year.

During July, the first pre-mobilization annual training began at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. Soldiers completed the first, Army pre-mobilization individual and collective tasks of the 15 Army Warrior Tasks and six battle drills, with a 93 percent pass rate. The battalion is scheduled to deploy in training year 2013.

## **2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard, *Longrifles***

The 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Regiment, spent the 2012 training year in preparation for deployment to the Horn of Africa (HOA). During multiple, three-day drills, and a three-week annual training period, Soldiers prepared to serve as a security force and as mentors to African army units. Training included: first aid, chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN), communications, combatives, team and squad dismounted patrolling, individual weapons qualification, close quarters marksmanship, convoy operations, urban tactics, entry control point operations, and land navigation. In addition to these common tasks and battle drills, Soldiers also received briefings that familiarized them with the multiple situations they will encounter while deployed, includ-



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, use smoke to conceal their movements while moving from building to building during military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) training. (Photo by SSG Steve Tressler, U.S. Army)

ing AFRICOM Socio-Cultural Research and Advisory Team training, rules for the use of force, law of war, hot and cold weather injury prevention, battlemind resilience training, environmental awareness, operational security (OPSEC), media awareness, and trafficking in persons. The Soldiers of 2-138 FA will report to Camp Atterbury, Ind., during the first week of September to complete their post-mobilization validation.

The 2-138 FA is the most decorated unit in the Kentucky Army National Guard, and its Soldiers continue to uphold the battalion motto, 'Arma Parato Fero, We Bear Arms in Readiness.'

## **2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery, Indiana U.S. Army National Guard, *Raiders***

The 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery Regiment, *Raiders*, conducted live-fire exercises, and has grown proficient in using the M777A2 howitzers fielded in 2011. B Battery, 2-150th performed security force (SECFOR) training in February 2012, at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, learning skills including convoy operations, individual movement techniques, and communications for the purpose of supporting the Ministry of Defense Advisors/Civilian Expeditionary Workforce (MODA/CREW). Similarly, C Battery executed in-depth training for nine-months at various locations, to include the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in preparation to serve as security force (SECFOR) for the Agri-business Development Team (ADT 5). The battery gained proficiency on a range of individual and crew-served weapons and sent selected Soldiers to the sniper qualification course.

The 139th E Battery (TAB) continues to prepare for mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, having initiated training in March, and will continue through November. E TAB is undergoing extensive training in Army

Warrior Tasks and NET (New Equipment Training). E TAB is mastering proficiency on the long-range Q37 and Q36 radars and the Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radar.

The training year culminated in August with a live-fire exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind., integrating newly fielded mission command and communications systems.

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

The highlight for training year 2012 saw the 103rd Brigade Support Battalion travel to Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center, in Greenville, Ky., to support the 2-138th Field Artillery and HHB 138th with pre-mobilization training for their upcoming overseas deployment to the Horn of Africa. The mission of the 103rd was to provide personnel to work as trainers/instructors for the mandated Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills for validation by the Kentucky Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Evaluation (PTAE) Team.

The 103rd had to overcome the challenge of supporting a 21-day annual training, with 250 Soldiers, while only being able to authorize each Soldier 15 days themselves. They also needed to maintain internal command and control, while providing additional logistic support to the mobilizing units which were augmented with the 138th NSC and other non-mobilizing Soldiers of the 2-138th. The solution was to divide the battalion into two overlapping iterations, with a small section of the battalion staff present for the entire duration. Each of the iterations required a four-day, train-the-trainer session for all officers in charge, RSOs, and primary and assistant instructors on their particular lanes. The six overlapping days allowed for the seamless handoff of training responsibilities between the two iterations. The transition of trainers had zero, negative impact on the quality or pace of training, while allowing a fresh group of reinforcements to continue the intensity and level of support.

The commander's intent for the training was met by the 103rd, and their ability to provide quality realistic training for the mobilizing units positively impacting their readiness for their upcoming deployment.

Having filled their role as a support unit, and aiding in the mobilization of the 2-138th for training year 2012, the unit looks to spend the remaining portion 2012 preparing for a possible deployment themselves in training year 2013. Therefore, the emphasis will focus on more individual and collective training. The unit, for the third year in a row, improved its military occupational specialty (MOS) proficiency, its ability to move and communicate, and trained to the highest standard this past year. The 103rd continually strives to be the best support unit in the National Guard.

## **138th Signal Company, 138th Fires Brigade, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard**

Soldiers from the 138th Signal Company, 138th Fires Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard mobilized from March 4-14, 2012, in support of the tornadoes that struck West Liberty, Ky., on March 2, 2012. Their primary mission was pro-

viding communications support for the Kentucky Emergency Management Communications Systems.

In June 2012, 16 Soldiers were identified to deploy with 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, in support of the Horn of Africa mission, while one Soldier was identified to deploy with 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. All Soldiers completed an extended annual training period during June 2012, at Wendall H. Ford Regional Training Center, Greenville, Ky., which provided the needed combat training.

## **2138th Forward Support Company, 138th Fires Brigade, Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard**

In the first year as a 2138th Forward Support Company (FSC) trained for combat arms operations in preparation for mobilization to the Horn of Africa, continued support operations to include maintenance for the convoys. Soldiers conducted Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) at the unit level, hand receipt inventories, annual briefings, and Christmas/award ceremony. From January thru March 2012, mobilization training commenced with combatives level I, Africa-specific briefings, PHA, battalion level SRP, SCRAT training, first aid, night vision goggle training, driver's training, and a ceremony conducted solely by the 2138th to case the guide-on of Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Regiment in February. April through the three-week annual training in June, our Soldiers completed individual weapons qualifications (IWQ), all 15-4 Army warrior tasks needed for mobilization, OCIE showdown with the state G4, and required briefings for the Horn of Africa deployment. In July, annual training recovery operations were conducted. In August, Soldiers completed all needed makeup training prior to the mobilization.

We have also supported not only other major commands for deployment purposes, but a multitude of stateside missions. We have supported almost every event held in Louisville, Ky., to include the Kentucky Derby, 4th of July festivals, and the upcoming State Fair, along with all the OPTEMPO requirements of the Battalion.

We feel very strongly that the unit morale is the highest it has been in years. And its capability and potential have not been realized as of yet. As we move into mobilization, this unit will strive to live up to our motto, 'First to Serve.'

## **142nd Fires Brigade, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, Razorback**

In September 2011, the 142nd Fires Brigade participated in the 35th Infantry Division's successful warfighter exercise (WFX) at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., testing the brigade's ability to plan, synchronize and execute Fires. Brigade leadership and staff expanded and refined their lessons learned from the WFX through participation in a command post exercise (CPX) during Annual Training 2012 at Fort Chaffee, Ark. In these staff exercises, and all brigade exercises, support was provided to the units by the 142nd Signal Newton Support





Company and F Battery, the 142nd Fires Brigade's Target Acquisition Battery.

## **1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, *Fireballs***

The Soldiers of Arkansas' 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, spent another year conducting artillery training, supporting state disaster missions, and remaining ready to support any federal missions. Throughout the year, they conducted crew, section, and platoon certifications to include multiple live-fire exercises resulting in more than 72 training rockets safely fired. The battalion staff expanded and refined their command and control techniques through participation in a Battle Command Systems of System Integration Training (BCSoSIT) at Fort Chaffee, Ark. The BCSoSIT also provided the battalion a new opportunity to receive and utilize new equipment that will allow them to communicate and track their subordinate units more efficiently.

## **2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, *Diamond Fire***

The Soldiers of Arkansas' 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, spent another year conducting artillery training, supporting state disaster missions, and standing by to support federal missions as needed. Throughout the year, they conducted section, platoon, and battery qualifications to include multiple live-fire exercises resulting in more than 1,300 (155 mm) rounds safely fired. Those fire missions included high explosive (HE), illumination, infrared (IR) illumination, white phosphorous, improve smoke and High Explosive Rocket Assisted Projectile (HE RAP) at the maximum distance (25 km) allowed on Fort Chaffee, Ark., Maneuver Training Center. Meanwhile, the staff expanded their knowledge of the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) with orders production and digital sustainment in support of 142nd FiB Command Post Exercise (CPX).

While the majority of the battalion trained on their organic Paladin, the Soldiers of B Battery trained on the M119A2 in support of a potential mission to Afghanistan. Following a cancellation of that mission, B Battery Soldiers rejoined 2nd Battalion, and completed all section qualifications on the M109A6 Paladin howitzer.

Soldiers within the 2nd Battalion honed their warrior skills by completing individual and crew-served weapons qualifications, artillery skills proficiency testing, sustainment operations, and Army battle command system training. In addition, the battalion's Soldiers supported several state active missions. The battalion ended the year by beginning the transition from six-gun to four-gun batteries.

## **217th Brigade Support Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard, *Hammer***

During fiscal year (FY) 2012, the 217th Brigade Support Battalion was able to provide full spectrum, operational sup-

port to the 142nd Fires Brigade. During Annual Training 2012 (AT12), the battalion was proud to support the brigade's Soldiers by providing approximately 16,000 gallons of water from a local lake on Fort Chaffee, Ark., that was pumped, purified, and distributed for consumption. Working in conjunction with other brigade elements, they ensured Soldiers remained fed through consolidated mess operations and the distribution of more than 750 cases of MRE's. In addition to keeping Soldiers on the move, the 217th BSB ensured the brigade's vehicles remained fueled and operational. Over the course of AT12, approximately 21,000 gallons of bulk fuel issued to the brigade's various units and the battalion's maintenance contact teams worked in conjunction with units to ensure vehicles remained operational. Lastly, 217th BSB drew, stored, and issued all ammunition for the entire brigade to include 72 MLRS rocket, 1,108 (155 mm) rounds and all components required to fire them.

Throughout FY12, the Soldiers of the 217th refined the Army Warrior Task skills including chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear (CBRN) training, practiced at the hand grenade range, improvised explosive devices (IED) defeat lanes, and weapons qualifications. Lastly, the battalion continued the Guard's tradition of supporting the local community through the participation in various parades, ceremonies, and local festivals. As FY12 closes, the 217th BSB remains ready to support brigade operations and looks forward to a busy FY13.

## **169th Fires Brigade, Colorado U.S. Army National Guard, *Shamrock***

Soldiers of the 169th Fires Brigade (FiB) conducted training in unified land operations during fiscal year (FY) 2012. In January 2012, the brigade participated as a Force Field Artillery (FFA) headquarters in a joint and bi-lateral warfighter exercise with the Japanese Self Defense Force, Yama Sakura 61. The Fires effect cell and the liaison officers were forward in Osaka, Japan, while the rest of the brigade participated from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

In June 2012, the brigade participated in a joint combined arms live-fire exercise in Fort Carson, Colo. More than 3,000 people from the surrounding communities attended the event, along with several dignitaries from the state of Colorado, and the adjutant general of the Colorado National Guard. The combined arms demonstration included a convoy ambush, aerial MEDEVAC support from 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), counter-fire from 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, and 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment and close-air support with F-16s from the 120th Fighter Squadron.

In September 2012, the brigade conducted a command post exercise simulation utilizing a Korean scenario. This exercise is instrumental in the brigade enhancing their long-term planning capability. This is in preparation for the brigade's upcoming participation in exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian in Korea in August 2012, and August 2013.

In addition, the brigade redeployed Operational Military Liaison Team 4 (OMLT4) and is preparing to forward deploy



A reenlistment ceremony is held in Egypt for SPC Eric Fowler from Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery, while deployed in Sinai, Egypt. Fowler has reenlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard for three more years. (Photo by SGT Aleah Castrejon, U.S. Army)

Military Advisor Team 5 (MAT5) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Slovenian army's mission to Afghanistan.

## **2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery, Illinois U.S. Army National Guard**

In May 2011, the Illinois Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment, returned from a year-long, non-standard deployment as Multinational Force and Observers (MFO 54) in the Sinai Peninsula. Immediately prior to deployment, the battalion was fielded M777 A2 howitzers. However, the guns were not part of the mission in Egypt.

In October 2011, 2-123th was selected to be the National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF) in preparation for the NATO Summit, from May 19-21, 2012. As a NGRF, the unit had to be certified in the use of various lethal and nonlethal capabilities, as well as advanced civil disturbance techniques; all the while attempting to 're-red' on core Field Artillery competence tasks.

After extensive training and Artillery Skills Proficiency Training (ASPT) certifications, the battalion fired its first, live howitzer rounds in more than three years, this July, at Camp

Grayling, Mich., using howitzers that gun chiefs had never experience firing. The battalion successfully fired 1600 rounds, safely and accurately, restoring confidence in our ability to support our maneuver brethren. This July, the battalion also provided a supportive role in Operation Northern Strike, an Air National Guard exercise emphasizing close air support, air support operations center (ASOC), and tactical air control party (TACP) direct combat operations. All this would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of every Soldier and staff member with 2-123rd FA BN.

This year looks ever more promising as the unit modernizes its equipment, advances its skill sets, and aligns more closely with its higher headquarters, the 169th Fires Brigade.

## **3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, Colorado U.S. Army National Guard, Lightning**

The 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery Regiment, *Lightning*, concluded its fielding of the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) in the summer 2011. Building on that success, the battalion moved out of reset and into train-ready-year-one, focused on getting back to the basics of Field Artillery training.



The battalion conducted an aggressive year of training that began with a live-fire exercise in November. Annual training was conducted at Fort Carson, Colo., where the battalion first qualified all HIMARS sections, then participated in the bi-annual, Colorado National Guard, Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise (CALFX). The Colorado National Guard CALFX is held every two years and brings together units from across the Colorado Army and Air National Guard in a display for the public of our unit's capability. This year the event was held at Fort Carson and also included 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The 3-157 FA concluded annual training with 72 hours of platoon and battery maneuvers, resulting in the battalion qualifying all four platoons. The training year will culminate with the execution of a hot panel HIMARS dry-fire exercise. In cooperation with Air National Guard, the battalion will fly two HIMARS from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., where they will offload, conduct a dry-fire exercise, reload on the C-130s, and fly home.

The battalion looks forward to continuing its aggressive training schedule in FY14 as it progresses through the train-ready-phase of ARFORGEN.

## **197th Fires Brigade, New Hampshire U.S. Army National Guard, Granite Thunder Brigade 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery, Michigan U.S. Army National Guard, Red Lions**

The *Red Lions* spent most 2011 deployed in support of Operation New Dawn. The mission of 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery, was to conduct convoy security operations in order to ensure the uninterrupted flow of personnel and equip-

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery, participate in a live-fire exercise with M777A2 at Camp Grayling Maneuver Training Center in Michigan. (Photo courtesy of 1st BN, 119th FA)



ment throughout the Kuwait and Iraq theater of operations. Stationed at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, and delivering supplies throughout southern Iraq, the 1-119 FA safely delivered more than 140 million gallons of fuel; escorted more than 70,000 trucks; logged approximately 1.75 million miles, and safely escorted more than 390,000 personnel into and out of theater.

In August 2011, the battalion was welcomed back to Michigan after more than 10 months overseas. Upon returning home, the 1-119 FA conducted successful reintegration operations and quickly returned to their pride and joy: training on the M777A2 howitzer. The battalion is currently focused on artillery tasks at the platoon and battery level. With a year removed from the M777A2 due to deployment, the batteries have focused extensively on Artillery Skills Proficiency Tasks (ASPT). Section chiefs and fire direction personnel have spent tireless nights fine-tuning their skills in preparation for live-fire exercises.

As a culminating training event, all three batteries conducted live-fire during their annual training in July. During the exercise, the 1-119 FA safely fired more than 2,000 rounds at Camp Graylings, Mich., Joint Maneuver Training Center. Michigan's *Red Lions* live by the motto 'We Prepare the Way' and are extremely motivated to be back on the guns!

## **Army Reserve / National Guard Field Artillery Subject Matter Expert Cell**

In fiscal year 2012, the National Guard Regional Training Institutes (RTI) began to implement the One Army School System (OASS) concept through the inclusion of active component (AC) Soldiers in the reserve component (RC) Field Artillery (FA) courses. The ability to have AC students attend RC courses is only possible through the rigorous vetting and creation of courseware by those within TRADOC and Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD)-Enlisted Development at Fort Sill, Okla.

Adherence to doctrinal training standards and use of the identical training equipment allowed the Regional Training Institutes (RTI) in North Carolina and Wisconsin to stand up courses for the 13B and 13F career fields for TY12 on short notice. As of October 2012, 57 active component Soldiers have participated in, or are scheduled for, FA training being conducted at National Guard RTIs. Soldier feedback from after action reviews and interviews is overwhelmingly positive. Comments received include positive remarks on the facilities, the training and the instructors conducting the courses. When asked if the training met the needs of the student, one response was, "Exceeded in every aspect. The instructors' knowledge of all subjects was beyond impressive."

Multi-component training of our leaders and Soldiers enables consolidation of resources in a constrained environment and ensures the FA community is prepared and postured for the challenges facing the Army in the future. It is the FA commandant's priority to focus on leader development and through effective, focused training the FA will remain the 'King of Battle.' ★★



# Field Artillery Combat Photo Contest Winners



First place photo: The sun rises over a M777A2 howitzer, from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, at Forward Operating Base Al Masaak, southern Afghanistan. (Photo by LTC Daniel F. Bohmer, U.S. Army)



Second place photo: A member of 3rd Platoon, Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, readies the time fuze setting on an artillery round, while deployed to Combat Outpost (COP) Honaker Miracle, Kunar province, Afghanistan. (Photo by 1LT Tommy Horne, U.S. Army)



Third place photo: SSG Freddie Goggins, Jr. of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, pulls the lanyard and fires a M777 howitzer from Forward Operating Base Al Masaak, southern Afghanistan. (Photo by LTC Daniel F. Bohmer, U.S. Army)



# Field Artillery Training Photo Contest Winners



First place photo: SSG Kellin Banks, from 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, gives the command to fire his section's M119A2 during air assault training at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. (Photo by SPC Ross Sedgwick, U.S. Army)



Second place photo: Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, launches the last rocket of its final live-fire at Camp Guernsey, Wyo. SGT Justin Pfeiffer, a crew chief with C Battery, recited a piece from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" referencing the dogs of war before the fire mission. (Photo by Sergeant Kelly Gary, U.S. Army)



Third place photo: 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, fires the first 155 mm high explosive round after being the last Field Artillery unit in Operations New Dawn, during platoon lanes and Table XII qualifications at the Udairi Training Range at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. (Photo by SPC Christopher Holmes, U.S. Army)



## Air Defense Artillery Training Photo Contest Winners



First place photo: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 44th Air and Missile Defense, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, fire the Stinger missile from the Avenger system during the Stinger live-fire exercise (unit qualification training) at Fort Hood, Texas, on June 9, 2012. (Photo by SPC Brooke Culler, U.S. Army)



Second place photo: The Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) system has been used in Iraq and now Afghanistan, to protect forward operating bases and valued targets. This C-RAM helped Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery certify instructors on April 19th at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. (Photo by Caitlin Kenney, U.S. Army)



Third place photo: CPT Kurt Semon, training and exercise officer in charge, and SGT Jesse Lopez, shift non-commissioned officer in charge, monitor the Army/Navy Transportable Radar Surveillance System at the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Air Operations Command at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. (Photo by SSG John Johnson, U.S. Army)



# Fires Center of Excellence social media portals

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<http://usacablogs.army.mil/firescenterofexcellence/>



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<http://www.youtube.com/user/usarmyfirescenter>



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SPC Tyler R. Enokian, an M1097 Avenger Air Defense System gunner, and SPC Scott. L. Oppel, an Avenger crew chief, both with C Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, get ready to approach the firing line at a Stinger missile firing range at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz. (Photo cy SPC Nathan Goodall, U.S. Army)