

A highlight of the outstanding achievements accomplished by the Fires community throughout 2015 and a look ahead at the future of the Fires force.



Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited. Headquarters, Department of the Army. PB 644-16-1

Fires January-February 2016

Staff

Editor: Marie Berberea Art Director: Rick Paape, Jr. Assistant Editor: Monica Wood

The Fires staff can be reached by email at usarmy.sill.fcoe.mbx.fires-bulletin-mailbox@mail.mil or by phone at (580)442-5121.

Disclaimer

Fires, a professional bulletin, is published bimonthly by Headquarters, Department of the Army under the auspices of the Fires Center of Excellence, 455 McNair Ave., Fort Sill, OK 73503. The views expressed within are those of the authors and not the Department of Defense or its elements. The content contained within Fires does not necessarily reflect the U.S. Army's position or supercede information in other official publications. Use of new items constitutes neither affirmation of their accuracy nor product endorsements. Fires assumes no responsibility for any unsolicited material. By order of Mark A. Milley, General, United States Army, Chief of Staff. Official:

Gerald B. O'Keefe

Administrative Assistant to the

Secretary of the Army

Auth. 1513304

John G. Rossi

Major General, United States Army

Commanding General, Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Purpose

Originally founded as the Field Artillery Journal, Fires serves as a forum for the discussions of all Fires professionals, Active, Reserves and National Guard; disseminates professional knowledge about progress, development and best use in campaigns; cultivates a common understanding of the power, limitations and application of joint Fires, both lethal and nonlethal; fosters joint Fires interdependency among the armed services; and promotes the understanding of and interoperability between the branches, all of which contribute to the good of the Army, joint and combined forces, and our nation.

Fires is pleased to grant permission to reprint; please credit Fires, the author(s) and photographers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CG's Foreword1	Louisiana	115
ADA Commandant's Foreword5	Massachussets	.116
FA Commandant's Foreword9	Michigan	.118
TCM-CDID15	Minnesota	.121
Fires Targeting Center26	Mississippi	.122
DOTD28	Missouri	.125
CONUS Map29	New Hampshire	.126
OCONUS Map31	New Jersey	.128
National Guard Map33	New York	129
Alaska35	North Carolina	132
Arizona38	North Dakota	.152
Arkansas39	Ohio	.153
California46	Oklahoma	.157
Colorado55	Oregon	.185
Florida62	Pennsylvania	.186
Georgia67	Republic of North Korea	.188
Germany74	South Carolina	.199
Hawaii	South Dakota	.204
Idaho86	Texas	.205
Illinois87	Utah	.221
Indiana89	Virginia	.225
Iowa92	Washington	.228
Japan95	Wisconsin	.239
Kansas98	Wyoming	.240
Kentucky107		

The State of Fires

by Major General John Rossi

Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill commanding general

In today's rapidly changing global security environment, Fires forces must remain relevant and ready. National security will continue to demand Army forces be prepared to intervene and surge to respond to and resolve crises. Fortunately, both air defense and field artillery are in high demand across the Army.

With readiness as the Army's No. 1 priority and the future Army as No. 2, it is important that we understand the Fires Center of Excellence's contribution to these efforts. The framework for the FCoE's operations was developed over a year ago and has remained relevant to shaping the future of Fires and readiness.

FCoE does three things:

- Advance the Fires Force This line of effort focuses on concepts and capabilities required of the current and future Fires force. Programs under development will enhance our readiness, precision, interoperability, diversity and flexibility.
- Enhance the Fires Platform This line of effort centers on mastery of our core skills and managing three training schools; Air Defense Artillery, Field Artillery and Basic Combat Training. With modernized gunnery and school houses, Fort Sill delivers ready Soldiers and leaders to the force.
- Optimize Home Fires This line of ef-



fort revolves around running Fort Sill, keeping everyone safe and secure, establishing Fort Sill as the ADA and FA branch mains, providing opportunity for building resiliency and strength, and posturing to ensure this is the community of choice.

The two distinct branches of FA and ADA are the mainstays of the Fires Warfighting Function. This year we continue to converge on the common branch attributes to gain efficiency, effectiveness and build a bench of Fires competencies. However, we need to see Fires as more than just air

defense and field artillery; electronic warfare, cyber warfare, information warfare and special technical operations all need to be integrated into Fires on today's battlefield. We need to leverage every resource at our disposal to gain advantage over our enemies.

The air defense and field artillery commandants are integral contributors to the planning, execution and resourcing of Fires issues and challenges. Their engagement in shaping the Fires force in all of the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader development and education, personnel, facilities and policy (DOT-MLPF-P) components is essential to success.

In conjunction with the commandants, both the Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate and Directorate of Training Development and Doctrine (DOTD) orchestrate the daily tasks for advancing the Fires force and enhancing the

ADVANCE THE FIRES FORCE

- Demonstrate Relevance
- Increase Confidence
- Facilitate Revolutionary Progression

P1 = Support the Maneuver Force

P2 = Develop Precision Fires & CUAS Capability

P2 = Achieve Integrated Air and Missile Defense

- Pursue 1-1-1 (Reduce the Footprint)
- Synch with F2025B
- Broaden Diversity Soldier 2020

Fires platform.

Advance the Fires force

Air defense and field artillery are in high demand and are extremely relevant to our Army. As a quick example, in 2015 the active component stood up 10 division artillery headquarters and Patriot units are the most highly deployed in the Army. Confidence is growing in our training and deployments; maneuver commanders are frequently asking for more Fires forces. In the most recent National Defense Authorization Act and omnibus spending bill, Fires procurement and acquisition programs were generously resourced.

FCoE is the proponent for the Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) strategy. The Fires Center of Excellence has been given the lead in working to defeat this threat. FCoE continues to work closely with industry, materiel developers, the research and development community and other Army and joint commands to examine initiatives that assist in detecting, tracking, identifying and negating threats from low, slow, and small UAS. C-UAS experimentations at Black Dart, Thunderstorm, Desert Chance, Network Integration Evaluation and Maneuver Fires Integration Experimentation have provided key technical and tactical data to inform requirements and the DOTMLPF-P process.

Broadening diversity in the Fires force is further enabled by the Secretary of Defense's decision to open all military occupational specialties to women. The implementation plan for 13B, 13D, and 13F

ENHANCE THE FIRES PLATFORM

- Develop tomorrows Leaders today
- Refine our Doctrine
- Modernize the schoolhouse

P1 = Master Core Skills

P2 = Modernize Gunnery and training

- COEs and FIRES' stakeholder collaboration
- Revitalize FA & ADA into CAM
- Resurrect Army Targeting (USATC)
- Maximize Commandant Integration
- Modify FCOE organizational design

is currently being worked and the FCoE is ready. Also, Fort Sill's Basic Combat Training brigade and battalion level commands will become branch immaterial starting in fiscal year 2017.

Enhance the Fires platform

The Fires Center of Excellence has an obligation to deliver the best trained and most ready Soldier or Marine to our Army. We do this at our various ADA and FA schools, BCT, and the Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

We train the Fires force to the highest standards. FCoE leaders are looking at ends, ways and means. They start with ends — what they expect to be produced. With less dollars, less time and less instructors to produce a better product, there's only one way for the FCoE to produce excellence, and that's to change the way it teaches. Fort Sill has been identified to pilot new teaching techniques as a result of ideas brainstormed by captains, majors and lieu-

tenants. In our modern schoolhouses, we have implemented a new approach to how we teach and learn, leveraging web-based course management systems allowing our students to use online material to complement face-to-face and peer-to-peer teaching methods.

This next year, DOTD will incorporate human dimension concepts into the curricula for all our professional military education courses. It will focus on the continued development of division artillery publications, Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense and C-UAS. Our collective task training developers will focus on standards in weapons training, mission essential task list refinement and C-UAS tasks. DOTD continues to produce world-class doctrine, training and educational products that yield the best Fires Soldiers and leaders in the world.

FCoE gained approval for a change to Army Regulation 5-22, "The Army Force Modernization Proponent System," which designates the commanding general of the FCoE as the Army force modernization proponent for targeting. This is a huge success for the

OPTIMIZE "HOME" FIRES (Fort Sill)

- Leverage ourselves we're the local community
- Invest in our people's well being
- Drive stewardship and ownership
- Build branch "mains"

P1 = Strengthen the Fort and our people

P2 = Champion Small Unit Cohesion

- Promote Health and fitness
- Make existing facilities better
- Increase Touch Points and oversight

Fires force this year and the Fires Targeting Center (FTC) is the lead FCoE agency for coordinating targeting related DOTMLPF-P functions while also serving as the user representative for the Army. Pending Department of the Army approval, it is anticipated the FTC will transition to the Army Targeting Center (ATC) in the coming year. After the transition to ATC, we will be the Army's lead for joint targeting issues to include doctrine, policy and management of joint targeting certification programs.

Optimize Home Fires (Fort Sill)

Fort Sill continues to be on the forefront of positive change in the Army. As seen in the pride of the faces of air defense and field artillery Soldiers, Fort Sill has solidified its place as the home of both branches (also known as the branch mains). Whether through face-to-face contact, phone calls or over the Internet, everyone knows the reservoir of knowledge and reach-back that exists on Fort Sill.

Air and missile defense training received a boost on Fort Sill this year with the opening of our multi-million dollar Terminal High Altitude Area Defense facility, the only one in the world. Also, the opening of the Electric Fires Range allows the demonstration of laser, microwave and railgun technologies to be held on Fort Sill. FCoE and Fort Sill are surging ahead regarding the integration of these revolutionary concepts that could potentially provide and maintain battlefield overmatch to the Fires Soldier.

Fort Sill continues to grow and will receive two restationing battalions in 2016: 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery and 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery. Construction on Fort Sill continues with a new state-of-the-art fitness center, chapel complex, and a revitalized Main Exchange food court with Starbucks.

The newly constructed Freedom Elementary School had its grand opening this year on Fort Sill and is the most advanced and safe elementary school in the state. However, the success of Fort Sill is based in many cases on how well we do outside the gates with our community and our neighbors. The framework of Seven-Pillars or "satisfiers" (emergency services, housing, medical care, education, employment/retail, religious support, and recreation) has been a successful approach to creating partnerships in the community and advancing Fort Sill as the "Community of Choice."

Thank you all for a successful year and we have a lot to look forward to in 2016. No one should rest on their laurels, and we will have many challenges and opportunities ahead. One thing I know for certain is the Fires force is, and will continue to be, committed to our Army profession. Be proud of what you have done. Be proud of what you do and always remain Fires Strong!

Air Defense Artillery 2016, Beyond

by Brigadier General Christopher Spillman U.S. Air Defense Artillery School commandant

2015 has been a year of important progress for the Air Defense Artillery and a confirmation the air and missile defense missions we perform around the globe remain critically important to our geographic combatant commanders and our nation.

The global demand for ADA forces remains high; from Europe, to the Middle East, and over to the Pacific and to Northeast Asia, and from Alaska to Washington D.C., air defenders continue to make us all proud by the exemplary manner in which they perform critical air and missile defense missions.

With Ground-Based Mid-Course Defense interceptors, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), Patriot, Land-Based Phalanx Weapons System (LPWS), Norwegian Advanced Surfaceto-Air Missiles and Avenger, and with forward-based mode AN/TPY-2 radars, we provide vital capabilities to counter challenging and stressing air threats that include advanced ballistic missiles, proliferating cruise missile and unmanned aerial systems, and rockets, artillery and mortar threats.

The ADA force is the most deployed



force in the Army, but we remain mission-focused and our Soldiers are proving their resiliency in spite of the strain of repeated deployments and overseas unaccompanied assignments.

Our top leaders within the Army, the Joint Staff and even the Office of the Secretary of Defense remain vigilant about the impact of sustained commitment of ADA forces overseas and the effect it has on Soldiers and their families.

These senior leaders are actively pursuing alternatives in order to reduce the stress on the force and they remain committed to mitigating challenges to the ADA branch.

As we face current threats, we must also prepare for future threats. In Program Objective Memorandum 17-21 the Army will spend approximately \$10.6 billion on air and missile defense modernization with the majority of funds committed to Patriot modernization. This includes delivery of the Modern Man Station, hardware upgrades to the radar, software upgrades, and delivery of the PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement to the force.

We have begun designing a replacement for the Avenger Air Defense System, and eventually the LPWS. The program is called Indirect Fires Protection Capability (IFPC) and beginning in fiscal year 2020 it will give us significantly increased capability to defeat cruise missile and unmanned aircraft system (UAS) threats.

By leveraging current existing capabilities such as the Sentinel Radar, the AIM-9X Missile and the soon-to-be fielded Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS) which I will discuss later, and production of the Army designed and built Multi-Mission Launcher (MML), IFPC will give us the capability to fire multiple types of interceptors based on the threat from the MML.

Vital to all of our modernization efforts is the fielding of IBCS, which remains our number-one modernization priority for the ADA. IBCS will network all of our ADA sensors and shooters into a single Integrated Fire Control Network (IFCN). By networking the force into a single IFCN controlled by a Common Warfighter Machine Interface, we will be able to employ the ADA force more effectively than today and it will expand our ability to execute air defense operations.

The key highlight of IBCS is that it will give us incredible flexibility in designing air defenses. We have already started much of the necessary doctrine and organizational design work, but there is much more to be done. Suffice it to say, anyone who remains in the ADA for five years or more will see major changes to the ADA branch. They will also see major changes to our military occupation specialties for both enlisted and warrant officers, and a transformation in the way we train the force and develop leaders.

In light of fielding IBCS starting in fiscal year 2018, under the leadership of Col. Jim Payne and Command Sgt. Maj. Tom Eagan of the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, the ADA School has begun the process of transforming our training, education and leader development programs.

The coupling of major modernization activities within the ADA branch that includes new doctrine and organizations and rapidly evolving air and missile defense threats place an important value on the development of ADA leaders who can plan, employ and lead ADA forces effec-

tively in a complex air threat operating environment.

Arguably, leader development will be the most important aspect of ADA branch transformation. The ADA School is in step with the Army Leader Development Strategy and it is nested with the Army Human Dimension (HD) Strategy. The Army HD Strategy is designed to produce Soldiers and leaders who not only operate effectively in the environment of the future, but thrive in complex and ambiguous environments.

The future air and missile threat operating environment will be as equally complex as the environment faced by our maneuver commanders; our adversaries are finding ways to counter our current capabilities by employing ballistic and cruise missiles as well as UAS in coordinated attacks.

Our opponents are exploiting our weaknesses and we must prepare for this new environment by training and educating Soldiers and leaders to think more critically and rapidly, make better decisions in complex situations and possess the physical and emotional resiliency necessary to win the air defense fights of the future.

To this end, we are making changes in the ADA Basic Officer Leadership Course and the Captains Career Course. We will implement a weapons track phase starting in February of 2016 for Career Management Field 14 Non-Commissioned Officers Education system courses, and we have adjusted warrant officer basic and advanced courses to bring back more technical training for our warrant officers.

THAAD's presence within the force continues to grow with training at the ADA school, THAAD testing and upgrades and the activation of additional THAAD batteries. We stood up the THAAD Institutional Training Base last January, opened a state-of-the-art training facility, and began providing instruction to ADA Soldiers through functional courses of instruction which culminates in the award of a THAAD additional skill identifier.

A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, replaced by D Battery, 2nd ADA, returned from a one-year deployment where they provided homeland defense to Guam. A Battery, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, supported the Reliability Growth Test of Configuration 2 hardware and software at McGregor Range from January to April. Once testing was complete, the unit deployed a THAAD minimum engagement package to Wake Island and executed Operational Missile Flight Test FTO-02 Event 2 by successfully engaging a short range ballistic missile and an extended medium range ballistic missile.

B Battery, 2nd ADA completed new equipment training (NET), and successfully conducted collective training and crew certification in the fall of 2015. E Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment activated this year and begins NET in Jan-

uary 2016. E Battery, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment activates in January 2016 and will be followed by, B Battery, 62nd ADA in October 2016.

Our U.S. Army National Guard ADA Soldiers continue to execute the air defense of the National Capital Region to a high standard. This zero-defect mission is currently being executed by the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade of the Florida U.S. Army National Guard and 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery of the Mississippi U.S. Army National Guard.

In addition, the Florida U.S. Army National Guard mobilized and deployed 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment to Afghanistan in order to perform the Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar mission in Afghanistan, maintaining the continuous partnership between the active component and the National Guard.

Both our components within the air defense branch maintain a close relationship, from the Ohio U.S. Army National Guard's relief 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in 2010, to the joint efforts of the 100th and 49th Ground-Based Mid-Course defense mission. The ability for these two organizations to work together has resulted in tremendous results that have contributed to the United States Northern Command's homeland defense mission.

I would also like to congratulate and send my regards to the 2015 recipients of the Brig. Gen. James Shipton "Best Air Defender," Henry A. Knox, and Hamilton awards, respectively: Capt. Jason Roberts of 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery; A Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, commanded by Capt. Jamie Burton and Capt. Aaron Devig and 1st Sgt. Lacey Clayton; and A Battery, 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery from Cincinnati, Ohio commanded by Capt. Sam Sweeney and 1st Sgt. Vincent McGuigan.

The Fires Center of Excellence command team, Maj. Gen. John Rossi and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Lindsay, continue to lead FCoE through this exciting period of multiple transformation initiatives.

At the United States Army Air Defense Artillery School, I have truly enjoyed the opportunities and challenges 2015 has provided. I have the privilege to work with the most talented and professional Soldiers, civilians and contractors in the United States Army. It is amazing that although the branch is composed of only 1.7 percent of the total Army, we are the Army's most deployed force. This is a testament that each and every member of the branch is an extremely valuable member of the team.

I sincerely appreciate the hard work that you all have been doing to maintain the global presence of air and missile defense in the service of our nation and its allies. I look forward to continuing the transformation of the branch in 2016. *First to Fire!*

Field Artillery 2016, Beyond

by Brigadier General William Turner
U.S. Army Field Artillery School commandant

2015 was a very busy year for the United States Army Field Artillery School (USA-FAS) and branch, with the modernization of Fires as our main effort. The modernization of Fires covers quite a lot, but I would like to focus on how we are closing the professional military education gap for our fire supporters and system crew members; how we are placing an increased emphasis on precision and joint Fires; how we overhauled our 13 series military occupational specialties (MOSs) and what we are doing to ensure the success of our division artilleries (DIVARTYs).

In 2016 and beyond, we will stay on track with our modernization efforts by continuing to enhance the capabilities of the Army's Targeting Center, by exploring options to resource a renewed Joint Operational Fires and Effects Course (JOFEC) and by continuing to define and employ operational and proactive Fires.

Professional military education

We have implemented a well-rounded plan to modernize the education of our fire support and system crew members. We are executing a number of integrated actions that will assist this modernization effort.



JFO and Precision Fires

First and foremost, we redefined the 13F, forward observer to joint fires observer (JFO), and extended that MOS skillset by placing an emphasis on precision and joint Fires. Now Soldiers graduate 13F Advanced Individual Training with more knowledge of and how to use all fire support equipment in order to achieve precision target locations and with expanded knowledge on joint Fires observer's tech-

niques.

Additionally, all programs of instruction for the Advanced Leaders Course (ALC) and the Senior Leader Course (SLC) have been updated to ensure Soldiers attending each level of the Noncommissioned Officers Education System are exposed to new concepts and technology and graduate with a certification in Target Mensuration Only. They are now familiarized with collateral damage estimation and weaponeering. This initiative includes all our MOSs.

We are also revamping the Bradley Fire Support Team (BFiST) Course to focus more on the fire support equipment package of all three variants of the fire support vehicle. We are analyzing the possibilities of integrating the BFiST course material into the 13F ALC.

To assist the Fires community in meeting the tasks and standards within TRADOC Circular 3-09.8 Field Artillery Gunnery, the USAFAS has added a 13F fire support module to the Field Artillery Master Gunner Course. Graduates of this new Master Gunners Course will provide division artillery and field artillery battalion commanders with fire support master gunners who are trained to integrate, execute and sustain Joint Fire Support Training, the Fire Support Certification program, and who will serve as the primary joint Fires subject matter experts to the fire support coordinator.

It is important to note that officers and enlisted Soldiers will not depart USAFAS JFO certified. As is the case with all other

MOSs, it is the responsibility of operational commanders to decide based on an individual's training level, performance and unit requirements, which Soldiers and officers will fill positions requiring certified JFOs. The enhanced institution training will graduate both 13F and 13A personnel with a greater depth and breadth of knowledge and skills integrating and employing joint Fires.

The operational unit commander's appointed JFO-evaluators will oversee the initial certification and semi-annual sustainment certifications. Bottom line, US-AFAS will produce a qualified JFO, while operational units will produce certified JFOs.

Joint Operational Fires and Effects Course

We are working to resource and reestablish the JOFEC with modernized Fires curriculum. With the establishment of DI-VARTYs and implementation of Joint Air Ground Integration Cell (JAGIC) within the division staffs a critical training and education gap exists. JAGIC is more than just another operating cell. The Air Support Operations Center enabling concept, whereby ASOCs are moved from the corps level and aligned with all active Army divisions, is the driving force behind JAGIC.

Battle coordination detachments continue to request a course that provides their assigned personnel training and education to integrate Fires at corps and higher levels — to include joint task force and combatant command staffs—in a joint and

multinational environment. They need the skills to plan, coordinate and execute joint and operational Fires across the spectrum of operations.

13 series MOS review

In 2015, we conducted a comprehensive 13 series MOS review. Our goal was to look at the possibilities, based on technology advancements within our FA systems, and consolidate our current seven MOSs down to five by 2020. The five MOSs going forward are to be 13J (fire control specialist), 13B (cannon crewmember), 13M (Multiple Launch Rocket System /High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) crewmember, 13R (radar specialist), and 13F (forward observer).

13J, Fire control specialist

We merged 13D and 13P into a single MOS-13J, fire control specialist. Going forward MOS 13D and MOS 13P will be deleted. A transitional additional skill identifier Y2 code will be assigned to all personnel who were awarded MOS 13P prior to Oct. 1, 2015. Our advanced individual training instructors began teaching the new MOS 13J curriculum in October. In addition, we created a transitional training requirement for personnel with the ASI Y2 code which consists of three Blackboard-based modules which must be completed by March 2018. These modules can be found online https://ellc.learn.army.mil/webapps/ at potal/frameset.jsp. To access them, Soldiers will need to log in with either a CAC

or an AKO username or password.

13T, Field Artillery surveyor/meteorological crewmember

There is no projected growth in the 13T MOS career field. As a result our 13Ts will be transitioned into other critical MOSs. Profiler technology has allowed the historical 13T meteorological critical tasks to be integrated into the 13J AIT and ALC and the meteorological critical tasks will soon transition to the 13J MOS.

With the deletion of 13T MOS, the USA-FAC and FCoE Noncommissioned Officer Academy will begin teaching Improved Position & Azimuth Determining System - GPS (IPADS-G) to Soldiers attending the 13R SLC. The IPADS-G training strategy will consist of several phases. In early fiscal year 2016, the USAFAS will provide units with access to a training support package in advance of losing their 13T Soldiers, so when a mobile training team (MTT) comes to the unit they will already be familiar with the material. Additionally, USAFAS is continuing to finalize a plan to send MTTs to U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard locations worldwide to train Soldiers to operate the IPADS-G. Finally, commanders, Soldiers/NCOs with any MOS are eligible to take the IPADS-G training. We encourage you to think outside the box to meet your survey needs. The FCoE is continuing to work on developing a material solution to replace IPADS-G in the near future.

13B, cannon crewmember & 13M, MLRS/HIMARS crewmember

Initially, we thought to merge these two MOSs, but after completing several Critical Task Review Boards and validating the critical tasks for each MOS from skill level 10 through skill level 40, the decision was made not to merge.

Our cannon crewmembers (13B) continue to be an integral part of operating our cannon artillery weapon systems. While manning the M109A6 Paladin, M777 and M119 towed howitzers and simultaneously conducting maneuver operations, our 13Bs have gone above and beyond for the FA team in 2015. Our MLRS/HIMARs crewmembers (13M) continued to do the same by operating with expertise and integrity both on and off the battlefield.

These enlisted FA military occupational specialties are now open to women. This decision will allow us as a branch to mine the best qualified, regardless of gender, Soldiers and civilians who wish to serve within these MOSs. Additionally, 13R radar specialist is now open to females.

13R, radar specialist

Over the next several years, there are a number of major automation improvements that will require close management and modifications to institutional, organizational and individual training programs for our 13Rs. The Q50 Lightweight Countermortar Radar continues to be fielded to the force. The Q53, which will eventually replace both the Q36 and Q37 radars, con-

tinues to go through testing with the goal to have a full rate production decision in the near future. In the meantime, we will continue to train our 13R NCOs and Soldiers on the Q50, Q36 and Q37 radar systems.

13F, forward observer

The 13F MOS was in the greatest need of modernization due to the technological advancements associated with determining precision target location and employing joint Fires. With the re-establishment of division artillery, 13Fs moved back into FA units.

All DIVARTYs activated

As of October, all 10 DIVARTYs have activated. The DIVARTY's primary role is to ensure readiness of the Fires formations within the divisions by improving the ability to deliver operational and technical Fires. The duties and responsibilities of the DIVARTYs are defined in Field Manual 3-09 and soon to be released Army Training Program 3-09.90, DIVARTY. The United States Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) commander further defined their roles and responsibilities in Fragmentary Order 1 to the U.S. Army FORSCOM Division Artillery Implementation Order with DIVARTY key tasks:

- 1. Improve the division commander's ability to deliver operational and tactical level Fires.
- 2. Serve as the force field artillery headquarters for the division. The DIVARTY

commander serves as the division FSCO-ORD.

- 3. Develop standardized approach to training and integrated Fires to ensure accomplishment of operational and tactical level fire support tasks.
- 4. Provide support to the brigade combat team (BCT) commanders with FA subject matter expertise. Coach, mentor and develop artillery commanders and leaders, and provide readiness assessment and advice to maneuver commanders.

The bottom line: DIVARTYs are the Fires integrators for the division and BCT commanders. Through stringent training and certification programs they ensure standardization across the division in the employment of Fires assets. Their success is incumbent on building strong relationships across the division and with joint Fires resources to ensure the Fires teams deliver over-match to the division and BCT commanders.

Fires Targeting Center

The Joint and Combined Integrated Directorate transformed into the Fires Targeting Center (FTC) March 2, 2015 with the mission of addressing Army and joint targeting doctrine, policy and training programs within the Army community.

FCoE has gained approval for a change to Army Regulation 5-22, The Army Force Modernization Proponent System, which designates the commanding general of the FCoE as the Army force modernization proponent for targeting. This is great news. AR 5-22 now assigns FCoE the responsibility for coordinating targeting related doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership, personnel, facilities and policy (DOTMLPF-P) functions as well as serve as the user representative for the Army. The FTC is the lead FCoE agency managing these AR 5-22 responsibilities.

It is anticipated that the Fires Targeting Center will transition into the Army Targeting Center in the coming year. This change also requires Department of the Army approval and will ultimately represent the Army's targeting requirements and greatly enhance its targeting capabilities. The FTC will be the Army's lead for joint targeting issues to include targeting doctrine and policy and it will manage the Army's joint targeting certification programs.

Proactive Fires

Proactive Fires are actions taken within the FA profession of arms to achieve battlefield dominance and overmatch. Proactive Fires requires mastery of the decide, detect, deliver and assess (D3A) targeting methodology advanced by innovative and adaptive leaders who aggressively employ all resources available. Proactive Fires provides our maneuver forces uncontested freedom of movement to seize, exploit and retain the initiative.

A method to achieve proactive Fires is utilization of the rapidly expanding unmanned air frames within our formations to assist in our ability to D3A against the enemy's high payoff targets. History is

wrought with examples of technological advances that impact warfare. Aircraft, since 1910, have provided FA formations the abilities to provide devastating Fires via reconnaissance, detection, observation of Fires and battle damage assessments.

With the downsizing of the Army, there is considerable concern we have reduced capability to mass indirect Fires. There are fewer cannons in the BCT FA battalions, rocket battalions are now entirely in the active and National Guard field artillery brigades, along with all echelons above brigade cannon battalions in the Army National Guard.

In today's rapidly evolving security landscape of unconventional battlefields and irregular warfare, our Soldiers need to quickly locate and neutralize mortar and rocket threats. That's where our 13R, radar specialist using the AN/TPQ-53 (formerly known as EQ-36) meets this challenge head on.

The solid-state phased array AN/TPQ-53 radar system or, Q-53, detects, classifies, tracks and determines the location of enemy indirect fire in either 360- or 90-degree modes. This innovative sensor is replacing the aging AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 medium-range radars now in the Army's inventory.

However with our ability to accurately target, we can mitigate the reduction in indirect fire platforms with accurate Fires while simultaneously employing other types of effects, to include joint, coalition and nonlethal effects to achieve the ma-

neuver commander's intent for Fires.

We have intentionally set the target accuracy bar high for our fire supporters. Their mission, for dynamic targets, is to produce a CAT1: <6M TLE, at least 80 percent of the time. It is imperative that we, as both leaders and fire support subject matter experts, look across the warfighting functions to find innovative means to assist our fire supporters and system crew members in delivering accurate target locations with expedited sensor to shooter links. Proactive Fires is a complex and graduate level concept that artillerists across the force must learn and employ.

King of Battle

In closing, I will say I am pleased with how things are coming together for the FA branch, with 10 of our 10 DIVARTYs activated, we are undertaking the task of reversing the atrophy of FA skills, halting the erosion of professional and leader development in the Fires warfighting function, and restoring the art and science of synchronizing effects – commendably. I can ask for nothing less.

Approximately 27,000 Soldiers serve as Redlegs on active-duty and 22,000 more serve in the National Guard. As the Army develops its end state size and structure, it's important to continue to identify, recruit and integrate the best Soldiers and officers into the branch.

Thank you for a great year, and I look forward to many great things over the course of 2016 and beyond. *King of Battle! Fires Strong!*



Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, fire an M982 Excalibur 155mm round out of a M777 howitzer during a live-fire shoot at Oro Grande Range Complex, N.M., Dec. 5. The shoot was the first of its kind conducted outside of the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., and combat. Photo by Sgt. Sean Harriman.

TRADOC Capability Manager Brigade Combat Team Fires

The TRADOC Capability Manager Brigade Combat Team Fires serves as the user representative and single point of contact for all field artillery cannons, munitions, fuzes, propellants and survey systems associated with the BCTs field artillery battalions.

Over the past year, there has been no shortage of effort in each of the "Big 6" materiel capabilities managed by TCM BCT Fires: M982A1 Excalibur, M1156 Precision Guidance Kit, M109A7 Family of Vehicles, M777A2 155 mm towed howitzer M119A3 105 mm towed howitzer or the Improved

Position Azimuth Determination System-GPS (IPADS-G).

Through close coordination with industry partners, program offices and the user, TCM BCT Fires continues to work at advancing and providing the best Fires capability to the Army.

M982A1 Excalibur (Increment Ib)

Excalibur is the most precise and longrange cannon artillery projectile achieving accuracies of less than 2m at ranges out to 40 km. Excalibur continues to meet or exceed all requirements for accuracy, effectiveness, reliability and range. It is currently used in support of combat operations. Excalibur is in full rate production and the Precision Guided Munitions New Equipment Training Team continues to train units on its operational employment.

M1156 Precision Guidance Kit

The M1156 Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) is a guided fuze option for the 155 mm M795 HE and M549A1 HE Rocket Assisted projectiles which corrects for the inherent errors associated with a standard ballistic flight path to achieve an accuracy of less than 50m. The M1156 successfully completed the initial operational test and evaluation in April, having met or exceeded all requirements for accuracy and reliability. The PGK is scheduled to receive a full materiel release approval for full rate production in the second quarter of fiscal year 2016.

M109 Family of Vehicles

Paladin Integrated Management M109 Family of Vehicles consists of a 155 mm



Staff Sgt. Stanley Kulig, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery, mans a 50 calibre machine gun on an M109 Paladin 155mm self-propelled howitzer March 11 at Fort Stewart, Ga. Photo courtesy of 1-214th FA.

self-propelled howitzer (M109A7) and Carrier, Ammunition Tracked (M992A3) designed to bring increased force protection, reliability and survivability to the armored brigade combat team field artillery battalions. BAE Systems delivered the first M109A7 howitzer in March, signifying the start of low rate initial production. Full rate production and the start of unit fielding's is anticipated in the second quarter of fiscal year 2017.

M777A2 155 mm towed howitzer

The M777A2 continues to provide 155 mm long-range precision, near precision and area indirect Fires in support of Army Stryker Brigade Combat Team/Infantry Brigade Combat Teams and U.S. Marine Corps forces. Several hardware and software improvements have been added to the M777A2, providing enhanced capabilities in achieving safe, timely and accurate Fires. The Composite Battalion New Equipment Training Team (NETT) has



An airborne artilleryman, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, pulls security for his M777A2 Medium howitzer during the Division Artillery Readiness Test Sept. 16 at Fort Bragg, N.C. Photo by Capt. Joe Bush.

fielded all 14 active-duty and half of the Army National Guard Infantry Brigade Combat Team FA composite battalions with M777A2s. All composite battalion fielding's are scheduled to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2018.

M119A3 105 mm towed howitzer

The M119A3 continues to provide 105 mm area indirect Fires in support of Army Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) formations. Development continues on several hardware and software updates to improve stability, accuracy and durability of the system. In conjunction with the Composite Battalion NETT, the M119A3 has been fielded to almost all active-duty and over half of the Army National Guard IBCT FA composite battalions with an anticipated fielding completion in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2018.

M111A1 Improved Position Azimuth Determination System – GPS

The M111A1 Improved Position Azimuth Determination System - GPS (IP-ADS-G) uses global positioning system-aided inertial navigation to provide accurate survey data to the warfighter. As the new IPADS-G completes fielding, the 13T (surveyor/meteorological crewmember) military occupational specialty will be permanently deleted in October 2017. The loss of the 13T MOS will be mitigated by 80 hours of IPADS-G training as part of 13R40 (field artillery firefinder radar operator) Senior Leader Course and a mobile training team for all 27 installations (active component and Army National Guard) for a two-year period beginning in fiscal year 2017.

Long Range Precision Fires

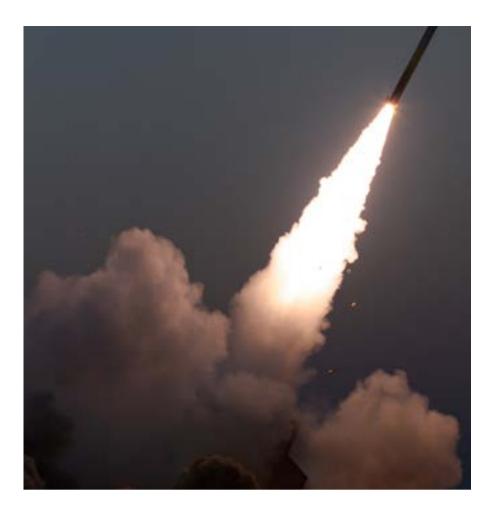
Long Range Precision Fires is a cluster munition compliant missile that will replace the Army Tactical Missile System. It provides the commander with the ability to attack deep, time-sensitive, high-priority targets and can be launched from either the M279A1 or the M142 HIMARS launchers. The program is scheduled to enter major systems acquisition in March 2016, with the initial operational capability currently projected for fiscal year 2025.

Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Alternative Warhead

The Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead program entered into production and deployment phase and began full rate production May 20. The program successfully completed its initial operation test, firing 98 out of 99 rockets successfully. The program is a replacement for the GMLRS Dual-Purpose Improved Conventional Munition and is cluster munition compliant. Initial operational capability is currently scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2016.



Soldiers inside a launcher equipped with Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System near the Sinjar Mountains. Army photo.



A Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System fires a 227mm rocket at a building that insurgents were using to store explosives and a nearby weapons cache in the open desert near the northern-Iraqi city of Bayji, Dec. 27. It was confirmed the GMLRS from, Detachment 1, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment from Fort Sill, Okla., destroyed the target. Army photo.

Improved Armored Cab

The M270A1 Improved Armored Cab (IAC) will support current and future operations while providing Soldiers with greater protection against mines, improvised explosive devices, enemy artillery fragmentation and direct attack from small arms. Currently, Soldiers who are assigned to a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) unit are being called upon to deploy in support of combat operations with High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers. This transition between platforms requires extensive training in order to ensure Soldiers are ready for deployment. Along with greater crew protection, the IAC will provide

crew seating similar to the M142 HIMARS launcher. The similarities between the two will enable Soldiers the ability to transition from MLRS to HIMARS with ease. Platform similarities will allow Soldiers to use common crew drills between both platforms. IAC will also be equipped with the Big 3 Modifications. IAC is scheduled to begin fielding in fiscal year 2016.

The Big 3 Modifications

The Big 3 Modifications provide Soldiers with three hardware upgrades that will enhance the operation of the launcher's mission on the battlefield. The Driver's Vision Enhancement includes a forward looking infrared system that provides the ability to conduct day and night operations. The DVE also provides the ability to maneuver in smoke, fog, dust or other battlefield obscurants. The Blue Force Tracker provides greater situational awareness for the crew through a small screen that provides the locations of friendly units and other battlefield intelligence. Long range communications allows the capability to receive voice and digital fire missions from thousands of miles away. As the battlefield modernizes, the Big 3 Modifications provide Soldiers with the equipment needed to continue to control the ever-changing combat environment. Both launcher platforms will be equipped with the Big 3 Modifications, which will allow Soldiers assigned to either platform the same capability and also reduce training during platform transition.

AN/TPQ-53

The AN/TPQ-53 successfully completed the operational test and evaluation in 2015.



Soldiers of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, position a light medium tactical vehicle pulling an AN/TPQ-53 radar system while conducting radar setup training during exercise Combined Resolve V at the U.S. Army's Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Oct. 25. Photo by Sgt. Ian Schell.

The U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) supports full rate production and fielding of the systems to replace the aging firefinder fleet of AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 Radar Systems. Of note, ATEC measured an increased point of origin accuracy and superior cyber security measures over both the Q-36 and Q-37. The Department of the Army is currently evaluating and prioritizing a fielding schedule for the Q-53. Priority will be to deployers and missioned units, in a combination of both active Army and National Guard. Units scheduled to receive the Q-53 will be contacted to conduct both a new material in-brief and coordinate the 13R Operator New Equipment Training (NET). The 13R NET is a 10-day training event which will culminate with a live-fire event if the gaining unit desires to do so. The 94M Maintainer NET will be conducted at Fort Sill, Okla. Product Manager Radar will coordinate and fund units to send their 94Ms to attend the training. The intent is to have a unit send their maintainers to the 94M NET before the 13R NET at-home station. The Army's goal is to field 40 AN/TPQ-53s per year until the firefinder fleet is replaced.

AN/TPQ-50

The AN/TPQ-50 continues to be fielded at the brigade combat team (BCT), division

artillery (DIVARTY), field artillery brigade and the Indirect Fire Protection Capability battalions in both the active Army and National Guard components. The Army has given direction to increase production numbers of the Q-50 and should therefore increase the fielding tempo. Each BCT will receive four AN/TPQ-50s and each DI-VARTY and field artillery brigade will receive two AN/TPQ-50s.

Firefinder

The AN/TPQ-36 and the AN/TPQ-37 are scheduled to be replaced by the AN/TPQ-53. As Q-53s are fielded, the legacy Fire-finder Systems will be retired. Increased maintenance costs have made these aging systems cost-prohibitive. The fielding of the Q-53 will reduce the repair part cost and time to repair to the tactical unit. Product Manager Radar will collect the antenna control group and the shelter truck of Fire-finder Systems at the completion of each Q-53 NET.

TRADOC Capability Manager Air Defense Artillery Brigade

The TRADOC Capability Manager Air Defense Artillery Brigade is responsible for integrating, synchronizing and coordinating efforts across doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities domains and policy implications (DOTMLPF-P) for counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS), cruise missile defense, and counter rocket, artillery and mortar (C-RAM) to ensure success on the battlefield.

TCM ADA Brigade continues to work

with industry, the materiel developer, research and development community and other Army and joint commands to examine initiatives that would assist in detecting, tracking, identifying and negating enemy UAS capability. C-UAS experimentations at Black Dart, Thunderstorm, Desert Chance and Maneuver Fires Integration Experimentation provided key technical and tactical data to inform requirements and the DOTMLPF-P process. During Network Integration Evaluation 16.2, Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery successfully demonstrated the C-UAS Mobile Integrated Capability (CMIC) concept by protecting forwardly deployed maneuver forces against threat UAS using both kinetic and non-kinetic means. Due to its successful concept demonstration, TRADOC has directed the Fires Center of Excellence to accelerate development and fielding of CMIC capability to the force. The third annual FCoE C-UAS Summit, held Nov. 17-19 at Fort Sill, Okla., brought together over 100 various subject matter experts across the community to discuss and finalize the Army's C-UAS Strategy which will integrate and synchronize C-UAS efforts across the Army and align Army C-UAS efforts with joint, inter-organizational, and multinational partners' efforts.

TCM ADA Brigade continues to upgrade existing systems and field new capability to the force. In early 2015, the second Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) /Avenger Battalion at Fort Campbell, Ky., completed transition to its new C-RAM mission. TCM ADA Brigade continued to field rocket Artillery and mortar warn capability to the brigade combat team, averaging one new

unit per month. In early fall, materiel release authority for the upgraded Sentinel A3 was achieved and fielding to the National Capital Region, Air Defense Artillery Institutional Training Base, and divisional units throughout the force initiated. During 2015 Program Objective Memorandum discussions, Avenger force modernization and Stinger lethality enhancements and service life extension planning efforts were finalized and will serve to mitigate risk until IFPC 2I, Block 1 enters the force. IPFC 2I, Block 1, which replaces Avenger/ Stinger systems in the ADA units during 2019-2025 timeframe, successfully completed several key test events along its development timeline this past year.

Concepts Development Division

Based on Gen. Don Starry's (the second commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command) idea that concepts drive technology, a small group of dedicated Soldiers and civilians in the Fires Center of Excellence's Capability Development and Integration Directorate's (CDID) Concepts Development Division (CDD) work to envision what the Fires force and Fires capabilities will be like in 2025 and beyond. Organized into three distinct branches, the CDD focuses on concepts in support of both air defense artillery and field artillery, force development, and the operational environment. Like their predecessors in the late 1930s and early 1940s, they work to reshape the Army to be adaptable enough to win in the far future.

To this end, over the past 12 months

CDD participated in numerous Army and joint wargames and exercises including Unified Challenge, Unified Quest, Black Dart, United State Northern Command's Vigilant Shield, United State Strategic Command's Global Lightning/Thunder, the U.S. Navy Global Wargame, the U.S. Air Force Unified Engagement and Future Wargame, Network Integration Exercise, Army Warfighter Assessment robotics, sea basing, shore-to-ship capabilities, early entry operations and air-ground integration wargames. The goal was to understand the world of the future - friend, foe and noncombatant, the joint force's capabilities and missions, and the Army's, especially Fires', role as part of the future joint force.

Of particular 2015 significance, CDD helped better understand counter-unmanned aerial systems and counter-fire emerging threats, identify subsequent Army capabilities required both today and into the future across the doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities domains and policy (DOTMLPF-P) implications spectrum and deliver the message via the governance process to the senior-most echelons of the Army's decision-makers.

The keystone of the vision for future Fires is TRADOC Pam 525-3-4, the Army Functional Concept for Fires (AFC-Fires). Released Oct. 13, 2010, CDD is in the final stages of staffing a totally revised version that reflects today's view of tomorrow. CDD also operationalized the lofty visions of the AFC-Fires in Army Warfighting Challenges (AWFCs) No. 17, coordinate and integrate Fires and conduct targeting, and No. 18, deliver Fires. All interested

parties are invited to read and comment on these and the other 18 AWFCs at www. milsuite.mil/book/groups/army-warfighting-challenge-awfc-group. Of additional interest, CDID's current focus is on developing operational and organizational concepts for all Fires brigade-level organizations to support the Army's Force 2025 and Beyond initiative, viewable www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/oo-ipt.

During 2015, CDD's Force Development Branch largely focused on future organizations capable of coordinating shaping Fires, close support and precision strike operations to create effects for the commander's objectives, as well as Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD). Two years ago, the Army assigned each active component division a division artillery (DIVARTY) headquarters to serve as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters, responsible for planning, preparing and employing joint, Army, and coalition Fires. Standing up all 10 active component DI-VARTY headquarters culminated in 2015 with the final three units unfurling guidons. Division commanders largely state DIVARTYs are a combat multiplier and increase the overall ability of field artillery units to support maneuver commanders across the force.

AIAMD capabilities, when fielded, enable ADA organizations to integrate mission command nodes, sensors and launchers. Further, future AIAMD capabilities utilize an integrated fire control network facilitating force and engagement operations across all echelons. 2015 witnessed CDD submitting a force design update to the Department of the Army for approv-

al, a document that impacts all ADA units across the force. Organizational changes will coincide with AIAMD fielding and we expect implementation to take eight to 10 years to complete across the force.

The Operational Environment (OE) Branch dedicated 2015 to continued support across the entire Fires Center of Excellence, broadly focusing our efforts on informing the development community and testing DOTMLPF-P capability solutions. Highlights of their accomplishments include Threat Home on Home sessions and "deep-dive" analysis in support of simulations while testing included the Q-53 and armor penetration analysis. The OE successfully hosted two Threat Home on Home sessions at Fort Sill, Okla. inviting intelligence community experts to discuss issues such as electronic warfare, ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles with the Fires community. These events ensured capability developers have relevant and timely information to perform their functions. The team also conducted an initial "deep-dive" analysis of adversarial threats within the Pacific Command area of responsibility in support of integrated air and missile defense simulations. That provided threat system performances of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and piloted aerial vehicles for future tests at the Battle Lab. In terms of solutions testing for 2015, the OE supported operational testing of the Q-53 counter-fire radar and is preparing for operational testing of the Integrated Air and Missile Defense System. These operational tests are one of the final steps before fielding and OE support validates the threats these systems address.

OE also conducted an armor penetration analysis of threat tanks, self-propelled artillery and armored vehicles in an effort to better understand adversarial protection efforts and support future munitions development of the field artillery community. Throughout the year, the OE branch continued to support the Fires Center of Excellence initiatives by providing intelligence expertise across Fort Sill.

Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense

The Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD) Project Office and IAMD Program Manager successfully conducted the second Developmental Test Flight for the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS) software and hardware Nov. 20, 2015 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The missile flight test was designed to demonstrate system capability to engage, intercept and kill a surrogate cruise missile (MQM-107D) target with a Patriot Advanced Capability-3 interceptor using Sentinel sensor data from the Integrated Fire Control Network – Launch on Remote. Two network-enabled Sentinel radars successfully tracked the target and provided a composite track which the IBCS Engagement Operations Center used to develop an executable engagement solution on the remoted sensor data. Preliminary results indicate a successful mission. Post mission analysis by the IAMD Joint Analysis Team will begin upon receipt of data from the test site. Results will be provided in a final mission test report. The IAMD Developmental FT-1 is the second of three

planned missile flight tests conducted as part of the developmental test and evaluation flight test phase of the IAMD program. The next IAMD DT flight test is scheduled for the third quarter of fiscal year 2016.

Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Mobile Reconstitution Facility demonstration

The Patriot Lower Tier Project Office conducted a Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC)-3 Mobile Reconstitution Facility (MRF) demonstration at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Launch Complex 38 Nov. 2-13. The purpose of the MRF demonstration was to validate the MRF operational procedures for emplacement, four-pack reconstitution and displacement. Users had identified a need to replace PAC-3 missiles that have failed testing in the field at theater locations instead of shipping the four-packs back to the depot. The MRF consists of six customized containers for the OCONUS reconstitution of PAC-3 missile four-packs. The mobile facility allows testing for incoming and out-going fourpacks, reconstitutes Type-A (operational ready) missiles into four-pack assemblies and reconstitute Type-F (failed) missiles into four-pack for shipment to depot. Once approved, the MFR will deploy overseas upon request, shorten the PAC-3 fourpack reconstitution turnaround times and maintain a higher level of readiness for the air and missile defense mission.

Patriot Post-Deployment Build-8 Developmental Test Missile Flight Test P-8.

The Lower Tier Project Office conducted a Patriot developmental test and evaluation PDB-8 Missile Flight Test (MFT) P8-2



A Patriot Advanced Capability 3 interceptor is launched from Omelek Island during Missile Defense Agency's historic integrated flight test on Oct. 24, 2012. File photo by Andrew Hall.

at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), N.M. Nov. 19. The missile flight test was designed to demonstrate system capability to detect, track, engage, intercept and kill two threat representative Patriot-as-a-target tactical ballistic missiles (TBM) with a Patriot Advanced Capability-3 cost reduction initiative (CRI) and a Patriot Advanced Capability-2 (PAC-2) Guidance Enhanced Missile-TBM (GEM-T) interceptors. The MFT was conducted in two parts, P8-2A and P8-2B. The P8-2A target was intercepted by a PAC-3 CRI and P8-2B target was intercepted by a PAC-2 GEM-T. Preliminary results indicate the two-part mission was successful. The MFT was one of four flight tests planned for the developmental test and evaluation of PDB-8. Post mission analysis by the Joint Analysis Team will begin upon receipt of data from Mine Site,

WSMR, and the results will be provided in a final mission test report. The next PDB-8 MFT (P8-4) was Dec. 10.

Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement first unit equipped.

Soldiers in 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Okla., met all requirements specified in the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) acquisition program baseline to be designated the first unit equipped with the PAC-3 MSE interceptor. The 3-2nd ADA received launcher upgrades from the M902 to the M903 launcher, new equipment training, and 12 PAC-3 MSE missiles are available at McAlester Army Ammunition Depot, Okla. for use if required. Additionally, conditional materiel release was approved for the MSE missile on that date.

Patriot Participation in Bold Quest 15.2 Capability Demonstration and Network Evaluation Integration 16.1, Fort Bliss, Texas and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The Bold Quest 15.2 Capability Demonstration, the Network Evaluation Integration (NIE) 16.1 were conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas, McGregor Range, N.M. and White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Sept. 28 to Oct. 8.

BQ 15.2 and NIE 16.2 with the Brigade Modernization Command partnered to conduct a joint and multinational event to examine solutions for the warfighter. Bold Quest 15.2 was organized by the J-6 Directorate of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with coalition and U.S. joint service forces and included a mix of simulated and live targets supporting air-combat, joint Fires, and command, control, communications, computers and intelligence event objec-

tives. This large-scale test event provided the Patriot test bed assets configured with Post Deployment Build-8 (PDB-8) software and hardware a unique opportunity to test PDB-8 software and hardware, 1-44th ADA (Patriot) Battalion, and the Integrated Air Missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS) participated in this target-rich environment at minimal cost. Patriot and the IBCS test assets were tied into the Bold Quest Link 16 network supporting interoperability objectives and demonstrations. The event provided three significant opportunities:

- 1) A venue to operate and assess Patriot PDB-8 hardware and software.
- 2) The ability to correctly identify, classify and threat assess a variety of targets with the Identification Friend or Foe Mode-5 Level-2 capabilities.
 - 3) Regression testing of the Patriot PDB-7.1.



Soldiers with the Royal Danish Army seek cover in a building during a Bold Quest mission, Sept. 28, in the training village of Kamal Jabour, Fort Bliss, Texas. Bold Quest is a multinational mission linking international armies for training with the intent of testing communication capabilities. Photo by Spc. Aura Sklenicka.

Fires Targeting Center

In early 2014, the Army Lessons Learned Forum General Officer Steering Committee identified issues within Army targeting, specifically at echelons above brigade. Training and Doctrine Command tasked the Fires Center of Excellence with leading the targeting study, resulting in the identification of three major issues:

- No Army proponent for targeting.
- Lack of an Army standard for target development.
- Limited targeting certification and leadership education.

In response to the outcomes of the tar-

geting study, in March of 2015, Maj. Gen. John Rossi, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill commanding general, established the Fires Targeting Center to address the identified issues within Army targeting.

The FTC serves as the Army's doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leader-ship, personnel, facilities and policy integrator for targeting, joint targeting accreditation and the integration of lethal and nonlethal capabilities across all warfighting functions. The FTC also represents the Army at joint and international targeting forums.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Giroux, Warrant Officer Instruction Branch, Army Targeting Center, teaches Soldiers and Marines U.S. Weaponeering, Precision Point Mensuration and Collateral Damage Estimation. Giroux is the first Army Warrant Officer to gain U.S. Collateral Damage Estimation instructor certification through the Army Targeting Center. Photo by Monica Wood.



During 2015, the FTC assumed the mission of managing the Army's National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency accredited Target Mensuration Only program, the Army's Joint Targeting School accredited Collateral Damage Estimation qualification course, and the Joint Technical Coordinating Group for Munitions Effectiveness (JTCG/ME) weaponeering course.

FTC personnel also serve as the chair for Army and joint working groups, including the U.S./U.K. Fires Interoperability Working Group and the JTCG/ME Surface-to-Surface Operational Users Working Group. In addition to these working groups, FTC personnel represent the Army at the Joint Fire Support Executive Steering Committee and the Military Targeting Committee.

On Sept. 24, the Army G-3 designated the FCoE commanding general as the Army's force modernization proponent for targeting (Army Regulation 5-22), an initiative that highlighted the combined efforts of FCoE and other Army targeting stakeholders to include the intelligence community.

This designation serves as the basis for the development of the Army targeting enterprise. Integrating capabilities requires federated involvement from all Army stakeholders. Currently, the FTC is working with service targeting centers, Army Service Component Command, United States Army Intelligence & Security Command and TRADOC Centers of Excellence to establish the targeting standards that will lead the force into 2025.

The vision of Army Force 2025 and Beyond will be greatly enhanced through Army targeting efforts. In 2016, the FTC will host the inaugural Army Targeting Working Group, which will serve to address targeting issues identified by Army targeting stakeholders, spanning both the generating and operating forces. A combined effort of lessons learned, working groups and stakeholder input postures the FTC to make a smooth transition to becoming the Army Targeting Center, focusing

the Army targeting enterprise on integrated capabilities through federated development, education and training.



Soldiers in the Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Sill, Okla. determine the exact location of their targets before sending their coordination to the fires direction center. File photo by Marie Berberea.

Directorate of Training Development and Doctrine

The dedicated Soldiers and DA civilians of the Directorate of Training Development and Doctrine (DOTD) were extremely busy this past year developing, updating and refining training, education and doctrine products for the Fires Center of Excellence, the air defense artillery and the field artillery.

The year started with developing the Fires Pre Command Course (PCC) curricula. This effort combined the air defense and field artillery PCCs into one consolidated course with the intent of developing senior leaders who can think and execute as Fires leaders.

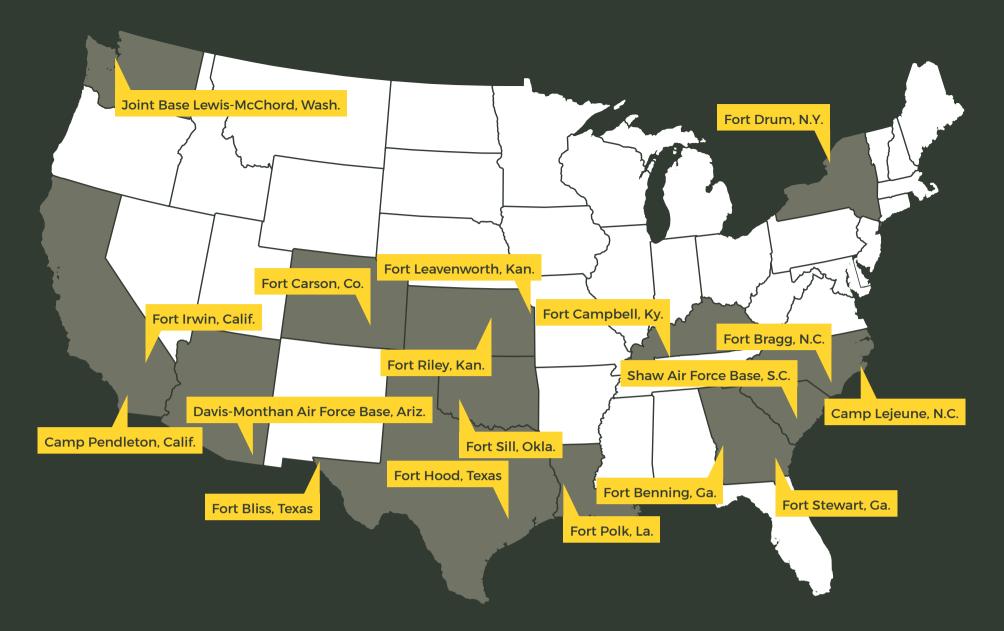
The first course was held in April with²⁸ each subsequent course refined based on previous class student feedback. The training developers for 13F worked to expand the Advanced Individual Training from six weeks to 10 weeks and four days. The purpose of this course growth was to ensure adequate time to properly train Soldiers in the art and science of attaining a precision target location and operating as a critical enabler of the joint team.

The training developer team feverishly worked with air defense instructors to transform the Air Defense Captains Career Course into an outcomes based course and simultaneously incorporated concepts from the Army's Human Dimension Strategy. This change created the conditions necessary to develop agile and adaptive leaders for the air defense force.

DOTD transformed course material in accordance with the Training and Doctrine Command Doctrine 2015 initiative. The field artillery doctrine team completed the development, update and revision of 18 publications to include field manuals, Army techniques publications and training circulars. The air defense artillery doctrine team completed the development, update and revision of 17 publications including a complete rewrite of Patriot doctrine. The lessons learned team continued to collect observations from numerous combat training center rotations, deployments and other exercises to capture trends. They used that information to work with the Fires Center of Excellence to find solutions.

In 2016 DOTD will incorporate human dimension concepts into the curricula for all professional military education courses. Doctrine will focus on the continued development of division artillery doctrine publications, Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense and Counter-Unmanned Arial Systems (C-UAS) doctrine. Collective task training developers will focus on strategic, tactical and ready for action in combat, mission essential task list refinement and C-UAS tasks.

DOTD continues to produce worldclass doctrine, training and education in order to yield the best Fires Soldiers and leaders in the world. *Fires Strong*.



Active U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps FA and U.S. Army ADA CONUS Units

Camp Lejeune, N.C.

10th Marine Artillery Regiment

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

Camp Pendleton, Calif.

11th Marine Artillery Regiment

1st BN, 11th Marine Regiment 2nd BN, 11th Marine Regiment 3rd BN, 11th Marine Regiment 5th BN, 11th Marine Regiment

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

1st BCD

Fort Benning, Ga.

1st BN. 10th FA

Fort Bliss, Texas

32nd AAMDC

11th ADA BDE

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

1st Armored DIVARTY

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

Fort Bragg, N.C.

18th FA BDE

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

82nd Infantry DIVARTY

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

108th ADA BDE

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

Fort Campbell, Ky.

101st Infantry DIVARTY

1st BN, 320th FA 2nd BN, 320th FA 3rd BN, 320th FA 2nd BN, 44th ADA

Fort Carson, Co.

4th Infantry DIVARTY

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

Fort Drum, N.Y.

10th Mountain DIVATRY

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

Fort Hood, Texas

1st Cavalry DIVARTY

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

69th ADA BDE

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

Fort Irwin, Calif.

I BTRY (ADA), 1-11 ACR

Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

MCTP, 32nd AAMDC

Fort Polk, La.

5th BN, 25th FA

Fort Riley, Kan.

1st Infantry DIVARTY

1st BN, 5th FA 1st BN, 7th FA

Fort Sill, Okla.

30th ADA BDE

2nd BN, 6th ADA 3rd BN, 6th ADA

31st ADA BDE

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

75th FA BDE

2nd BN, 18th FA 3rd BN, 13th FA 100th BSB

434th FA BDE

1st BN, 19th FA 1st BN, 31st FA 1st BN, 40th FA

1st BN, 79th FA

428th FA BDE

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

Marine Artillery Detachment

Fort Stewart, Ga.

3rd Infantry DIVARTY

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

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

2nd Infantry DIVARTY

2nd BN, 17th FA 1st BN, 37th FA

17th FA Brigade

5th BN, 3rd FA 1st BN, 94th FA 308th BSB 5th BN, 5th ADA

Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

4th BCD

Active U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps FA and U.S. Army ADA OCONUS Units





Alaska Fort Richardson

2nd BN, 377th FA

Fort Wainwright

2nd BN, 8th FA



Hawaii Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

94th AAMDC

Schofield Barracks

5th BCD

25th Infantry DIVARTY

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

GuamAnderson Air Force Base

Task Force Talon



Germany Grafenwöhr

4th BN. 319th FA

Kaiserslautern

10th AAMDC

5th BN, 7th ADA

Ramstein Air Base

19th BCD

Vilseck

FA SQDRN, 2nd CAV





Japan Kadena Air <u>Base</u>

1st BN, 1st ADA

Kyoto

14th MDB

Okinawa

12th Marine Artillery Regiment

1st BN, 12th Marine Regiment 2nd BN, 12th Marine Regiment 3rd BN, 12th Marine Regiment

South KoreaCamp Casey

210th FA BDE

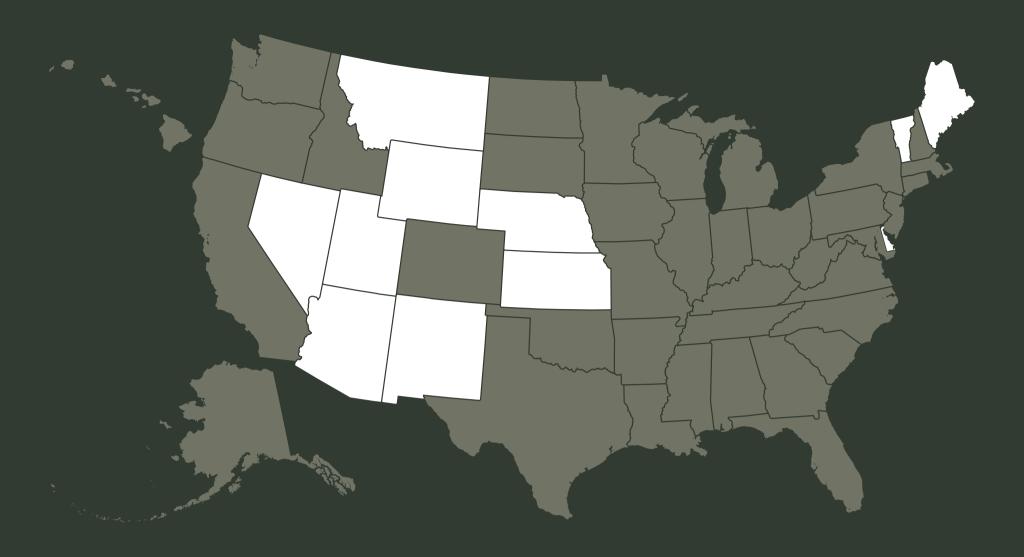
1st BN, 38th FA 6th BN, 37th FA

Osan Air Base

3rd BCD

35th ADA BDE

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



U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Marine Forces Reserve Units

Alabama

1st BN. 117th FA

Alaska

49th Missile Defense BN

Arkansas

1st BN, 206th FA

142nd FA BDE

1st BN, 142nd FA

California

1st BN. 144th FA

1st BN, 143rd FA

1st BN, 14th Marine Regiment

5th BN, 14th Marine Regiment

Colorado

100th Missile Defense BDE 169th FA BDE

3rd BN, 157th FA

Georgia

1st BN, 118th FA

1st BN, 214th FA

Florida

164th ADA BDE

1st BN, 265th ADA

3rd BN. 265th ADA

2nd BN, 116th FA

3rd BN, 116th FA

Hawaii

1st BN, 487th FA

Idaho

1st BN, 148th FA

Illinois

2nd BN, 122nd FA 2nd BN, 123rd FA

Indiana

2nd BN, 150th FA 1st BN, 163rd FA

lowa

1st BN. 194th FA

Kansas

130th FA BDE

1st BN, 161st FA 2nd BN. 130th FA

Kentucky

138th FA BDE

1st BN, 623rd FA 2nd BN, 138th FA

Louisiana

1st BN, 141st FA

Massachusettes

1st BN, 101st FA

Michigan

1st BN, 119th FA <u>1st BN,</u> 182nd FA

Minnesota

1st BN, 125th FA 1st BN, 151st FA

Mississippi

1st BN, 204th ADA 2nd BN, 114th FA

Missouri

1st BN, 129th FA

New Hampsire

197th FA BDE

3rd BN, 197th FA

New Jersey

3rd BN, 112th FA

New York

1st BN, 258th FA

North Carolina

1st BN, 113th FA 5th BN, 113th FA

North Dakota

1st BN, 188th ADA

Ohio

174th AD BDE

1st BN, 174th ADA 2nd BN, 174th ADA 1st BN, 134th FA

Oklahoma

1st BN, 160th FA

45th FA BDE

1st BN, 158th FA

Oregon

2nd BN, 218th FA

Pennsylvania

1st BN, 107th FA 1st BN, 109th FA 3rd BN, 14th Marine Regiment

Rhode Island

1st BN. 103rd FA

South Carolina

263rd AAMDC

2nd BN, 263rd ADA

678th ADA BDE

1st BN, 178th FA

South Dakota

1st BN. 147th FA

Tennessee

1st BN, 181st FA

FA Squadron, 278th ACR

Texas

14th Marine Regiment

2nd BN, 14th Marine Regiment 1st BN, 133rd FA 3rd BN, 133rd FA

Utah

65th FA BDE

1st BN, 145th FA 2nd BN, 222nd FA

Virginia

1st BN, 111th FA

Washington

2nd BN, 146th FA

Washington, D.C.

NCR-IADS HQ

West Virginia

1st BN, 201st FA

Wisconsin

1st BN, 120th FA 1st BN, 121st FA

Wyoming

115th FA BDE

2nd BN. 300th FA



Paratroopers, from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 377th Field Artillery (Airborne), fire a M119A2 howitzer on Malamute Drop Zone, Alaska, in support of Operation Valkyrie, a brigade joint forcible entry operation. Photo by Staff Sgt. Dan Love.

Joint Base Elmerdorf-Richardson, Alaska 2nd Battalion, 377th Field Artillery (Airborne), Spartan Steel

2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, *Spartan Steel*, is the only arctic airborne artillery battalion in the world. The paratroopers of PFAR have traveled in excess of 27,734 miles in 2015 for training and joint exercises in Japan, Australia, Kosovo, Korea, California, and Louisiana, as well as north of the Arctic Circle in support of

the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division station at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Ala.

PFAR began the year with a deployment to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., to support its fellow Alaskan Soldiers from 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID from Fort Wainwright, Ala.

PFAR filled numerous observer coach training roles, while B Battery, 2-377th, provided direct support Fires for the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the battery commander served as the fire support coordinator for the squadron commander.

In March, Spartan Steel deployed A Battery to provide the same support to the National Training Center for 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th ID's rotation.

The PFAR fire supporters trained and deployed at an unbelievable pace this year. The 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne) fire support team (FiST) deployed and executed an airborne assault into Japan in support of the Northern Edge Exercise.

The 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry FiST executed an airborne assault north of the Arctic Circle on Deadhorse Drop Zone displaying to partner nations and adversaries their operational reach. Third Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne) FiST executed an 18-hour flight to Australia with an inflight rig of parachutes and combat equipment culminating in the Joint Forcible Entry Operation (JFEO) in support of Talisman Saber 15. PFAR also deployed select fire supporters for nine months in support of the Kosovo 19 rotation.

Training and maintaining proficiency is the norm for the paratroopers of the Spartan Steel Battalion. They executed 15 airborne operations and conducted over 30 drop zone missions, providing Spartan Brigade with a light and lethal force ready to deploy with no notice in support of Pacific Command's Army Contingency Response Force.

In early March, Spartan Steel participated

in Operation Valkyrie, a brigade JFEO. In Arctic conditions, A Battery executed an airborne assault dropping two M119A2 howitzers onto Malamute Drop Zone, Ala. Confronting the snow and ice, A Battery emplaced and live-fired off the drop zone in 25 minutes. This was the first airborne assault resulting in an artillery live-fire from Malamute Drop Zone, Ala., in more than nine years. With this proficiency, Spartan Steel displayed its capability to provide lethal Fires anywhere in the Arctic or Pacific.

PFAR ended its summer training cycle with a deployment of the entire battalion to the Donnelly Training Area (DTA) at Fort Greely, Ala., in August. The deployment to DTA allowed PFAR to train its Table XII and XV tasks, exercise all target acquisition radars, and execute sustainment operations for the brigade that was stretched across 350 miles. PFAR fired more than 2,800 rounds training Table XII and XV tasks during two battalion fire support coordination exercises.

The year culminated in the brigade's Spartan Fusion Exercise. Spartan Fusion was a command post exercise (CPX) in support of the brigade's training plan for the Joint Readiness Training Center deployment in February 2016. The CPX provided PFAR, the brigade and battalion fire support elements the opportunity to fight against a world-class opposing force and train on mission essential task lists, targeting, and digital mission command systems.

The paratroopers of Spartan Steel stand ready to deploy, fight, and win throughout PACOM's area of responsibility from the southern hemisphere to the Arctic Circle.

Alaska U.S. Army National Guard

49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-Based Midcourse Defense)

The Soldiers of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion continued their mission of operating and securing the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system at Fort Greely, Ala., where they are responsible for destroying intercontinental ballistic missiles in mid-course to defend the United States and designated areas with assets at Fort Greely and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

In March, June and October, the Fire Direction Center crews were certified by the commanding general of the Space and Missile Defense Command during operational readiness evaluations. Military police in A Company were evaluated by 100th Missile Defense Brigade during Global Lightning and Global Thunder in March and November, respectively. Two mobile training teams conducted the Master Resiliency Trainer Course in February and the Small Arms Master Gunner Course in December. On June 26, the 49th said farewell to Lt. Col. Michael S. Hatfield and hailed Lt. Col. Timothy M. Brower as their current battalion commander.

Soldiers are utilizing the new Fort Greely Medical Home Health Clinic for their primary medical care at Fort Greely, eliminating the need to drive 100 miles to the nearest hospital. The 49th Missile Defense Battalion GMD will continue to conduct their forward-deployed mission and eagerly



Spc. David Kamer, Military Police Officer, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, stands guard on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska. Photo by Sgt. Jack Carlson III.

await their newly renovated headquarters building which will be a significant upgrade from their current headquarters. *Defending the Homeland!*

Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz.

Non-military Units

Field Artillery Test and Development Team



Soldiers fired rounds from a Paladin at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. During the test, more than 100 personnel worked in two 12-hour shifts. "Part of the nature of the job is you might have to practically live out here for a short period of time," said Wayne Schilders, Weapons Operation Branch, chief. "If war demanded it, we'd be required to. It's nothing Soldiers don't do, though." Photo by Mark Schauer.

TONS OF TRAINING: 3,000

155mm rounds fired in 11 days

A grand total of the tonnage of artillery fired at United States Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), Ariz., across its seven decades of existence would be a staggering figure. Yet few individual tests in the proving ground's history rival the nearly

3,000 155mm artillery rounds fired from the M284 cannon of the M109 Paladin over the course of 11 days this past December. Variants of the M109 have been tested at YPG for more than 40 years.

Bore evacuator holes that vent gas when the M284 cannon is fired are susceptible to corrosion and pitting. Army personnel developed a fix for this problem, but before implementation by Soldiers in the field, thorough testing was required. Yuma Proving Ground was tasked with performing this critical testing on three M284 tubes on a very compressed schedule that overlapped with the Christmas holiday. Over 100 proving ground personnel rose to the challenge in support of the test.

This pace was even more impressive considering that each round was remotely fired, a different process than firing it as Soldiers in theater would. The pace of the evaluation of the third tube was far slower and more methodical that those of the other two. It was also more heavily instrumented, with high-speed cameras filming each shot. The tube was artificially induced to fail after nearly 300 rounds fired, producing valuable engineering test data.

"The sheer volume of artillery fire was impressive," said Kermit Okamura, munitions and weapons division chief. "In that time period we fired 20 percent of what we did the previous year in all 155-mm artillery."

Arkansas U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment, Aleutians

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment, *Aleutians*, began fiscal year 2015 preparing for the Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise (XCTC) which First Army Division-West conducted in June at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ark.

The XCTC was an exciting training opportunity that brought out the very best in all the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of this storied regiment. The headquarters staff was stretched thin between command and control of the unit's tactical, technical and logistical requirements, while also undergoing a continuous military decision-making

process designed to provide daily guidance to subordinate units in the field environment.

Company G, Field Artillery Forward Support Company, fully integrated its maintainers, sustainers and distribution support squads into the XCTC battle rhythm.

Their task was to fully implement an artillery-specific support package capable of providing resources for two separate M119A2 howitzer firing batteries simultaneously, as well as the elements of Higher Headquarters Battery and staff. HHB brought a number of key functions to the fight including: the medical, survey, and



Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery, perform live-fire operations in support of ongoing maneuvers with corresponding units requesting high-explosive artillery rounds. Photo courtesy of 1-206th FA.



Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery, slingload a M119A2 howitzer onto a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during the Exportable Combat Training Capability Excercise at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center, Fort Smith, Ark. in June. Photo courtesy of 1-206th FA.

radar teams; counter-fire operations section and the downrange tactical operations hub.

The newly consolidated fire support element worked around the clock using observation posts surrounding the Fort Chaffee impact area providing a 360-degree view in concert with the 13F observation tables. Their mission was to be prepared to call for fire, observe and adjust both the maneuver battalion's mortar rounds, and the artillery's 105mm projectiles hurtling toward the legendary target – Potato Hill.

The firing batteries' howitzer sections, ammunition sections, and fire direction sections focused on individual and platoon-level training and operations, as they worked through the 13B and 13D firing tables. The training built up to the

daily shoot, move, and communicate drills that fully maximized the cannon crewmembers skills training. The firing batteries experienced real-time daily movements that challenged the very spirit of coordinated logistics, matched with pure back-to-back live firing across more than 18 firing points. The "Never Give Up" motto of the Aleutian Battalion rang loud and clear as each Soldier proved themselves working as individuals, sections, platoons and companies/batteries to meet and exceed the standards of training.

As the 2015 year rounded out, the 1-206th FAR *Aleutians* celebrated several monumental events.

In October, the battalion gathered at the Fred Croom Armory, headquarters for

1-206th FAR in Russellville, Ark., for the official presentation of the Meritorious Unit Commendation. The award to the 1-206th FAR recognized and honored those who served during Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF II), from March 17, 2004 to March 15, 2005. The ceremony was attended by former and current members of the battalion, as well as families and friends. Distinguished guests included; Maj. Gen. Mark Berry, Adjutant General of Arkansas; Brig. Gen. Keith Klemmer, Arkansas National Guard Deputy Adjutant General and Deputy Commanding General, Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Okla.; and former battalion commander, Brig. Gen. Patricia Anslow, commander, Arkansas Army National Guard, Col. Michael Spraggins, commander, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and former battalion commander, Col. John Stewart, former commander, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Col. Damon Cluck, director, Military Support, Arkansas National Guard; and former battalion commander.

Klemmer presided over the ceremony. He was the commander of 1-206th FAR during the combat tour in OIF II. An excerpt from the order read "In addition to fire and counter-fire operations, the battalion provided exemplary service as a base defense and quick reaction force for Camp Taji, as well as completing over 400 convoy escort missions without any loss."

Finally, in November, the *Aleutians* had the distinct honor to receive Maj. Gen. Mark Berry, the Adjutant General; Col. Michael Spraggins, commander, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Lt. Col. Kevin



Lt. Col. Kevin Cox, 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery commander, presents a distinctive M119A2 artillery brass canister to Maj. Gen. Mark Berry, the adjutant general, Nov. 7 on firing point C311 at Ft. Chaffee, Ark. Photo courtesy of 1-206th FA.

"In addition to fire and counter-fire operations, the battalion provided exemplary service as a base defense and quick reaction force for Camp Taji, as well as completing over 400 convoy escort missions without any loss."

Cox, commander 1-206th FAR, on firing point C311 at Fort Chaffee.

B Battery 1-206th FAR hosted Berry as he made his way through the cannon sections speaking with the unit's 13B Cannon Crewmembers, 13D Fire Direction Specialists and 13A Field Artillery lieutenants. Between the private moments with the Soldiers of B Battery, the unit successfully conducted a Battery Time on Target, and a One Round, Army Command mission for the distinguished guests.



Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, Soldiers conduct a road march. Photo by Sgt. Robert Burch.

142nd Field Artillery Brigade, Razorback

Soldiers from 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, Arkansas National Guard, located throughout Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas River Valley, again demonstrated their commitment to being a prepared, proficient and capable force for the state, community and the Army.

The year included multiple trainings aimed at maximizing the competency of all Soldiers within the brigade and activeduty missions in support of the citizens of Arkansas, and mission command.

The year kicked off with individual weapons training and the Army Physical Fitness Test in the first quarter of 2015. Then both firing battalions worked toward platoon-level certification and battery-level certification for all assigned Paladin and Multiple Launch Rocket System sections. Additionally, ammunition and fire direction centers completed required certifications.

During the winter of 2015, Soldiers and vehicles were prepared and deployed on state active-duty for Operation Winter Response. The Soldiers were primarily responsible for providing welfare patrols and staging to support the Arkansas State Police in ensuring the welfare of the citizens. The brigade simultaneously maintained its focus on artillery training. First Battalion, 142nd FA fired 60 M28A1 reduced range practice rockets, an Army Tactical Missile System and practiced slingload operations with the 77th Aviation Brigade. During the



A Soldier from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 142nd Field Artillery Brigade, fires an M2 Machine Gunduring annual training. Photo by Sgt. Robert Burch.

same time, 2nd Battalion, 142nd FA fired 1,056 155 mm artillery rounds during a river crossing exercise with the 341st Engineers.

The brigade headquarters' primary focus was on mission command for training year 2015. During annual training, 142nd was selected to conduct a proof of concept Mission Command Systems Integration (MCSI) event to validate the Army's Phased Command Post Maturity Concept. The unit was the first to implement the concept, which was accomplished over three inactive duty training weekends and the two-week annual training period. Upon completion of the proof of concept, 142nd made recommendations to the MCSI team

to modify the Phased Maturity Concept and implement the Main Command Post and Tactical Command Post concept. Consequently, the MCSI team accepted and adapted the recommendations based on the 142nd training experience, which led to an influence on Army doctrine.

During October, 142nd FA Brigade held a change of command ceremony. Col. Greg Bacon, after a very successful year leading the *Razorback* Redlegs, turned over command to Lt. Col. (P) Johnny Teegardin. The training year was closed out with the brigade providing 15 Soldiers in support of War Fighter 16-02 with the 29th Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

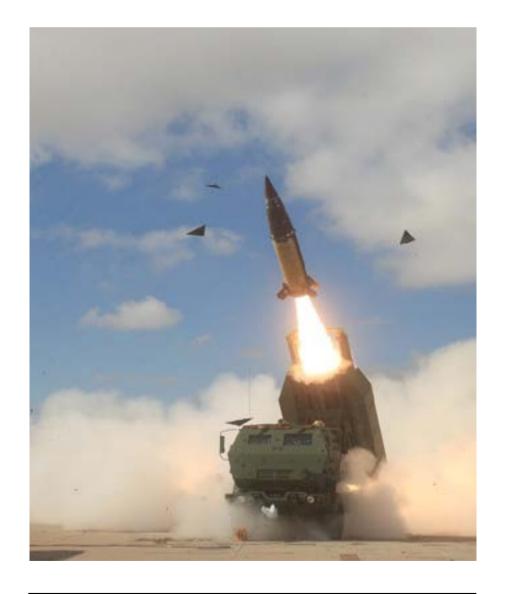
1st Battalion 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, Fireball

Training year 2015 provided 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, Arkansas National Guard, *Fireball*, with many opportunities to maintain momentum in becoming the premier Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion in the nation.

The battalion was selected to participate in an Army Tactical Missile System stockpile reliability mission at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. July 10.

It was a success and provided data that determined the stockpile's shelf life and reliable analysis for the BLK 1 Missile Shelf Life Extension program.

Fireball Soldiers conducted a change of command ceremony, which honored Lt. Col. Vixen James as the outgoing commander and celebrated Lt. Col. David Gibbons as the incoming commander. The unit demonstrated success during a 29th Infantry Division fire mission at the battery



Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, fire a missile while training at White Sands Missile Range, N. M. Photo courtesy of 1-142nd FA.

level, which generated a mission fired report back to 29th ID in Fort Belvoir, Va.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery moved from Harrison to the Bentonville

Armed Forces Reserve Center and the battalion relinquished responsibility of the Berryville Armory to the city of Berryville.

2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, Diamond Fire

The 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, Arkansas National Guard, *Diamond Fire*, began the year with an artillery-focused training plan and conducted live-fire exercises throughout all quarters of training year 2015. The battalion was able to achieve and sustain artillery certification while firing 1,056 155 mm artillery rounds, including special munitions, before the end of the third quarter.

The battalion received calls for fire from its own observers, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team observers, Air Force/Navy joint terminal attack controllers located at Fort Chaffee, Ark. and from 29th Infantry Division at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The battalion successfully delivered multi-echelon, multi-component live 155mm munitions on target during the training event. After an aggressive approach to Soldier readiness in 2014, C Battery, 2-142nd FAR, *Cold Steel*, was named the top battery/company in the state. The following year B Battery, 2-142nd FAR, *Battle Axe*, was named the top battery/company in the state.

These consecutive awards, along with many others contributed to 2-142nd FAR becoming the lead battalion in the state on readiness metrics. The Soldiers once again demonstrated flexibility by proving their



Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery conduct night-fire missions with an M109A6 howitzer. Photo courtesy of 2-142nd FA.

ability to maintain artillery skills proficiency and artillery safety certification in conjunction with top rated Soldier readiness.

The remainder of the year consisted of command post training and artillery section certifications. In addition to being combat ready and cost effective, 2nd Battalion was also involved in various civic activities including a Veteran's Day parade and providing support to the Bikes, Blues and Barbecue charity fundraising event.

The command and Soldiers of 2-142nd FAR are leading the way in accomplishing every mission by continuing to stay disciplined, precise and adaptable to a changing environment.



Soldiers from 217th Brigade Support Battalion perform Army warrior tasks. Photo courtesy of 217th BSB.

217th Brigade Support Battalion, Hammer

Soldiers of 217th Brigade Support Battalion, Arkansas Army National Guard, *Hammer*, completed a modified tables of organization and equipment change that required significant reorganization.

During the implementation, 217th BSB was reduced by 115 Soldiers to an authorized strength of 131. This transition was made by moving Soldiers and equipment throughout the brigade and state over the course of the training year.

Despite the reduction in strength, Soldiers worked hard preparing equipment

for turn-in, cross leveling personnel and readying themselves for new missions. Soldiers in 217th BSB now support Higher Headquarters, 142nd Field Artillery Brigade and provide distribution support to the entire brigade.

During training year 2015, Soldiers of 217th BSB continued to honor their unit's history of providing excellence in logistical support by distributing 35,000 gallons of fuel, cooking 12,100 meals and providing 5,808 meals ready to eat to the brigade for training operations.

Camp Pendleton, Calif.



Staff and battalion operations officers from 11th Marines Regiment conduct a rehearsal of concept prior to the execution of the Summer Fire Excercise 2015 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif. Photo courtesy of the 11th Marine Regiment.

11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Cannon Cockers

Located aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., the 11th Marine Regiment continues to provide accurate and timely fire support to the 1st Marine Division and I Marine Expeditionary Force across the globe while supporting a full range of military operations.

Employing the M777A2 towed 155mm howitzer, the M142A2 High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System and the M327 rifled, towed 120mm mortar Expeditionary

Fire Support System, the *Cannon Cockers* of 11th Marines are ready to provide tailored fire support to the maneuver commander at any time or place.

True to its expeditionary nature, 11th Marines provide forces to almost every aspect of Marine Corps operations. They continue to deploy artillery batteries in support of Western Pacific Marine Expeditionary Unit operations, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments, and the Unit Deployment Program. Additionally, the regiment provides fire supporters to

every maneuver regiment and separate battalion in 1st Mar Div.

Over the past year, the *Cannon Cockers* have been a part of 1st Marine Div exercises: Steel Knight and Desert Scimitar, with general support artillery Fires. Furthermore, 11th Marines support units organic and adjacent to 1st Mar Div, including the Training and Education

Command, the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific, and Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One. The *Cannon Cockers* continue to meet all enduring and emerging requirements as the regiment trains to its core task of providing lethal fire support to the maneuver commander.

1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Cobra

1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, remained heavily engaged in sustaining proficiency as a cannon battalion throughout 2015. Across California and Arizona, 1st Battalion conducted numerous live-fire trainings in support of 1st Marine Division. The battalion provided fire support teams for the unit deployment program and mission-ready batteries for the 11th, 13th, and 15th Marine Expeditionary units.

For a portion of 2015, 1st Battalion served as the cannon battalion for 1st Mar Div's Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Air Contingency Force. The battalion conducted a strategic mobility exercise and firing exercise incorporating an attached target acquisition platoon and High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System battery to guarantee mission readiness for 11th MEB and ACF's commitments. First Battalion provided cannon and mortar during Scorpion Fires, Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-16, Realistic Urban Training Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise 1-14, Summer Fires Exercise 15 and two additional battalion-level live-fire exercises.



Marines from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire a M327 Expeditionary Fire Support System for 11th Marine Expiditionary Unit during an urban training exercise aboard Ft. Hunter Liggett, Calif. Photo courtesy of 11th Marines Regiment.

The battalion also participated in Desert Scimitar and Steel Knight 16, doing amphibious operations with cannons and helicopter-borne mortar operations.



Marines from F Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, conduct a fire mission in support of Summer Firex 2015 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif. Photo courtesy of the 11th Marine Regiment.

2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Patriot

In 2015, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, conducted a multitude of exercises across southern California, while providing batteries and fire supporters to III Marine Expeditionary Force operations in the Pacific. The battalion continued to reinforce its relationship with 5th Marine Regiment by providing fire support teams and live-fire and maneuver training exercises.

During 2015, 2nd Battalion and subordinate units participated in exercise Iron Fist, Tactical Air Control Party exercises, multiple battalion exercises, Marine

Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation in support of 5th Marines, and Summer Fire Exercise 15.



Marines of MBattery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment fire a round in support of Operation Koolendong 2015 in the Bradshaw Training Area, Northern Territory, Australia. Photo courtesy of the 11th Marine Regiment.

ed 1st Marine Division with accurate and timely Fires during Desert Scimitar 15 and Steel Knight 16. The battalion also supported Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise Dawn Blitz a multi-national event that involved cannon and expeditionary fire support system sections conducting amphibious landings and live-fire aboard Camp Pendleton. The battalion fielded a battery to participate in the Pre-Fielding Fire Exercise in Twentynine Palms, Calif., validating

The Battalion support-

modifications to the M777A2 and its ability to shoot 5H charges for the Marine Corps as a whole.

3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Thunder

Third Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, continues to train and support numerous units with ground delivered Fires aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. The host of training evolutions provided to the battalion brought invaluable experience for the Marines and unit as a whole. The battalion continued to hone its core missions by firing for 7th Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluations, tactical air control party shoots, and battalion through division field exercises.

Over the past year, 3rd Battalion provided forces and Fires for exercise Koolendong with 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, and exercise Talisman Saber with 4th Marines in Australia as part of the unit deployment program. Third Battalion also supported the British Royal Commandos during exercise Black Alligator in MCAGCC.

Third Battalion continues to be on the forefront of artillery operations for the Marine Corps with Battery K fielding the first six chromium lined tubes. Third Battalion participated in the division field exercise Steel Knight and continues to refine its tactics, techniques, and procedures as a battalion.

5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Steel Rain



Marines from S Battery, 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, fire a M142 launcher during a live-fire training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-ninePalms, Calif. Photo courtesy of the 11th Marine Regiment.

Fifth Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, continued to expand the employment concepts of rocket artillery throughout the full range of military operations while providing precision Fires in support of joint and multilateral exercises. Fifth Battalion continued to provide organic, long-range general support Fires to 1st Marine Division.

Throughout the year, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines supported exercise Talisman Sabre in Darwin, Australia; Rolling Thunder aboard Fort Bragg, N.C.; 11th Marines Summer Fire Exercise 15; 1st Marine Division exercises Steel Knight and Desert Scimitar, and Mountain Exercise 1-15 in support of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines. They also conducted multiple battery training and readiness evaluations in preparationfor their inaugural battery deployment to Okinawa, Japan.

Fifth Battalion provided live rocket Fires and High Mobility Artillery Rocket System planning and employment considerations in support of Marine Aviation Weapons and Training Squadron One Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-16 throughout the month of October. Additionally, the battalion continues training in CONUS, conducting live-fire Guided-Multiple

Launch Rocket System missions, extending the range of its organic C2 and logistics capabilities, developing the proficiency of launcher crews and battalion and battery operations centers, displaying HIMARS battalion capabilities to support Marine divisions and Marine air ground task forces across a broad spectrum of missions against near-peer and hybrid threats.

12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Thunder Regiment

Located aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, with 3rd Battalion co-located and 1st Battalion located aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the 12th Marine Regiment continues to provide fire support to 3rd Marine Division and III Marine Expeditionary Force across the Pacific Region.

Throughout 2015, Marines and Sailors from 12th Marines conducted 16 mission



Marines from 4th Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, fire their M777 howitzers during a live-fire exercise. Photo courtesy of 12th Marine Regiment.



Marines from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, fire a M777 howitzer. Photo courtesy of 12th Marine Regiment.

rehearsals in six different countries, employing the M777A2 towed 155mm howitzer, the M142A2 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), and the M327 towed 120mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System. The majority of the exercises were executed by batteries from the east and west coasts of the continental United States and Hawaii, sent to Okinawa as part of the unit deployment program. These exercises demonstrated how 12th Marines are trained and ready to provide cannon Fires to 3rd Marine Division, Caltrap Division.

In January, Headquarters Battery, 12th Marine Regiment deployed to the Central Training Area (CTA) on Okinawa to conduct reconnaissance, selection, occupation, and position training.

Third Battalion, Warriors of the Pacific, aboard Camp Hansen, Okinawa, deployed to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., where they provided artillery support to 4th Marine Regiment during the conduct of Integrated Training Exercise 2-15. The exercise

provided the first opportunity for the battalion to participate in a tactical training exercise control group event. Marines in A Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marines, Spartan, and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines Liaison team conducted exercise Lava Viper 15.2 in support of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines in the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), Hawaii.

During the month of February, a forward element from 12th Marine Regiment deployed to PTA for exercise Dragon Fire 15.2, in order to build upon the regiment's ability to command and control subordinate units in a tactical environment and maintain its combat readiness.

Also during February, exercise Cobra Gold 2015 took place at Ban Chan Krem, Thailand, where Battery L, 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines, fired over 500 artillery rounds in support of maneuvering units and aerial training. Marines in 3rd Battalion also conducted a unit deployment program changeover with Battery K and L from 10th Marines.

By the end of the month, Battery K deployed to the Hijudai Maneuver Area (HMA) in Kyushu, Japan, for the artillery relocation training program (ARTP) 14-4. ARTP is a regularly scheduled training event throughout mainland Japan that strengthens combat readiness of Marine forces and supports the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. The execution of ARTP 14-4 marked the first time 3-12th Marines deployed a battery to HMA in a three-year period. Marines in B Battery, 1-12th Marines and the regiment's Headquarters Battery prepared for exercise Spartan Fury 15.2 on the island of Hawaii by conducting a battery shoot and

command post exercise at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

In March, 12th Marine's forward element conducted exercise Dragon Fire 15.2. The forward element sent two AN-TPQ 46 radars, one Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar and the Target Processing Center to link up with 1-12th Marines affording them the opportunity to train to a newly assigned counter fires mission essential task. All elements established digital communications via AN/PRC-117G radio; the first time this has been done in 12th Marines. This exercise provided the first opportunity in several years for the battalion to train with radars and a TPC due to geographical separation and the fiscal constraints of deploying radar teams to Hawaii.

During Dragon Fire 15.2, 12th Marines integrated air support from different branches with their artillery, giving them surface-to-surface and air-to-surface capabilities. A small portion of 12th Marines, consisting of the Fire Support Coordination Center (FSCC), a 3rd Marine Division asset, and Fire Direction Center (FDC) personnel participated in exercise Key Resolve 2015 aboard Camp Courtney, Okinawa.

Key Resolve is an annual exercise that ensures the Republic of Korea (RoK) and United States Alliance is prepared to defend the RoK, while training alliance forces to respond to any potential event on the Korean peninsula. Battery K, 3-10th Marines continued to execute ARTP 14-4 at HMA on mainland Japan. Battery K conducted training such as artillery fire, patrolling, and convoy operations. During exercise Spartan Fury 15.2 at PTA 1-12th Marines expended over 2000 rounds



Marines from 2nd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment fire their M777 howitzer at Twentynine Palms, Calif. Photo courtesy of 12th Marine Regiment.

during battery, battalion, and regimental phases supporting maneuver forces while delivering combined arms using multiple and different air platforms. Upon returning to MCBH, the battalion began preparations for exercise Balikatan 2015 in the Republic of the Philippines.

April began with Headquarters Battery deploying to exercise Balikatan 2015. While there, the regiment focused on command and control of multiple firing agencies. The regiment assumed command and control of the division as the alternate division command post, a key training highlight for the exercise. During Balikatan 2015, 1-12th Marines partnered with 16th Company of the field artillery battalion of the Philippine Marine Corps, with two howitzers and 621 personnel. During the exercise, the Marines fired with the Philippine marines at a simulated objective for enhanced combined capabilities during the bilateral artillery fire. Simultaneously, K/3-10th Marines participated in both exercise Ssang Yong and Korean Marine Exchange Program in support of Battalion Landing Team 3/3. Battery K moved to multiple simulated firing points, focusing



Marines from 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, fire a 110mm mortar during a training exercise. Photo courtesy of 12th Marine Regiment.

on howitzer emplacement and fire-mission processing skills. In April, Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines deployed back to Twentynine Palms, Calif. and Battery M arrived for the unit deployment program (UDP) under 3-12th Marines.

Throughout May, A/1-12th Marines and the 2/3 Liaison Team conducted M777 training and readiness evaluations at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. This was the last artillery fire exercise for the battery prior to their departure to Okinawa, Japan for UDP under 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines. The 12th Marines FSCC participated in exercise Forager Fury, focused on proper fire support and air de-confliction in PTA. C Battery completed exercise Lava Viper 15.2 in the PTA. Their focus was primarily on proper training and readiness standards.

During the first two weeks of June, they also conducted a turnover and relief in place with A Battery in Okinawa and returned to

Hawaii. Simultaneously, K/3-10th Marines deployed to the Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji in mainland Japan to conduct a battery level firing exercise.

From July 7-24, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines participated in exercise Talisman Saber 2015, Bradshaw Field Training Area, Australia with Battery M, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines. During the Exercise, 3-12th Marines controlled Battery M, an Australian 155mm M777 battery, a platoon of HIMARS from Battery Q, 5th Battalion, 11th Marines, and several sections of counter battery in support of 4th Marines and Marine Rotational Force Darwin maneuver units. This marked the first time Marine Corps HIMARS have been fired in Australia.

In August, 12th Marine Regiment FDC and the FSCC participated in exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2015, aboard Okinawa. The regiment supported UFG with augments for both the ground combat element

and the response cell. During this period the regiment focused on counter-battery procedures and fire mission processing refinement. On Aug. 10, Marines in A Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marines arrived on Okinawa to commence their six-month deployment under the UDP.

1st Battalion, 12th Marines participated in exercise Spartan Fury15.3 in the PTA. The first phase of the exercise was focused on maintaining and building upon both the headquarters and firing battery's proficiency, while the second phase focused on massing the fires of the battalion. On Sept. 4, approximately 125 Japanese army officer candidates visited Camp Hansen, Okinawa and 12th Marines as part of the Japanese Observer Exchange Program. The 125 candidates received a capabilities brief and observed a static display of artillery equipment, consisting of radar, fire direction and weapon systems. Also in early September, A/1-12th Marines attached to 2/3 and deployed to Korea in support of KMEP 15.2. On Sept. 6, 3-12th Marines deployed to mainland Japan aboard a Japanese contracted passenger ferry to ARTP 15.2, at CATC, Camp Fuji. The battalion conducted 10 consecutive days of firing in the East Fuji Maneuver Area. From Sept. 21-25, 12th Marines hosted 11th Marines to plan for the first UDP deployment of HIMARS to Okinawa in the spring of 2016. The planners from 11th Marines completed a site survey of future facilities and flew to South Korea for a site survey of potential HIMARS ranges. Marines in B/1-12th Marines ended the month of September with a training and readiness firing exercise at Schofield Barracks Sept. 26-30, pri-



A HIMARS from 5th Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment sits during a training exercise. Photo courtesy of the 12th Marine Regiment.

or to departure to Okinawa, Japan and assignment to the UDP. Oct. 10-25, Head-quarters and B batteries of 1-12th Marines conducted exercise Spartan Fury 16.1 in the PTA. During the exercise, the battalion established long range high frequency between PTA and 12th Marines on Okinawa, a communications milestone. Marines in C Battery conducted exercise Lava Viper 16.1 Oct. 20 to Nov. 13 in the PTA.

Headquarters Battery conducted a detailed strategic mobility exercise throughout November in order to validate force deployment data and complete individual readiness for possible contingency and crisis response within the Pacific Command Area of Responsibility. Headquarters Battery deployed to the CTA in Okinawa to conduct a command post exercise, aimed at preparing the regiment to assume control as the ground combat element, in preparation for its assigned mission during Balikatan 2016. From Nov. 15 to Dec. 15, 3-12th Marines deployed to Yausubetsu Maneuver Area in northern Japan to conduct ARTP 15.3. From Dec. 1-15, A/1-12th Marines conducted a turnover and relief in place with B Battery in Okinawa, Japan.

Fort Carson, Colorado

4th Infantry Division Artillery

Soldiers in 4th Infantry Division organized an uncasing ceremony in May to celebrate the rich history of the unit alongside 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery, *Vikings*, 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery, *Steel*, and 3rd Battalion 29th Field Artillery, *Pacesetters*.

Col. Michael Oeschger took command of 4th Infantry Division Artillery July 10, supporting 2-12th FA Stryker Brigade, 3-29th FA Heavy Brigade and 2-77th FA Light Brigade.

"While the 4th DIVARTY has technically been activated for several weeks now, to-day's assumption of command marks the official return of the [Division Artillery] as the division's principal organization of fire support, integration and synchronization," said Maj Gen. Ryan Gonsalves, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson commanding general. "This is a great day for this post, as we finally see the concept and goal of the 4th Infantry Division, as the only balanced division in our Army, realized."

DIVARTY is a brigade-level element responsible for overseeing all field artillery units in the division, ensuring each unit receives the same standard of training and oversight. The field artillery unit is unique in its support to 4th ID as it provides Fires in a balanced array of light (2-77th FA), armored (3-29th FA), and Stryker (2-12th FA) units.



Col. Michael Oeschger takes command of the 4th Infantry Division Artillery July 10. Photo courtesy of 4th ID DIVARTY.

While the newly formed 4th Division Artillery is reorganized, each battalion will continue to build their strong history and relationships with each other.

The future is bright for the 4th Infantry DIVARTY who will conduct a division-level exercise in Germany in January, 2016.

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

1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division transitioned to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team over the last year. As part of this transformation into the nation's first pure double "V" hull Stryker unit, Straight Arrows, 4th Battalion 42nd Field Artillery Regiment watched their Paladins load onto the railhead and depart only to unload the M777A2 howitzers and convert to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, Angry Vikings.

The organization experienced drastic changes with its personnel and platforms, but this change did not slow the artillerymen. Within six months, the unit conducted operational new equipment training, Gunnery Tables I-XII, and certified and qualified all crews (fire support teams, Q-36, Q-37, Q-50 sections, and 18 M777A2 sections).

In particular, the fire support teams and joint forward observers were the first in the Army equipped with the latest double "V" hull fire support vehicles, providing infantrymen and cavalrymen with digitally-enabled observers.

After completing Artillery Table XII, C Battery supported the U.S. Air Force Weapons School CAS phase training with an A-10 gunship and joint terminal attack controllers. Working with 66th Weapons Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., the battery brought lessons learned and incorporated artillery doctrine into the already rigorous mission sets.

The fire support teams and joint forward observers were the first in the Army equipped with the latest double "V" hull fire support vehicles.

Over the course of two weeks, the Soldiers performed 16 artillery raids firing 498 rounds downrange, to include daily suppression of enemy air defenses missions, all in an effort to give the Air Force's best pilots timely and accurate Fires on the battlefield.

While the Vikings continued to train at Fort Carson, Colo. with howitzer direct fire ranges as a part of artillery tables and live fire exercise support across the brigade, A Battery supported National Training Center as opposing force. During their rotation, Assault Battery provided another capability across the battlefield for 11th Regiment and enhanced the training benefits for their sister brigade as they prepared for an upcoming deployment.

While they continued to focus on basics, the Vikings are on the cutting edge of Fires support. The battalion continues to drive forward supporting the Raider Brigade as they complete new equipment training, mortar Fires, and collective training across the formation in preparation for whatever missions come their way. Stay Angry!

2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, Steel

In November, 2014, Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, *Steel*, completed redeployment from Kandahar, Afghanistan, following their mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the Resolute Support mission.

During the spring and summer months, the battalion managed a diverse mission set. More than 180 Soldiers from across the formation task organized under B Battery and deployed for Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Ky. At home station, A Battery helped with the Installation Response Force for the duration of the fiscal year. In July, C Battery (-) was task organized un-

der 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment to support the Kabul Security Force mission in Afghanistan. Despite the adversity, Soldiers from across the formation moved forward with collective training, with all batteries certifying through Table XII.

A notable accolade, the battalion was a finalist for the 2015 Army Award for Maintenance Excellence; final inspections occurred in December.

The battalion is currently preparing for deployment to National Training Center Rotation 16-02, and continues to prepare for deployment to Afghanistan in 2016.

3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, Pacesetters

The Pacesetter Battalion deployed to Kuwait in early 2015 after completing a rigorous decisive-action focused National Training Center rotation in November

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery fly with their Paladin weapon system on their way to Kuwait. (Below) Soldiers load a Paladin as they prepare for flight. Photos courtesy of 3-29th FA.





2014 which saw the unit fire more than 3,000 rounds. Immediately upon arrival to Kuwait for Operation Spartan Shield, the battalion got the call to support Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq with a target acquisition platoon and brigade counterfire cell. The AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 radars provided target acquisition for the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center for the duration of the 9-month deployment. Counterfire officers served as the sensor manager for Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command-Iraq and managed all acquisition assets within Iraq.

In March, the battalion was directed to provide two M109A6 howitzers, one M992 FASV, and a fire direction center to provide counterfire support to the Marines at Al Asad Airbase, Iraq.

Pacesetters successfully deployed these assets via C-17 aircraft and it was an opportunity to conduct air load planning operations with the Air Force. The battalion later provided that same package to support operations in a second location at Al Taqqadum Airbase, Iraq with the addition of a Q50 Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar and crew. These platoons fired a total of 679 high explosive, 87 illumination, 65 rocket assisted projectiles, and two white phosphorus rounds during coalition operations. Of note, the battalion fired 180 rounds using a precision guidance kit fuse and had tremendous effects on the enemy.

In July the battalion conducted its change of command and said goodbye to Lt. Col. Cory Delger and welcomed Lt. Col. Douglas Chimenti. The change of command

took place at Camp Buehring, Kuwait and included the Army Central deputy commanding general in attendance.

In conjunction with platoons supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the battalion also conducted section and platoon qualification at the Udari Range Complex. The *Pacesetters* also supported the brigade's company combined arms live-fire exercise training, a brigade fire coordination exercise and finished with a visit from the Precision Guidance Kit New Equipment Training team from Piccitany, N.J. and Fort Sill, Okla. The battalion fired a total of 1,736 rounds during training.

The unit stands ready to redeploy back to Fort Carson, Colo. and will integrate with 4th Infantry Division Artillery. *Pacesetters! Fidelis et Verus!*

100th Missile Defense Brigade, *The 300*

The multi-component Soldiers of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, Groundbased Midcourse Defense conducted their presidentially mandated, 24/7/365 national defense mission for the 11th consecutive year.

In addition to the three GMD operationally controlled elements; 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Fort Greely, Ark.), and Detachment 1 (Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.), the activation of five Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance missile defense batteries began the development of the brigade's shared administrative control of those units. Pre-em-



Contractors hoist a Ground-Based Interceptor for emplacement into its underground silo March 21 at Fort Greely, Alaska. The Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System is operated by missile crews from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, Colorado Springs, Colo. and the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Fort Greely. Military Police from A Company 49th Missile Defense Battalion provide security for the Missile Defense Complex. Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Crane.

inent among those detachments for 2015 is the new Kyoga-Misaki Communication Station, Japan, which directly supports the GMD system. In 2015, the brigade also began the security mission for the Fort Drum In-Flight Interceptor Communication System Data Terminal, using 16 Department of the Army security guards.

100th MDB completed the warfighter trial period of the 6B2.2 GMD fire control

software, the first major upgrade in several years. Completion of this trial period resulted in U.S. Northern Command accepting multiple crucial, Ballistic Missile Defense System assets in the new operational baseline. Under these new sets of operational software, brigade and battalion GMD missile defense crewmembers can now utilize these accepted assets for day-to-day operations in order to accomplish the GMD mission with a greater degree of system fidelity. These upgrades allow crewmembers to make tactical decisions with greater assurance of real-world system performance.

2015 also saw the brigade's support of multiple combatant command (Tier–1) level exercises supporting NORTHCOM, U.S. Pacific Command, and U.S. Strategic Command. These exercises included: Global Lightning, Vigilant Shield, and Global Thunder. The brigade and battalion also participated in Army service component command-level exercises and evaluations supporting U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

Soldiers of 100th MDB continue to stand ready to defend the nation against the threat of a limited intercontinental ballistic missile attack at all times. *None Shall Pass – Strike!*

Colorado U.S. Army National Guard 169th Field Artillery Brigade, *Liberators*

Soldiers in 169th Field Artillery Brigade, *Liberators*, completed an aggressive training year in 2015. The headquarters culminating training event was Warfighter 16-2 (WFX) in support of the 29th Infantry Division from Virginia at Camp Atterbury, Ind. As part of the ramp-up and integration with 29th ID, two command post exercises (CPX) were conducted in July and August. Additionally, 169th FAB maintained its rigorous training battle rhythm with two added simulation driven CPXs in March and June.

The 169th was assigned to the 29th ID for WFX 16-2 in October 2014 and immediately began developing the close relationship required to integrate into the division. One of the largest challenges of working with a division more than 1,000 miles away was

establishing integration of Army battle command system (ABCS) that doesn't rely on the time consuming and laborious establishment of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T).

The *Liberator Brigade* S6 quickly developed a solution that enabled ABCS integration with 29th ID using Secret Internet Protocol Router Network over Nonclassified Internet Protocol Router on the GuardNet backbone. This was the first connection of its kind across state lines allowing 169th FAB to connect to all division services including Command Post of the Future, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System and Distributed Common Ground System-Army, during inactive duty training periods as well as the normal work week. This connection facilitated parallel

planning efforts, system diagnostics and troubleshooting, and enabled the brigade to participate remotely in the division's CPX No. 2. The end result was establishment of a hard stand command post/battle lab connected over GuardNet, not WIN-T, which executed all division artillery functions within the same simulated environment as the division.

This newly developed, and now, proven architecture will revolutionize the way the brigade operates with its higher head-quarters and subordinate units in the coming years.

The 169th FAB deployed and established its command post at Camp Atterbury in November and participated in WFX 16-2. The exercise was a learning opportunity for the brigade and was hugely successful in re-establishing and validating many of the tactics, techniques and procedures for employing artillery in a decisive action for unified land operations. The 169th FAB is a better organization now than it was a year ago and the Soldiers look forward to the opportunities in 2016 as they prepare for their 2017 deployment.



Soldiers in 169th Field Artillery Brigade break down and pack with a fury after completing the warfighter exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind. in November. Photo courtesy of 169th FAB.



Soldiers in 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, launch a rocket from a M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a live-fire exercise at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., Aug. 4. Photo by Lt. Col. Sean Boyette.

Florida U.S. Army National Guard

3rd Battalion 116th Field Artillery Regiment, **Gator Thunder**

Headquartered in Central Florida, 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment, spent the past year training to better serve its country. Soldiers of 3-116th FAR used professionalism, readiness and high-quality training to accomplish a variety of missions. These Redlegs do more than just send steel downrange. They stand tall whenever and wherever they are needed most.

Field Artillery Soldiers are well known as force multipliers, able to adapt to any mission set. In order to maintain this reputation, and to capitalize on the high level of esprit de corps resulting from their latest deployment, 3-116th FAR maximized their time in the field during the past year.

Convoy movements, communications exercises and decentralized operations culminated in a live-fire exercise (LFX). The magnitude of the LFX with its large number of moving parts spread across nearly a dozen training areas and set the stage for one very special mission of extremely high importance: an employer support of Guard and Reserve Boss Lift.

Recognizing the vital link between civilian employers and unit readiness, 3-116th FAR's leadership utilized the LFX as a tes-

Guard Soldiers. Nearly 40 employers and distinguished visitors took part in the LFX, representing a dozen companies and agencies throughout the state of Florida. The event illustrated the Soldiers' technological competence, physical fitness and dedication, by launching 60 of the largest rounds ever fired at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla. Crowd members were seen smiling that day. Possibly for two reasons: roaring rockets and the realization that hiring a Redleg was a great decision.

New traditions were formed in 2015, such as the Redleg Challenge. Combining physical contests, Army Warrior Tasks, and tests of field artillery knowledge, this inter-unit event was designed to promote excellence through competition. The Soldiers appreciated the exercise's realism and toughness, and this year's increase in field time and operation tempo resulted in high retention rates at each unit. Like a 227mm High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, the future of the 3-116th FAR is bright and moving fast! *Gator Thunder*!

164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Blazing Skies

It's been an active year of change for 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade as it continues to provide the Army with a flexible and adaptive ADA force capable of defeating a full range of threats across a variety of operations.

In February, the headquarters was selected as the second Army National Guard ADA brigade to participate in a warfighter exercise with support from the Mission Command Training Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The culminating warfighter exercise is at Fort Carson, Colo. in 2016.

In July, the Soldiers completed annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla. where they assembled the Air and Missile Defense Planning Control System (AMDPCS).

The AMDPCS has nearly 50 automated systems including Tactical Battle Station, Air and Missile Defense Workstation, and Air Defense System Integrator. Together they can automatically collect, process, sort, classify, store and display air and

missile track data, a live air feed, and battle command information.

In August, the brigade held a change of command and farewell and retirement ceremony for Col. Matthew Hearon. The brigade welcomed Col. Grant Slayden, a life-long air defender, as the new brigade commander. Previously Slayden served in numerous commands to include Florida's Regional Training Institute and was a former commander in the National Capital Region at both the battalion and brigade level.

In November, Soldiers once again deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle in the NCR. Joint Task Force Archangel, commanded by Col. Michael Perry, has assumed mission command of the National Guard's most important homeland defense mission. They will protect the NCR with the use of radar, ground-based air defense systems and communication equipment. JTF Archangel is the brigade's sixth rotation to the NCR.

Soldiers of 164th ADA continue to refine warfighting functions while remaining postured to support both federal and state missions. Blazing Skies!



Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, pose for a unit photo during mobilization at Fort Bliss, Texas. Photo courtesy of Fort Bliss Training Support Battalion.

1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, Iron Shield

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, led by Lt. Col. Mike Powers and Command Sgt. Maj. Mallie Lovett, deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Their mission is to provide counter-rocket artillery and mortar (C-RAM) support to multiple forward operating bases (FOBs) throughout the region. While their primary mission is indirect fire (IDF) intercept, they also provide a sense and warn and air space deconfliction. These systems combined, provide IDF intercept capabilities and audio and visual warnings to the FOB once IDF is detected.

In March, the battalion mobilized and departed to Fort Bliss, Texas. Upon arrival, they immediately initiated theater specific

training which included rigid tactical training designed to test their basic Soldier skills and expand their ability to make decisions under pressure. Upon completion of this training, the battalion moved to Fort Sill, Okla. to implement their last and most intense phase of training. First Battalion is an Avenger Battalion by modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE); however, for this mission they were required to learn all the skills needed to seamlessly transition into C-RAM operations.

Since assuming the mission, 1-265th ADA has responded to approximately 60 rockets directed at multiple FOBs located throughout Afghanistan. Their expert ability to directly intercept rocket, artillery and mortar events as well as provide precious



Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery take a unit photo while deployed in Afghanistan on a Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar mission protecting critical assets from daily rocket attacks. Photo by Kevin Watson.

and warn has proved vital in theater. Their actions directly saved the lives of U.S., coalition forces and the civilians that support them. The C-RAM mission performed by 1-265th ADA has allowed senior leadership and deployed military units the freedom of action to conduct operations with

a significant mitigation of risk from rocket, artillery, and mortar attacks.

1-265th ADA is expected to redeploy in the spring of 2016 in order to focus and reorganize towards its MTOE mission. The skills and experience gained during this deployment will serve them well in all endeavors for years to come. *Iron Shield!*

3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, Lightning

Third Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, led by Lt. Col. Jeffrey Strickle and Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore Morris, experienced a robust training year in 2015. At the peak of the year's training, *Lightning Battalion* Soldiers were simultaneously training at the Joint Readiness Train-

ing Center, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., and Fort Stewart, Ga.

Soldiers in 3-265th ADA successfully participated in the JRTC rotation 15-09 with an Avenger air defense unit led by A Battery from Bradenton, Fla. A Battery established and executed an air defense pro-



Soldiers fire an Avenger FIM-92D Stinger Missile leaving behind a trail of smoke during a missile live-fire exercise at Ft. Stewart, Ga. Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment from Sarasota, Fla. conducted the MLFX during their two-week annual training. Photo by Staff Sgt. Valeria Pete.

tection plan for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division from the Iowa National Guard that protected critical assets from enemy air and led to 18 confirmed kills. The unit improved readiness by taking part in realistic and demanding joint and combined arms training across the full spectrum of unified land operations.

In addition 3-265th ADA focused on training and executing their MOS-related responsibilities at the CBJTC. Teams gained Avenger and Sentinel radar crew-drill certifications and Army warrior training in support the battalion's wartime mission. The gunnery table certification culminated with a missile live-fire exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga. where each team successfully engaged and destroyed aerial targets.

The *Lightning* Battalion is closing out the year preparing to mobilize to the National Capital Region in June 2016, and focusing most of its resources on the critical



Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment load FIM-92D Stinger missiles onto an Avenger Air Defense System during their missile livefire exercise at Ft. Stewart, Ga. Photo by Staff Sgt. Valeria Pete.

tasks of Avenger/Man-portable air defense systems and Sentinel crew certifications, Army warrior task training, and Soldier readiness processing while still maintaining readiness in the event of a state-wide emergency. *Lightning* Strikes!

Fort Stewart, Ga.

3rd Infantry Division Artillery, Marne Thunder

The last year has proven to be both productive and historically significant for the *Marne Thunder*. While focusing on the initial building of internal systems and welcoming a new command team, they managed to successfully explain to the division and the community, who they are and how they can support.

Under the leadership of Col. Todd Wasmund and Command Sgt. Major John Johnson, *Marne Thunder* focused on all things that enable the unit to better support 3rd Infantry Division as the Army's premier force for decisive action.

In order to accomplish this tall task, separate lines of effort were established. Training management involved providing training and mission command oversight

on the integration of Fire support from division to brigade to certifications for all field artillery systems.

For garrison teamwork, *Marne Thunder* took great pride in providing administrative support for tenant units at Fort Stewart, Ga. The Soldiers participated in numerous community relations events.

Leadership development, a personal priority for Wasmund, was tackled by the establishment of a leadership development program that focused on character and tactical knowledge and skills needed to be effective. Finally, sustainment goals were also met with the intent of all Soldiers and leaders understanding the importance of properly taking care of themselves, their families and equipment.

1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, BattleKings

The 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, *BattleKings*, began the year by casing its colors as part of 2nd Brigade Combat Team's deactivation. In June, 2nd BCT was reactivated with 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment re-flagging as 1-9th FAR. The transition marked the *BattleKings* as the first and only composite battalion with 105mm and 155mm howitzer capabilities within 3rd Infantry Division.

BattleKings spent January through March conducting Vanguard Focus, an exercise to certify supported maneuver battalions in decisive action. The battalion tactical operations center, fire direction center and fire supporters spent those months in the field with each fire support team conducting company and battalion situational training exercises and a combined arms live-fire exercise with their respective task forces. During this period, *BattleKings* stressed digital sustainment training with weekly digital validation. The training culminated with the firing batteries conducting Artillery Tables I-XV.

In June, the *BattleKings* conducted Marne Focus, which certified the battalion and 2nd Brigade Combat Team prior to the Joint Readiness Training Center decisive action rotation. After final preparations,



The pilot of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter transports equipment from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, during an air assault exercise. Photo 1st Lt. Charles Long.

BattleKings arrived at JRTC in August for the year's only 18-day rotation.

B Battery conducted an air assault in support of the joint forcible entry (JFE). During the JFE, the *BattleKings* established long-range digital communications using tactical satellite radios and were able to process digital missions from the tactical operation center located 50 miles from the firing battery. Timely and accurate coun-

terfire was a strength of the *BattleKings*, allowing them to destroy Geronimo's D30s and reshape Geronimo's IDF employment.

The *BattleKings* returned from JRTC well trained and ready to accomplish any mission. The battalion is supporting U.S. Africa Command missions through fiscal year 2016 and currently has fire supporters deployed to Djibouti. 'Marne Thunder! Keep the Fire! Mighty Ninth!

1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, The Rock's Support

The Rock's Support Battalion went through significant organizational changes in 2015. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment began the year with the reconsolidation of the fire supporters back to the battalion. This was a great moment for *The Rock's Support* as 93 fire supporters were welcomed back.

As part of the transformation, the battalion divested all armored equipment early in the year in order to receive 12

new M119A3 weapon systems as part of an ongoing process of transitioning from an armored brigade combat team to an infantry brigade combat team. This began an intense 19-day process which led to the fielding and validation of the howitzers.

Training continued throughout the year. In April, the battalion conducted The Rock Dirty Dozen, which focused on core competencies such as land navigation, combat life saver, rifle and grenade ranges, and

culminated with a 12-mile ruck march. The battalion provided training support to 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment as observer coach trainers during their brigade training validation exercise. During this two-week field exercise the battalion was able to receive and share knowledge with their sister battalion which proved to be instrumental to the success of their rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center.

In July, *The Rock's Support* Battalion received the news they would begin the arduous task of transitioning from an armored brigade combat team to a battalion task force. While planning for this difficult transition, the battalion was called upon to provide observer coach trainers for 1-9th

FAR during their JRTC rotation in August. The battalion deployed personnel to Fort Polk, La. to provide additional support to 1-9th FAR. The Soldiers jumped right into Artillery Tables I-XII where B Battery both certified and qualified on the M119A3 in order to prepare for their transition into 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment Task Force.

The Rock's Support Battalion inactivated Dec. 11 as part of force realignment. They continue to have a lasting impact across the force as the battalion's Redlegs move on to other organizations, bringing with them lessons learned and invaluable knowledge and experience.

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

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, *Glory's Guns*, executed joint training exercises throughout the Baltics and Central Europe as part of the Regionally Aligned Force (RAF). Alongside several NATO allies and partners, they had the responsibility to cultivate and strengthen joint readiness to deter future threats.



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment participate in a live-fire exercise on Tapa Army Base, Estonia. Photo by Sgt. Caitlyn Byrne.

In March, the battalion deployed to Grafenwoehr, Germany, to assume two simultaneous mission sets as the RAF over the course of four months. Operation Combined Resolve 4 called for the battalion headquarters and A Battery, 1-41st FAR to conduct a combat readiness rotation at the Joint Multi-National Readiness Center in Hohenfels Training Area with over 10 different NATO allies and partners. 1-41st FAR distinguished itself by processing a record-breaking amount of fire missions resulting in the destruction of several high payoff targets with a culminating joint combined arms live-fire exercise.

In conjunction with the box rotation, *Glory's Guns* was asked to send C Battery, 1-41st FAR to the Baltics in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, where they had the opportunity to conduct a coast-



Artillerymen of 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment fire a M109A6 Paladin, on Tapa Army Base, Estonia, Nov. 27. Photo by Sgt. Caitlyn Byrne.

al defense with the Lithuanian Artillery firing 155mm high explosive rounds into the Baltic Sea and additional conventional artillery missions alongside the Lithuanian, Portuguese and Polish armies. *Glory's Guns* will continue their support of the RAF mission through fiscal year 2017.

1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment

In December 2014, the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, *Panthers*, and 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment at Ft Bragg, N.C. were notified for rapid deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Task Force Loyalty arrived in northern Iraq in January to support 1st Infantry Division as the Advise and Assist (A&A) Team to Ministry of Peshmerga (MoP) in Erbil, Iraq. TF Loyalty began assessment of MoP's organizational structure while coalition forces built Peshmerga Capaci-

ty with military training teams deployed across northern Iraq's Kurdistan region. This required the battalion to execute distributed mission command across three combat and support nodes; Surge Ready Force (SRF) at Ft Bragg, Forward Support Company in Kuwait with 3rd BCT's sustainment cell and operational reserve, and the A&A Team in northern Iraq.

Requiring an ability to integrate and synchronize lines of efforts with multinational and interagency partners, TF Loyalty achieved success through relationships



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery emplace a M119 howitzer. Photo courtesy of 3-319th FA.

that enabled U.S., coalition partners, and Peshmerga forces to open three training sites that formed the base of MoP's force generation model. This enabled the MoP to rapidly train forces able to deploy and defend a 1,050km forward line of troops that halted Daesh's advance across northern Iraq.

Simultaneously, SRF at Ft Bragg maintained a high level of readiness through training that included artillery airborne and air assaults. By focusing on core para-

trooper and artillery competencies, SRF was able to execute multi-echelon interoperability training with Joint and Special Operations Forces including several off-post training exercises. Additionally, the SRF maintained its mission support requirements for 82nd Airborne Division's Global Response Force. Paratroopers of 1-319th AFAR redeployed from Iraq Sept. 21 and closed out the year with reintegration and preparation for transition to an intensive transition cycle in January 2016.

Georgia U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment

Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment celebrated the reactivation of the Irish Jasper Greens!

On Sept. 24, 1-118th FAR of the Georgia Army National Guard in Savannah, Ga. reactivated C Battery for the transition to



Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment practice live-fire drills on their M777 howitzers during annual training at Fort Stewart, Ga. Photo by Capt. William Carraway.

a dual composite battalion and fielding of the M777A2 howitzer.

C Battery traces its lineage to the Irish Jasper Greens militia. Before the Civil War, there was a growing population of Irish immigrants coming to Savannah in search of work. To help them feel more a part of their new home, many of these young Irish men got together, and in 1842 they formed their own military unit.

The Irish Jasper Greens, named for Sgt. William Jasper, a Revolutionary War hero during the Siege of Savannah, were officially recognized by the state in February 1843. Soon after, they were chosen to represent Georgia during the Mexican-American War in 1846. With no army existing in the South, once Georgia seceded from the Union, these battle-tested veterans promptly volunteered for duty.

During the early months of 1861, the two companies that made up the Irish Jasper Greens helped garrison the river batteries including Fort Pulaski. In May 1864, about 200 remaining members of the Irish Jasper Greens were called to join Gen. Joseph E. Johnson's Army of Tennessee in his attempt to defend Atlanta. The First Georgia Volunteers, which the Greens were a part of, suffered losses during battles at Kennesaw Mountain and Smyrna Church.

In addition to the fielding of the M777A2, the battalion also fielded the M119A3 to A and B batteries of Springfield and Brunswick, Ga. respectively. Soldiers of 1-118th FAR continue to train hard to uphold the honors and lineage of the Savannah Artillery tradition.



Members of the newly activated C Battery, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, pose with their M777 155 mm howitzers. The 118th FA conducted annual training through Sept. 30 at Fort Stewart, Ga. Photo by Capt. William Carraway.

1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery Regiment, Granite Battalion

The 2015 focus for 1st Battalion, 214th Field Artillery Regiment, *Granite Battalion*, was the restoration of atrophied field artillery skills following their return from a deployment to Afghanistan in 2014 and resumption of artillery live fire operations.

Soldiers completed the annual artillery skills proficiency test cycle followed by successful completion of Table VI (section) and Table XII (platoon) qualifications during annual training and subsequent inactive duty training live-fire exercises at Fort Stewart, Ga.

The *Granite Battalion* was aligned for training purposes in 2015 with 169th Fires Brigade, Shamrock, Colo. They also initiated a local partnership with 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment and coordi-

nated with 2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment for training support.

During the year, 1-214th FAR was a part of 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's contingent in Warfighter Exercise 15-3 at Fort Hood, Texas; Operation Didgori 15 in the Republic of Georgia; and Warfighter Exercise 16-2 at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

The Soldiers also met in 2015 with local emergency management agencies for all five unit locations to provide an overview of unit capabilities and the process for requesting unit support through the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. This strengthened ties with the local communities and established relationships to facilitate future joint defense in support of civil authorities training opportunities.



Soldiers from A Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment prepare a M777 to fire during a training exercise. Photo courtesy of A Battery, FA SQDRN.

Rose Barracks, U.S. Army Garrison-Bavaria, Germany

A Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment

In the last calendar year, A Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment participated in 11 key training events ranging from platoon-level evaluations to Artillery Table XVIII.

To begin 2015, A Battery completed a rigorous 36-hour exercise to evaluate current platoon and battery level training. Soldiers executed Operation Saber Junc-

tion 15-03 decisive action training environment rotation during the month of April at Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, Germany, to provide 2nd Cavalry Regiment a trained and ready firing battery.

The battery was selected to serve as the first to fire the Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) for 2nd CR during a PGK fielding.





They were able to achieve direct hits with an average circular error of 17m during live-fire operations.

Operation Brave Warrior was an eight week multi-national training event in Vesz-

Above: Soldiers from A Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, fire a M777 during a training exercise. Photo courtesy of A Battery, FA SQDRN. Left: Soldiers from A Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, use a M777 during a live-fire direct fire exercise. Photo courtesy of A Battery, FA SQDRN.

prem, Hungary. This operation, which included a tactical bridge crossing, was an 894km vehicle movement across four countries, over a period of four days. The Soldiers used unique firing opportunities by conducting a live direct fire on moving targets, as well as a battery mass firing on a single point target. The operation culminated in a partnered, joint combined arms maneuver lane for distinguished visitors.

The battery took every opportunity over the last year to cross train with international partners in Germany and Hungary. Each interaction strengthened A Battery's technical and tactical competence as well as the NATO alliance.

Grafenwöehr, Germany

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

Paratroopers of 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, *King of the Herd*, participated in numerous training events, exercises, and operations across Europe during 2015.

The battalion began the year by supporting 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team consolidated fire support team training with live-fire from C Battery, 4-319th AFAR, *Chaos*.

Soldiers in A Battery, 4-319th AFAR, *Assassins*, completed a heavy drop live-fire into King Drop Zone, Romania in March during exercise Saber Junction 15. Saber Junction 15 was a decisive action training environment rotation consisting of 2nd Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and 17 allied and partner nations.

In April 4-319th AFAR transitioned to a composite battalion, fielding M777A2 howitzers as well as M119A3 howitzers, both of which use full-automated digital fire control systems.

In May the *Assassin Battery* deployed to Turkey for a 60-day force protection mission called, Operation Active Fence, to provide site security to critical infrastructure and weapon systems.

In June, the battalion provided mission command for the 71st D-Day Anniver-



Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment, finish slingloading a M119A3 howitzer during air assault operations at Grafenwöehr Training Area. Photo by 1st Lt. Erica Banda.



Soldiers participate in a drop-zone mission in support of the Saber Junction 15 exercise at the Smardan Training Area, Romania. Photo courtesy of 4th Battalion, 319th Field Artillery.

sary in Normandy, France. Paratroopers planned the commemorative airborne op-

eration for eight CONUS units, six U.S. European Command units, and allies from the U.K., Germany, France, and the Netherlands.

Simultaneously B Battery, 4-319th AFAR, *Bulls*, dropped two howitzers and personnel into Drosko Pomorski Training Area, Poland, as part of the multi-national training exercise Saber Strike.

Also in June, the battalion conducted a change of command ceremony to welcome Lt. Col. David Pasquale and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Edwards Jr.

In July, C Battery fired its first 155mm rounds in support of maneuver forces during exercise Wessex Storm, an annual British combined arms maneuver livefire exercise. In this iteration, C Battery supported the 1st (U.K.) Royal Irish Regiment.

In August, B Battery jumped into Romania with howitzers and personnel, then conducted the battalion's first slingload operations with the new M119A3 into Nova Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, during Operation Swift Response.

The battalion tactical command post and C Battery also supported Allied Spirit II, a multi-national rotation at the Joint Multi-National Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. During this operation, C Battery conducted the first ever heavy drop airborne operation in Europe with the M777A2 howitzer and medium tactical vehicle.

In September and October, A Battery participated in a combined arms maneuver live-fire exercises (CAMLFX) in support of 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment in Pabrade Training Area in Lithuania.



Spc. Webster and Sgt. Bittner participate in a heavy-drop medical lanes at Bunker Drop Zone, Grafenwöehr Training Area, Grafenwöehr, Germany. Photo by Christoph Koppers.

During the same timeframe, C Battery participated in a CAMLFX for Rock Proof V, a bi-lateral maneuver training event with 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment and the Slovenian defense forces at Pocek Range, Slovenia.

In October, Headquarters and B batteries participated in a multi-national artillery live-fire exercise to support the Sassari Italian Brigade and the Italian Field Artillery Brigade during exercise Shardana on the island of Sardinia.

The battalion finished out 2015 with a battalion live-fire exercise, where they welcomed external evaluators from the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery to evaluate firing platoons. During this training event, 4-319th AFAR was able to mass the Fires of the three firing batteries for the first time as a composite battalion.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Sea Dragons

Oct. 18 marked the 10-year anniversary of the activation of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The 94th AAMDC headquarters is located at Joint Base Pearl-Harbor-Hickam on the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

Ninety-fourth AAMDC, known as the *Sea Dragons*, is one of several theater-enabling commands within the Pacific Rim. Their mission is to provide joint and combined theater air and missile defense in order to meet operation plan requirements and support the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific area of responsibility.

The Soldiers support the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific Theater by sustaining traditional alliances, including the five U.S. treaty allies in the Pacific, and developing new partnerships through integrated air missile defense focused discussions and cooperation. These efforts are nested with and coordinated through U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Army Pacific, Pacific Air Force, country teams and the U.S. Department of State.

In January, 94th AAMDC headquarters relocated to the PACAF in order to increase the command's ability to coordinate and advise the area air defense commander.

Over the past year, 94th AAMDC has advanced integrated air and missile de-

fense (IAMD) excellence and exported the profession of arms ethos to its joint partners and crucial IAMD allies. The command rigorously trained for its wartime mission by participating in multiple joint, combined and trilateral exercises with other branches of the U.S. armed forces, and allied and partner countries.

The 94th command continues to strengthen partnership activities with both established and emerging IAMD partners. Most notably the command assisted in the validation of a layered ballistic missile defense concept in Flight Test Operational-02, a highly complex operational test of the Ballistic Missile Defense System, with a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery successfully engaging multiple targets cued by a family of sensors.

Furthermore, 94th AAMDC created strategic inroads with delegates from Australia, Philippines, and India for AMD collaborative efforts. The command looks forward to the future when these talks develop into robust IAMD exercises. Lastly, the command advocated for future activation of an air and missile defense brigade headquarters from the Department of the Army in order to increase mission command capacity in the Pacific.

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 25th Infantry Division Artillery

Twenty-fifth Infantry Division Artillery participated in several exercises to include Yama Sakura 69, Lightning Forge Command Post Exercise 15-04 and Talisman Saber in 2015. Following the completion of Talisman Saber, 25th DIVARTY achieved full operational capability and is considered one of the most lethal division artilleries in the Army.

Through November, they executed a Table XVI evaluation, training 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment with the assistance of observer controllers from the Headquarters and 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment. This exercise served to develop field artillery leaders on collective certification of battery and higher echelons and determined the battalion's ability to meet time and accuracy standards from TC 3-09.8 Appendix D.

To celebrate achieving full operational capability, the division held a DIVARTY week which included the integration of 2-11th FAR and 3-7th FAR, a plank holder event, and a cresting ceremony. The plank



Soldiers fire cannons behind two M777 howitzers during the re-activation ceremony of the 25th Infantry Division Artillery. Photo by 1st Lt. Amanda J. Robinson.

holder was a forum where leaders and Soldiers discussed the identity of the FA units within 25th ID, as well as DIVARTY itself.

To end the week, the division held a cresting ceremony Aug. 14 at Schofield Barracks at the commander's residence. This ceremony served as the formal unveiling of the unit crest and an opportunity for key leaders to come together and celebrate the colors. The cresting ceremony served as the capstone event for DIVARTY week and the return of two historic FA regiments to Pacific Thunder.

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

Soldiers in 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, *Never Broken*, began 2015 by transforming the organization to a composite battalion and the subsequent fielding and training for the M119A3 and M777A2.

They quickly transitioned to certifications and the execution of Operation

Lightning Forge, the 25th Infantry Division Artillery home station mission rehearsal exercise.

Two months later, the battalion provided timely and accurate Fires in support of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team during Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 15-



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery work closely with soldiers from the New Zealand Defense Force preparing 105mm artillery rounds for an upcoming live-fire exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii. Photo by 2nd Lt. Trevor D. Meek.

07. The battalion was commended by the observer-controller/trainers (OC/Ts) for having the best counterfire times during a decisive action training environment rotation.

The battalion's target acquisition platoon played a key role in the battalion's success, as the Q-36 was successfully defended throughout the rotation. A Battery, 3-7th FAR constructed a fire base with the support of Task Force Bronco engineers that was the best the OC/Ts had observed and directly impacted the battalion's ability to provide lethal Fires.

Less than 30 days after JRTC, 2nd Battalion, 27th Fires Support Team began prepa-

rations and deployed in support of Pacific Pathways to Australia, the Philippines and Malaysia. The mission lasted from June 25 to Oct. 1. These *Never Broken* Soldiers took part in combined training with each of those nations' militaries, strengthened military-to-military relationships, and reinforced 25th Infantry Division Artillery's commitment to the Pacific.

From the outback of Australia in a cold winter climate, to the challenging mountainous jungle environment of Malaysia, the Soldiers demonstrated their resolve, proficiency, and brought great credit to the battalion and the division.



Salute Battery from 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery stands by on Weyand Field, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii during the 25 Infantry Division's Tropic Lightning Week. Photo by Maj. Jimmie L. Canupp.

Soldiers in B Battery, 3-7th FAR participated in Operation Lightning Whaitiri with the Royal New Zealand Artillery throughout September in support of U.S. Pacfic Command's Pacific Pathways Regional Engagement Strategy. Lightning Whaitiri consisted of familiarizing RNZA with U.S. equipment, partnership livefires, combined U.S. and New Zealand certifications, and a culminating live-fire two-gun artillery raid from Schofield Barracks to the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the big island of Hawaii.

Lightning Whaitiri was truly a battalion event, as 3rd Battalion, 4th Cavalry Fire Support Team; F Battery, 3-7th FAR and the target acquisition platoon all enabled B Battery during the execution of the artillery exchange. This operation provided critical training, helped build relationships between the RNZA and the U.S. Army, and validated the interoperability of personnel and equipment of the two nation's artillery formations at the battery level.

Soldiers in 3-7th FAR used their attachment to 25th ID DIVARTY as an opportunity to conduct a highly successful fire support team certification in October.

A new initiative within 3-7th FAR included a tactical exercise without troops in conjunction with the fire support certification program. The purpose of the rehearsal was to synchronize plans and identify friction points with regard to the integration of organic and joint Fires assets delivered through a higher tactical order.

In this capstone event, company and troop officers developed a fire support plan for an offensive operation. Each Soldier was externally evaluated on their ability to plan and integrate Fires into the commander's scheme of maneuver. This event gave the officers an opportunity to brief the unit's fire support plan to an audience consisting of the 3-7th FAR leadership, supported reconnaissance and infantry battalions, as well as leadership of 25th ID DIVARTY.

Soldiers in A Battery, 3-7th FAR, Wardogs, assumed responsibility as part of the Pacific Command Contingency Response Force in late 2015. The battery trained and certified on Tables VI and XII while simultaneously conducting Infantry

Task Force specific contingency response force assumption requirements. CRF presents the USPACOM commander a scalable and tailorable force package that can meet mission requirements of any contingency in the area of responsibility.

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

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment built artillery proficiency and sustained readiness momentum in a dynamic Pacific regionally aligned area of responsibility.

The battalion deployed twice to the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii to train collective tasks at the platoon, battery and battalion. These deployment readiness exercises served as rehearsals for contingency deployments in the Pacific.

The *On Time Battalion* participated in partnered exercises throughout the region highlighted by the deployment of a

battery as part of a battalion task force to Pacific Pathways 15-01. Capability exercises, as part of the culminating events for these deployments, trained the battalion to ingrate joint Fires capabilities during four separate iterations.

Transitions of task organization and composition focused 2-11th FAR to a new command relationship and equipment density. In August, the battalion attached to 25th Infantry Division Artillery while maintaining a direct support role to 2nd Battalion, 25th Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Soldiers in 2-11th FAR are



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, fire a M777 howitzer during a live-fire exercise at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii. Photo by 1st Lt. Brittany C. Copeland..

currently transforming to a composite M119A3 and M777A2 battalion as directed by a recent Army decision to transform 2/25th SBCT to an Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Although it was a busy year for the newly constituted Infantry DIVARTY,

the Soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers of Pacific Thunder always perform with the highest level of professionalism and dedication. There is no doubt 25th ID DIVARTY will continue to succeed as the premier Fires force head-quarters of the Pacific.

Hawaii U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, Hiki No (Can Do)

Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery marched in the 69th Annual Wahiawa Veteran's Day Parade. Participants included formations from the Army, Marines, Air Force and Navy as well as ROTC, community groups and businesses. The *Hiki No Battalion* was awarded the 2015

Best Military Unit Award above all other units.

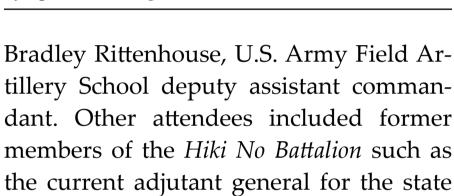
The battalion celebrated its 50th year anniversary Nov. 15. The ceremony attendees included family members from 1-487th FA's very first battalion commander, Lt. Col. Francis A.I. "Mickey" Bowers. The guest speaker was Lt. Col.



Sgt. 1st Class Kehau Sproat, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, holds an American flag. Photo courtesy of 1-487th FA.



Col. Charles "Hawk" Mills poses with the servicemembers of 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment and their Australian counterparts. Photo by Spc. Brian Beeg.





Soldiers from 1st Battaion, 487th Field Artillery participate in the 69th annual Veteran's Day parade. Photo courtesy of 1-487th FA.

of Hawaii, Maj. Gen. Arthur Logan; Brig. Gen. Keith Tamashiro, Hawaii U.S. Army National Guard commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Leonard Ventura, 29th IBCT Command Sergeant Major.

5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, *United in Victory!*

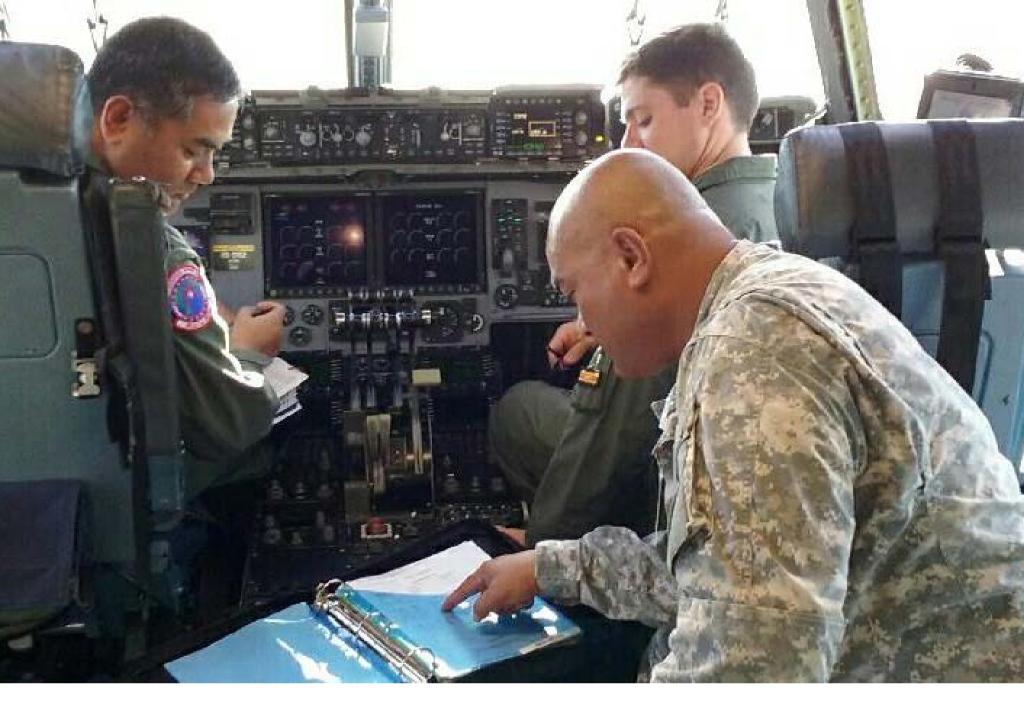
The 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment continues to liaise from the Theater Joint Forces Land Component Command to enable mission command and the integration of joint airpower into unified land operations in the Pacific area of responsibility (AOR).

The 613th Air and Space Operations Center is 5th BCD's conduit to enhance joint operations, exercises and theater security cooperation activities throughout the AOR.

In support of Exercise Yama Sakura 67, 5th BCD coordinated air, ground and intelligence activities and provided a shared understanding between components and bilateral forces, while building the airground integration capacity of Japanese self-defense forces.

During Talisman Sabre 15, Soldiers in 5th BCD sustained strong partnerships with the 16th Air-Land Regiment of the Australian Defense Forces and integrated their joint air-land integration cell concept into the Army operating concept.

During Ulchi Freedom Guardian 15, 5th BCD served as observer-controllers for their 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment counterparts in South Korea. During Green Flag 15-3, Red Flag-Alaska 15-1 and 15-4, and 3rd Fleet Joint Task Force Exercise, the Pacific Ground Liaison Detach-



Ground Liaison Detachment noncommissioned officer, Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Pritchard, provides ground scheme of maneuver to Air Force pilots. Photo by Spc. Brian Beeg.

ments enhanced the tactical and operational-level by supporting Air Force wings and Naval Carrier Strike Groups throughout the AOR in planning and execution of exercises.

The GLD teams improved joint interoperability in the Pacific by coordinating deployment readiness training with United States Army Pacific and Pacific Air Force units and continued to leverage multi-component capability by training Hawaii and Guam National Guard GLD teams.

Overall, 5th BCD and its GLD teams continue to maintain and sustain strong regional partnerships and demonstrate full operational capability to enable cross-do-



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mauricio Martinez and Sgt. 1st Class Leonard Johnson stand with Japanese counterparts during exercise Yama Sakura 67. Photo by Spc. Brian Beeg.

main integration in unified land operations throughout the Pacific AOR.



Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery fire a Paladin during a live-fire exercise. Video courtesy of 1-148th FA.

Idaho U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery Regiment, Scorpions

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery, Scorpions, focused on individual to battery level operations in 2015. Monthly training on Artillery Table I to V began in January and continued through May.

Live-firing was conducted in May with section- and platoon-level certifications on howitzer sections, fire direction centers, and AN/TPQ-36 Radars. An eight-day gunnery cycle was completed in the Idaho desert to culminate preparatory training.

During National Training Center Rotation 15-09 the battalion conducted calibration of artillery charges that led into livefire exercises supporting maneuver.

Fires were conducted in support of two battalion maneuver lanes and a brigade-level fire control exercise that involved AH-64D gunships attacking enemy air defense targets in conjunction with live-fires from the battalion.

Simultaneously six F-16s dropped 12 2,000 pound bombs on the objective. The battalion completed the rotation by supporting decisive force-on-force actions by 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team against the opposition force before returning to Idaho.

The battalion is moving into the Army Force Generation ready year and is focused on maintaining battery-level certification.



Nearly 90 Soldiers participated in the 2015 Illinois National Guard Adjutant General's Rifle and Pistol Match Aug. 21-23 at Marseilles Training Area. Photo courtesy of Illinois National Guard.

Illinois U.S. Army National Guard

2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment, **Ready and Willing**

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment, Milan, Ill. conducted their final artillery live-fire exercise during annual training, June 13-27 at Fort McCoy, Wis.

This year marks nearly a century of artillery service for the Ready and Willing Battalion, which holds lineage and honors dating back to 1832. Currently serving as a M777A2 155mm towed artillery battalion,

123rd FAR is wrapping up its final chapter as a Redleg battalion.

The FAR is undergoing transformation to become 123rd Engineer Battalion in the latter portion of 2017 and will dedicate the next two years to engineer training and reclassification efforts. Soldiers in 2-123rd FAR served the Army with distinction since the Spanish-American war.

2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery

Training year 2015 was an exciting year as 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery entered the reset year of the Army Force Generation model. The battalion conducted an aggressive reorganization resulting in the transition to a composite field artillery battalion. The transformation culminated during the new equipment training exercises conducted at Fort McCoy, Wis. held in July.

The battalion maneuvered through the turmoil of the reorganization. They successfully stationed and stood up a new M777A2 firing battery, re-integrated the fire support elements into the organization, and dealt with targeted reductions and growth in existing force structure.

The focus throughout this transitional period remained on readiness and training fundamentals as they prepared to receive new digital weapon systems.

In July, the battalion conducted a milestone event: new equipment training for the M119A3 (105mm) howitzer, M777A2 (155mm) howitzer, as well as the lightweight counter mortar radar.

With the addition of a newly activated third firing battery, Soldiers from all three firing elements underwent well-executed, section-level training events to become proficient on the new digital weapon systems. With further integration and training, these weapon systems will continue to decrease mission processing time and increase lethality.

Another goal for the training year was preparation and integration of female Sol-



Capt. William Fitzsimons, C Battery, 2nd Battalion 122nd Field Artillery commander, passes the guidon to Sgt. 1st Class LaCarl Baker, the battery first sergeant during an uncasing ceremony in Chicago April 12. Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick DeGeorge.

diers into the battalion. The battalion made positive strides in this area with the selection of the first female field artillery officer in Illinois as well as various other positions in the battalion being filled by female Soldiers. The battalion continues to look to grow females into leadership positions in the near future towards full integration of the battalion.

Soldiers of 2-122nd FA continue to focus on section- and platoon-level training and staff proficiencies as the organization enters its first full training year as a composite field artillery battalion. Additionally, the battalion works toward further defining its new capabilities in preparation for the upcoming 33rd Interim Brigade Combat Team training exercises throughout the Army Force Generation model.

Indiana U.S. Army National Guard

2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery Regiment, Raiders



The Target Acquisition Battery, E Battery, 139th Field Artillery, also known as ETAB, emplaces a Q50 radar to observe Fires provided by 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery. Photo by 1st Sgt. Craig Davis.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery Regiment completed a successful training year and experienced great progress in multiple facets, both at battalion and battery levels.

In February, members of the battalion participated in parallel planning operations and coordinated tasks with 219th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade in preparation for the 38th Infantry Division Warfighter Exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind. and Operation Northern Strike.

The battalion participated in the state active-duty exercise (SADEX) for civilian support during winter operations. This SADEX consisted of hypothetical winter response missions designed to prepare Soldiers for lethal, non-lethal and state disaster response operations.

During these operations, units deployed from six different armories across central Indiana and completed numerous exercise missions from rescuing stranded motorists to recovery of state emergency vehicles.

During annual training, Soldiers from the 2-150th FAR synchronized efforts with 219th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade in order to complete the Caspian Sea Command Post Exericse (CPX).

The Caspian Sea CPX involved providing support to a theoretical country against invasion through joint maneuver operations. The battalion provided non-organic fire power, increasing the BFSB's ability to engage the enemy with timely Fires for high pay-off and time-sensitive targets.

Concurrent to the CPX, 2-150th FAR synchronized live-fire operations with the 2nd Battalion, 152nd Reconnaissance and Surveillance Squadron's field training exercise (FTX), providing 155mm howitzer and radar support to the 2-152nd commander.

The live-fire exercise and FTX mimicked the actions within CPX, exercising sensor-to-shooter digital links with forward observers, Knight-mounted combat observation and lasing team and M777A2 howitzer with the Q-50 counter-fire radars of Target Acquisition Battery E, 139th Field Artillery.

The individual batteries and forward support company all completed unique training events this year as well. Battery and company commanders created opportunities to integrate combat multipliers to



Soldiers from 139th Forward Support Company conduct state active-duty exercise training in Crawfordsville, Ind., in January. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Arcenio Rumbaoa.

their training, including engineers digging gun emplacements, military police running convoy and refuel, rearm, refit operations for a firing unit and the 139th Forward Support Company, combat lifesaver training for 23 personnel. They also held crew-served and artillery training with a liaison noncommissioned officer from Great Britain.

The training year came to an end with a change of command with outgoing battalion commander Lt. Col. Kellard Townsend handing the colors to incoming battalion commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Marion.



A howitzer position from C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery is fortified by an engineer unit in July 2015 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Photo Sgt. 1st Class Landon Bailey.

Marion stands ready to lead the battalion forward to its next challenges. *With Faith & Valor! Raiders!*

1st Battalion, 362nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Renegade Battalion

The 1st Battalion, 362nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Renegades*, a training support battalion assigned to 157th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East, participated throughout the past year in pre- and post-mobilization training and certification events for 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment of the Mississippi U.S. Army National Guard.

The Renegade Battalion serves as the only active-duty unit that provides support and recommends mission assumption to the validation authority (263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command) for the national capital region - Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS) mission.

The mission supports Operation Noble Eagle, a homeland security-focused operation in support of federal, state and local agencies. National Guard ADA battalions have resourced NCR-IADS since 2005.

Beginning in February, 1-362nd ADA provided pre-mobilization air defense training expertise to its partner, 1-204th ADA. The *Renegade* team, composed of senior noncommissioned officers and post-command company-grade officers, observed, coached, and trained the National Guard Soldiers and offered recommendations and feedback to the unit's leadership through a formal after-action review process.

In the months prior to mission assumption, 1-362nd ADA supported 1-204th ADA during two major training exercises: Exercise America's Shield (EAS) and a culminating training exercise (CTE). First-



Soldiers fire a Stinger ground-to-air missile from an Avenger firing platform with 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard, during a pre-deployment live-fire exercise Oct. 7 at Fort Bliss, Texas. The unit is deploying to the National Capital Region to provide air defense and early warning from air attack. Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamann.

204th ADA executed EAS, a pre-mobilization training event for the NCR-IADS mission, in Gulfport, Miss. Aug. 12-27.

National Guard units assuming the NCR-IADS mission executed EAS in the unit's home state and used the exercise as an opportunity to gain additional training prior to the CTE. The CTE, which occurred Oct. 1-6 at Oro Grande, N.M., represents a post-mobilization training and certification event. The Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers demonstrated their proficiency as among the best air defenders in the world during both EAS and CTE.

First-204th ADA successfully performed multiple crew drills, numerous target of interest prosecutions against live air, expertly de-conflicted and managed airspace, and successfully engaged aerial targets during a live-fire exercise.

Iowa U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, Thunder Battalion

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery successfully faced the challenges the Geronimo opposing forces (OPFOR) provided during their three-week annual training rotation at Fort Polk, La., July 27 through Aug. 15.

The 1-194th FA trained in all aspects of force-on-force to include stability, offensive and defensive operations.

Within the last eight years, the 1-194th FA has successfully executed combat training center missions at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. and the

Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. However, the series of challenges awaiting them at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La. exceeded everything the battalion had previously encountered.

"The heat was like a wall of thick vapor that slaps you in the face as soon as you hit the ground and there's no way to avoid it," said Master Sgt. David Musselman, battalion intelligence non-commissioned officer in charge and a Newell, Iowa resident.



Sgt. Eric Fluharty, ammo team chief for A Battery, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, remains on guard as his gun crew sets up a firing position during annual training operations at Fort Polk, La. Photo Courtesy of Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group.



Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, execute a live-fire mission at Peason Ridge, during annual training at Fort Polk, La. The Iowa National Guard Soldiers (from left to right) are Sgt. Chris Cheever, gunner; Spc. Nick Beeck, number one man; and Spc. Austin Unrau, assistant gunner. Photo by 1st Lt. Jonathon Myer.

Many Soldiers found the hardest part of JRTC was the heat. Those who suffered from a heat injury immediately found themselves covered in ice blankets and staring at the end of a red thermometer.

Ice sheets and red thermometers were definitely threat enough to keep the camelbacks full and Soldiers drinking water, as the *Thunder Battalion* sustained minimal heat injuries.

"Everyone drinks water when they're here. Everyone. Even if you think you can tough it out, think again, because you don't want the alternative if you do go down," said 1st Sgt. Tim Vought, Headquarters Battery first sergeant and a Humbolt, Iowa resident.

With a narrow margin of error and an extremely limited amount of time and resources, the battalion shipped hundreds of vehicles and millions of dollars' worth of equipment to and from Fort Polk with zero loss. This was a true logistical feat and one 1-194th FA was able to run to near-perfection.

"This was not only a major exercise in our ability to provide Fires to the brigade combat team during force-on-force operations," said Maj. Rod Chitty, the battalion executive officer and a Pilot Mound, Iowa resident, "But largely a way to observe the speed and mobility of the battalion; testing how effectively we can deploy equipment and personnel into the operational area."

During force-on-force operations, the batteries initially struggled with hasty occupation of non-standard position area for artillery (PAA), but after a few bumps in the road, they were actively engaged in providing destructive Fires, counterfires and obscuration Fires to the brigade combat team.

During their time in "the box" the batteries honed their fundamental skills of shoot, move and communicate, operating as firing platoons while processing more than 30 fire missions. Firing platoons would occupy a PAA, fire several missions and move to another location in an attempt to keep the enemy guessing.

According to the OPFOR fire support officer for Geronimo, they had a general idea of the area where the Iowa units were, but they couldn't pinpoint their firing points until the end.

Another great feat was the battalion's ability to position, stage and operate the Q36 Radar throughout the training area, typically considered one of the greatest targets by Geronimo, without ever receiving OPFOR engagement or battle damage. This was greatly accredited to the targeting platoon's ability to quickly mask the radar at each location using transparent camouflage netting specifically designed to allow the radar to operate without disclosing its position.

In addition to training against an active OPFOR, units were provided an opportunity to train at Peason Ridge.

Peason Ridge, considered an out-of-sector mission received upon arrival at JRTC, is a combined arms training opportunity for units to conduct live-fire exercises (LFX). The battalion executed four iterations in support of the maneuver company live-fire exercises.

"Without question, our time at Peason Ridge was some of the best over-the-shoulder training I've ever received in my 22 years of service within the field artillery. It was very interactive with the entire gun crew," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Cunningham, B Battery platoon sergeant.

"The observer-controller/trainer's (OC/T) at Peason Ridge were outstanding and extremely by-the-book. They instructed according to Army doctrine and from their years of FA experience. They often resourced practices that have worked for them to increase gun crew efficiency, safety and effectiveness," added Cunningham, an Algona, Iowa resident.



Staff Sgt. Ryan Morphew, Iowa Army National Guard, verifies safety measures are complete as the 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery prepares to execute a fire mission at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. The Iowa National Guard Soldiers (from left to right) are Sgt. Chris Cheever, gunner; Sgt. Taylor Olson, ammo team chief; and Spc. Jonathan Marks, radio telephone operator. Photo Courtesy of Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group.

The battalion underwent an eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) rotation at Fort McCoy, Wis., during their 2014 annual training, in preparation for JRTC. They were the only National Guard field artillery battalion to execute a CTC rotation at JRTC in 2015, moving ahead into their available year of the Army Force Generation cycle.

"The OC/T's were true professionals in their trade and the training we received at JRTC really opened our eyes on how important integrating Fires is within the FA community. It was top notch and we're a better battalion now having gone through it," said Lt. Col. Corey McCoid, FA battalion commander and an Ankeny, Iowa resident.

Kadena Airbase, Okinawa, Japan

1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Snake Eyes

The 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, also known as the *Snake Eyes Battalion*, is located at Kadena Air Force Base on the island of Okinawa, Japan.

In 2015, 1-1st ADA modified its mission statement to specify an expeditionary capability supporting the U.S. Pacific Command's theater-wide requirements for air and missile defense while maintaining the battalion's air defense commitments in Okinawa. *The Snake Eyes Battalion* continues to maintain Patriot batteries tactically emplaced and ready to protect defended assets in Okinawa while building capabilities to extend influence elsewhere in Japan and throughout the Pacific.

First-1st ADA continues to strengthen combined and joint military relationships in Japan. It maintains bi-lateral partnerships with the Japan Air Self Defense Force's 5th Air Defense Missile Group and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment.

Routine training is conducted to enhance air defense interoperability with 5th ADMG's Patriot fire units and improve integration with 15th AAR's short range Type 81 Tan-SAM surface-to-air missile and medium range Chu-SAM surface-to-air missile weapons systems.

Joint partnerships continue to be strengthened with 18th Wing at Kadena Airbase. With the help of 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command's forward liaison element and air defense artillery fire control officers, the *Snake Eyes Battalion* is able to conduct monthly joint defensive counter air training with 18th Wing's F-15 Fighter Squadrons, E-3 Sentry in the Airborne Air Control Squadron, controllers in the Ground Air Control Flight and the U.S. Marine Corps Air Control Squadron.

Additional partnerships are established with rotational U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalions (Seabees) to enhance protection and site improvements for 1-1st ADA's Patriot batteries.

The Snake Eyes Battalion supported the combined and joint team in Okinawa by participating in several training exercises to demonstrate strength in the Pacific theater. They participated in the Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint Exercise (FST-J), an event structured around the defense of mainland Japan and Okinawa. The battalion also participated in the air defense exercise, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, while simultaneously supporting Pacific Sentry with exercise controllers. Most notably, an engagement control station (ECS) crew from 1-1st ADA participated in a live-fire exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas where they successfully engaged a ballistic missile target.

Snake Eyes Soldiers also received recognition for their hard work and dedication to mission accomplishment. Spc. Mario Garcia was recognized as the U.S.

Army – Japan Soldier of the Year, Staff Sgt. Conchetta McCregg was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, and the battalion's best ECS, launcher, and battery command post crews were recognized at the third annual Missile Defender of the Year banquet hosted by the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance.

As the Snake Eyes Battalion looks forward to 2016, it will remain focused on its strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense*, as well as their local mission as ambassadors to Japanese counterparts.

Shariki Communications Site, Shariki, Japan

10th Missile Defense Battery, Samurai Battery

The 10th Missile Defense Battery is located at the Shariki Communications Site in Shariki, Japan. The battery was established Sept. 26, 2006, as the first AN/TPY-2 Radar Installation in Japan and became the first new military installation to open in Japan since the end of WWII.

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

In the past year, 10th MDB successfully transitioned from a detachment to a battery, which was a dramatic increase from four Soldiers to almost 30. This increase enabled the battery to integrate with onsite contractors in operating the radar as the unit becomes more involved in the early warning mission. The battery is also increasing its physical footprint with the construction of new apartment buildings for the Soldiers as well as new facilities on

the radar site and plans for the development of the "interim" site.

In June, 10th MDB conducted a joint and combined Guard and Protect exercise with 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, Japan Ground Self Defense Force. This was just the second Guard and Protect exercise conducted at SCS and the first to feature scenario-driven training by both the JGSDF, Army and Chenega security teams.

Initial planning has begun to conduct this exercise again next summer and include the local police in the scenario responses.

Soldiers of 10th MDB conduct robust community relations operations in Shariki. In the past year, the battery participated in more than 50 local festivals and events to include parades in the local cities of Tsugaru and Goshogawara, hosting English classes for the local children, and welcoming numerous community, city and prefecture leaders' visits to the radar site.

The importance of the community relations program at Shariki Communications Site cannot be overstated. It is critical to maintaining strong and positive relationships with Japanese Self Defense Forces,

the government of Japan, local governments and local citizens.

As the Soldiers of the Samurai Battery continue to transition and grow as a bat-

tery, the focus remains on the strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense*, as well as the local mission as ambassadors to the Japanese people.

Kyogamisaki Communications Site, Kyogamisaki, Japan

14th Missile Defense Battery, Hayabusa Battery

The 14th Missile Defense Battery is located at the Kyogamisaki Communications Site in Kyogamisaki, Japan. The unit's first change of command ceremony was held Oct. 23, with Maj. Sara Cardenas taking over from Maj. Jason Albright.

The 14th MDB mission is to detect and track theater ballistic missiles (TBMs) and disseminate the missile defense data to joint and allied units. Data collected and shared provides early warning and detection of hostile missile launches as part of the U.S. Pacific Command missile early warning architecture and greatly enhances the defense of USPACOM assets and the continental United States.

The 14th MDB continues to improve the site at Kyogamisaki with initiatives such as an integrated security system, noise mitigation measures for the radar and generators and creation of temporary mailroom and Post Exchange facilities. In September, the battery completed installation of a hardened transportable terminal that provides satellite communications for the site.

Community relations and integration remain the cornerstones of the Hayabusa mission. Due to the remote environment and the 500km distance to the nearest U.S.



Kyogamisaki Communications Site Soldiers and Contractors participated in Sodeshi Beach Clean-Up on 7th Nov. Photo courtesy of 14th MDB.

military installation, the Soldiers and civilians of KCS must continue building a strong relationship with the local community.

The Soldiers of 14th MDB conducted monthly events with the community, such as Easter, Fourth of July and Halloween celebrations. KCS also volunteers to assist the local community by cleaning beaches and organizing sporting events.

As the Soldiers of the Hayabusa Battery prepare for life support area construction in 2016, they will remain focused on their strategic mission as the *First Line of Defense*, as well as their local mission as ambassadors to the Army's Japanese counterparts.

Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Mission Command Training Program

The year 1998 marked a historic time for Air Defense Artillery. This marked the year the 32rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command stood up and deployed to support Combined Task Force-Kuwait during Operation Desert Thunder. Since then, the air defense community trailblazed changes in critical theater-level air and missile defense planning, technology, integration, coordination and execution of air defense operations. That year was also the last time an air defense training audience went through a warfighter exercise with the mission command training program until 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade from the Ohio National Guard recently broke this streak by participating in Warfighter Exercise 15-5.

Understanding the operational environment has changed. Adversaries are enhancing missile capabilities by domestically producing medium, short, and close-range missiles with improved range, accuracy, lethality, accuracy, reliability and readiness.

Warfighters permit air defense units opportunities to transcend materiel solutions by allowing forces to focus on better training and increase understanding of their policies, procedures, and integration with the intelligence community, the Air Force community, the Fires community and maneuver forces.

Warfighters are a two way street: the air defense community gains a better understanding of how these agencies operate and communities gain a better understanding how air defense forces operates. Air Defense doctrine continues to be involved on the premise that these procedures and understanding air and missile defense cannot be stovepiped. The fight requires multiple joint sensors and shooters, deconfliction of air space, spectrum management, and understanding of both the air and ground flight.

During the exercise, it was truly remarkable how agencies came together to bolster air defense mission command capabilities at corps and divisions echelons. These air defense partnerships included 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 32nd AAMDC, 505th Air Force Detachment 1 and Air Force School House, the Fires Center of Excellence, TRADOC Intelligence Support Agencies, with support from Mission Command Training Program.

With the continued proliferation of unmanned aircraft systems and missile developments, Soldiers face potentially more threats from the skies. This warfighter exercise demonstrated the ability of the air defense to provide Fires to protect the force and selected geopolitical assets from aerial attack, missile attack, and surveillance

Fort Riley, Kan.

1st Infantry Division Artillery, Drumfire

The 1st Infantry Division Artillery activated Oct. 16 at Fort Riley, Kan. The activation ceremony marked the beginning of the unit's return to Fort Riley and another chapter in the nation's oldest division artillery.

The activation was far from a culminating event for the Soldiers and staff of DIVARTY as they build the unit's systems and tackle an aggressive training schedule to be combat ready.

As early as May, a small staff element began building systems. An aggressive team led by the DIVARTY operations officer started setting conditions for the unit to reach initial operation capacity (IOC) goals. During this time the team concentrated on acquiring property, developing the Red Book standards, and building the tactical operating procedures to synchronize Fires for the 1st Infantry Division.

In July, the commander and command sergeant major arrived. With the senior leaders came direction and focus. All preparations went toward the activation, achieving IOC standards, and building readiness that would make the unit successful for Warfighter Exercise 16-04 (WFX 16-04) in April 2016.

Between July and October, the unit worked hard to meet the requisite personnel and equipment goals of 70 percent at IOC, while developing annual training guidance and attaching the division headquarters and headquarters battalion to provide additional sustainment capabilities. The staff conducted training that set conditions for division-directed command post exercises (CPX) in preparation for WFX 16-04. Immediately after activating, the unit sent master gunners to the field to support 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, in Artillery Table XV certification.

In November, 1st ID DIVARTY participated in a division CPX and established the tactical operations center in the field for the first time in more than 10 years. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, DIVARTY conducted their first range week to qualify all Soldiers on their assigned weapons.

In order to solidify a common understanding of the unit's goals and direction, Fires leaders from across the division participated in a vision seminar in late November. Also the majority of the new equipment fielding and equipment training was complete or planned for a future time prior to the WFX. Leading into the month of December, 1st ID DIVARTY sent the majority of its communications Soldiers to Fort Hood, Texas, to conduct new equipment training on the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical system.

From provisional to activation, 1st ID DIVARTY laid the groundwork for standardizing Fires training and certification and developed critical operating procedures that will synchronize and integrate Fires for a successful WFX 16-04 and create readiness required to deploy as part of the Big Red One team.

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

1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment reorganized in accordance with Army Restructure 2015 by activating C Battery and consolidating the brigade's fire support elements into Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment. Thirty days after activation, C/1-7th FAR conducted live-fire qualification, firing their first rounds in more than 10 years, and then supported Operation Jaded Thunder, a joint and multi-nation special operations forces training exercise at Smoky Hill Bombing Range, Salina, Kan.

In November, First Lightning executed a doctrinal progression of qualification tables from artillery skills proficiency testing to Artillery Table XV while simultaneously supporting combined arms live-fire and fire control exercises (FCX). The training was a model example of mission essential task focused training, from individual task to key collective tasks, which expertly set conditions for the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

In March, First Lightning deployed to the National Training Center for Rotation 15-06 providing fire support to 2nd Airborne Battalion Combat Team Dagger Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. The brigade aggressively attacked high payoff targets and on numerous occasions the opposing force's fire support and air defense assets were neutralized prior to LD. After 12 training days, First Lightning accurately delivered 11,400 rounds in support of force-on-force missions and 1,200 rounds during brigade combat training live-fire.

In preparation for deployment, the battalion executed precision guided kit (PGK) fielding in August. First Lightning completed the operational new equipment training by executing sensor-to-shooter digital fire mission processing from Ruggedized Handheld Computer to Paladin Digital Fire Control System (including target mensuration). Eighteen howitzer crews accurately delivered 44 PGK on target into the Fort Riley, Kan. impact area.

Soldiers from 1-7th FAR are currently deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, in support of Operation Spartan Shield; simultaneously, First Lightning is providing forces in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. *Duty First, Ready Now, First Lightning!*

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

Following a successful deployment for Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, Hamilton's Own, aggressively transformed to a new modified table of organization and equipment, conducted unit reset and built mission readiness through a comprehensive training plan at Fort Riley, Kan.



A salute for "Victory With Honors Ceremony" honoring Col.(P) Patrick D. Frank, who was officially welcomed back to the 1st Infantry Division and serves as the deputy commanding officer for support at Ft Riley, Kan. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffy Griffis.

Already deployed to Kuwait as part of 1st Airborne Battalion Combat Team's mission to support contingency operations in the Central Command's area of responsibility, 1-5th FAR served as Security Force South spanning six critical asset

infrastructure locations, multiple partnerships and mission command from Kuwait Naval Base to Camp Arifjan. Additionally, the battalion's target acquisition platoon supported Operation Inherent Resolve, providing sensor-to-shooter capability in Iraq. 1-5th FAR redeployed to Fort Riley, Kan. in February to begin reintegration and reset activities.

After redeployment, 1-5th FAR executed the reintegration of 1st ABCT's fire support elements back into the battalion as part of Army Structure 2015 changes. Additionally, moving to a 3 x 6 configuration, Hamilton's Own quickly stood up B Battery and conducted its first FA live-fire 30 days after activation.

As the battalion continued reset, 1-5th FAR executed new equipment fielding of the Rocket Artillery and Mortar Warning System which increased protection capabilities for the brigade Air Defense and



Soldiers from D Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, fire a line of Paladins during a direct fire exercise Table VI qualification Oct. 1. Photo by 1st Lt. Brett M. Perkins.

Airspace Management cell in addition to Q36 and Q37 upgrades.

Following unit reset, 1-5th FAR focused on training and certification of Soldiers and leaders on howitzer, fire direction and fire support tasks. Hamilton's Own integrated both section (table VI) and platoon (table XII) firing tables into complex and dynamic training lanes utilizing enablers to include medical evacuation, close combat attack and unmanned aerial vehicle operations. Specific tasks during collective training focused not only on gunnery tables but sensor-to-shooter operations, platoon defense and both air and non-standard casualty evacuation utilizing aviation elements from 1st Combat Aviation Brigade. The battalion staff built a robust tactical scenario and operational order through military decision-making process to support all gunnery tables. By November, all six firing platoons were complete with FA Table XII qualification and prepared to support 1st ABCT, Devil Brigade, during upcoming company training lanes slated for early 2016.

Concluding the year's training progression, the battalion executed brigade leader professional development for company command teams on the employment of Fires in decisive action. Following fire mission processing, command teams were led through each element of the gunnery team to better understand process of clearing and delivering Fires in support of maneuver forces. Upon completion of all stations, 1-5th FAR executed a live-fire plan in support of a simulated suppress, obscure, secure, reduce and assault mission, providing a 200m smoke screen and battalion mass fire mission preparation of an objective. This event provided command teams a better understanding of the capabilities of the FA and built shared understanding of fighting with Fires among all key leaders in the Devil Brigade.

Providing timely and accurate Fires for 239 years, Hamilton's Own continues to serve honorably as the longest serving active-duty battalion in the U.S. Army. *Faithful and True since 1776!*

Kansas U.S. Army National Guard 130th Field Artillery Brigade

Soldiers of 130th Field Artillery Brigade, Redlegs, went to work building readiness following its activation ceremony in October 2014 standing up as the eighth National Guard Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters.

Led by the command team of Col. John Rueger and Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Whitley, the brigade spent the year building personnel and equipment readiness as it focused on the Force Field Artillery Headquarters mission. The brigade established partnerships with both 1st Infantry and 35th Infantry divisions as well as its aligned-fortraining field artillery battalions.

The unit inactivated Target Acquisition Battery E, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment integrating them into the brigade's target acquisition platoon. The brigade also stood up 997th Brigade Sup-



From left to right, Spc. John McGivern and Spc. Austin Potts, both from 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, secure the right flank of the riot control lines during Defense Support of Civil Authority riot training Oct. 25 at Great Plains Joint Training Center, Salina, Kan. Photo by Maj. William Chuber.

port Battalion and 330th Signal Company. During a larger reorganization of Kansas Army National Guard, the brigade assumed oversight and mission command responsibilities of two field artillery battalions; a brigade support battalion and a combat service support battalion made of more than 2,000 Soldiers.

1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment focused on individual readiness, unit readiness and section-level training. Gun sections, fire direction crews and support personnel refined their military occupation specialties in preparation for collective training at the platoon and battery-level in a tactical environment. The battalion conducted annual training at Fort Riley, Kan. from May 30 to June 13.



Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Schweitzer, Staff Sgt. Keith Brady, Sgt. Francisco Herrera and Spc. Michael Pata from 2nd Platoon, A Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, fire a 1-round 50 foot lanyard during a safety verification mission with a M109A6 Paladin June 6. The live-fire exercise was conducted at Training Area D-51, Fort Riley, Kan. Photo by Sgt. Steven McBryde.

The M109A6 Paladin, howitzer crew members of A and C Battery completed 173 fire missions, safely firing 411 155mm high explosive projectiles. B Battery, 1-161st FAR completed 13B School conducted by a mobile training team which increased the unit MOSQ percentage to 81 percent.

The battalion conducted civil disturbance training in Salina, Kan. Oct. 24-25 in order to assume the responsibility of the National Guard Rapid Reaction Force. The battalion practiced two days of take down procedures on subjects such as: use of minimum force; extreme force; apprehension and detention; media relations; standards of conduct; actions in the affected area and urban tactics. The training ensured the unit

is fully prepared to perform their National Guard Civil Support mission.

The battalion conducted several, armory open house events this past summer, providing community awareness of the local armories in support of the state's recruiting mission.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-161st FAR was the recipient of the Rueger Award. This award goes to units that receive a score of 90 percent or greater in the following areas during the command maintenance evaluation team inspection: maintenance management, Army Materiel Status System data management, maintenance sustainability, primary weapons and equipment and material general.

2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment, Knights of Fire

During training year 2015, Soldiers and leaders of the *Knights of Fire*, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery Regiment experienced the activation of the 130th Field Artillery Brigade as their higher headquarters, a reor-

ganization of their force within the state of Kansas, and great success utilizing high frequency, long range radio communications to execute their modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE) mission.



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery fire a M28A1 reduced range practice rocket during the live-fire exercise of the unit's annual training. Photo by Sgt. Zachary Sheely.



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery shoot a M28A1 reduced range practice rocket from the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a live-fire exercise during the unit's annual training. Photo by Sgt. Zachary Sheely.

In January, the battalion conducted a communication exercise to test the capabilities of the long range Harris Radio systems. This training was crucial to the success of upcoming culminating training events. Units of the battalion were able to communicate with each other across northeast Kansas. From the Headquarters Battery in Hiawatha to A Battery in Holton and Marysville to B Battery in Paola and Lenexa, being able to communicate over secure radios at this distance is a great capability in the battalion as well as the state.

In the months leading up to and during the month of June, the battalion prepared for a reorganization under the newly



Staff Sgt. Curtis Stubbeman, Sgt. Bryant Jones and Spc. Joshua Kenworthy, the crew of A-22 of A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, conduct reload operations on the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during the unit's annual training. Photo by Sgt. Zachary Sheely.

formed 130th Field Artillery Brigade. The reorganization resulted in a consolidation of the battalion's footprint to northeast Kansas. There was a large number of Soldiers in B Battery that required military occupational skill qualification training in the 13M High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) crewmen artillery tasks. A mobile training team from the Wyoming Army National Guard went to the Regional Training Center in Salina, Kan. to train those Soldiers and qualify them in their assigned duty positions.

During annual training 2015, the battalion became the first Kansas National Guard Field Artillery unit to certify and qualify sections having the fire direction

center (FDC) over 120km away from the firing units. Historically, the FDC would be less than 20km from the firing units. The battalion was able to achieve this great accomplishment by utilizing new Harris Radio systems, and in doing so, the capabilities of the HIMARS were truly showcased.

In 2016, the battalion will continue building tactical and technical proficiency required to accomplish their MTOE mission. An aggressive training plan is in place with the culminating training event being battery-level qualification during annual training. Semper Parvo Meliores, Always a little better.



Soldiers from Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), fire an M119A3 Howitzer during an Air Assault on Fort Campbell, Ky., Oct. 30. Photo by Staff Sgt. Joel Salgado.

Fort Campbell, Ky. 101st Division Artillery, Guns of Glory

The 101st Airborne Division Artillery proved its capability as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in its first year since reactivation.

In January, 101st Division Artillery assumed administrative and training responsibility for three artillery battalions and began standardizing field artillery tactics, techniques, and procedures across the formation. DIVARTY developed tactical standing operating procedures and updated the Red Book to synthesize Fires knowledge and experience.

Guns of Glory began 2015 by preparing for Warfighter Exercise 15-5 with the Army National Guard's 36th Infantry Division Headquarters. In February and March, the DIVARTY staff conducted Mission Command Systems Integration training and traveled to Fort Leavenworth, Kan. to be mentored by the Mission Command Center

of Excellence. After months of preparation and a week-long command post exercise with 36th ID, the 101st DIVARTY validated as a Force Field Artillery Headquarters.

The 101st was lauded by both 36th ID's leadership and MCCoE observer-controller teams for the knowledge and adaptability of its staff for effective targeting.

The 101st DIVARTY ended its first division-level exercise in June, only eight months after reactivation. They jumped into planning for their next collective training event upon return to Ft. Campbell, Ky. In September, *Guns of Glory* deployed as a part of the division's tactical element in support of 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Joint Readiness Training Center rotation. Immediately following JRTC, the 101st supported division headquarters during command post exercise Eagle Talon in October.

In November, the 101st DIVARTY distinguished itself once again during Warfighter Exercise 16-2 in support of 101st Airborne's Operation Eagle Venom. The

101st DIVARTY's relentless pursuit of enemy artillery formations enabled friendly freedom of maneuver and pre-empted the enemy's ability to destroy friendly combat power.

The *Guns of Glory* were especially lethal when they took proactive steps against enemy forces. Dedicating a portion the division's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets to the DIVARTY targeting section and the search for enemy fires assets for short periods also proved to be very effective.

The lessons learned during the two division-level exercises have developed DI-VARTY into a lethal force, capable of shaping division operations and delivering devastating effects on enemy formations.

The Soldiers of 101st DIVARTY carry the same enthusiasm and tenacity into 2016, as they oversee collective training for subordinate battalions, ensures they are tactically and technically proficient, and prepare to answer the call for their next *Rendezvous with Destiny*.

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

From November 2014 to December 2015, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, *Top Guns*, engaged in a rigorous training progression designed to test and strengthen their capability to shoot, move, and communicate.

It was also a year of change for *Top Guns*, with the activation of 101st Division Artillery and the change of command from Lt. Col. Mark Sherkey to Lt. Col. Charles Kean. Top Guns' training highlights include the Platoon Blitz, the activation of C Battery,

precision guidance kit (PGK) training, and Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 16-01. Through all its training the battalion has grown in strength, speed, and flexibility, providing its maneuver commanders effects that put them in a position of advantage.

In January the battalion received 2nd Brigade Combat Team fire support personnel and was attached to 101st DIVARTY. By the end of April, C Battery was fully manned.

During the same month, A and B batteries executed platoon qualifications during a rigorous training exercise, where the battalion fired more than 250 artillery rounds.

In July, the battalion supported the 2nd Brigade Combat Team walk and shoot, as well as a 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment live fire exercise.

In August C Battery executed a PGK live fire at Fort Campbell, Ky. They fired 18 rounds during the training which demonstrated the battalion's ability to adapt and master new equipment in the rapidly changing world of field artillery. In late September the battalion deployed to the JRTC at Fort Polk, La, in support of the 2nd BCT's Rotation 16-01. Over the course of 30 days, the battalion was tested on its ability to safely marshal and transport personnel, vehicles, and equipment; build combat power; and perform a joint forcible entry followed by a transition to unified land operations-direct action.

Top Guns exceeded expectations with overwhelming success during the rotation which prepared them for their next Rendezvous with Destiny.

2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, Proud Americans

This proved to be a challenging and successful year for the *Proud American Battalion*. From January to December, they excelled in every mission despite the fractured nature of deploying across the globe.

From deploying two M777A2 howitzer platoons to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS), to conducting convoy live fire hip shoots and numerous air assault raids; the *Proud Americans* proven themselves.

The battalion kicked off January with a field training exercise (FTX) to certify batteries on Table VI and Table XII. Second Platoon, C Battery, 2-320th FA deployed to Kandahar Air Field in support of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

The Soldiers conducted over 100 fire missions in support of OFS I and fired two XM982 Excalibur rounds. During the FTX, 1st Platoon, C Battery received a warning order to deploy in support of Task Force Bulldog, 1st BCT, 101st Airborne Division.

The platoon had one week to certify on Table VI and XII. When the official order was received, the platoon prepared, deployed, and established itself at Tactical Base Dwyer, Helmand Province, Afghanistan within eight days for a seven-month deployment.

With the deployment of two platoons, the battalion drove on with a detailed training schedule that tested the aptitude of all the batteries.

In April, the battalion conducted a command post exercise and provided support to the 36th Infantry Division's Warfighter Exercise at Fort Hood, Texas. This training was followed by 79 days supporting the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Soldiers in B Battery deployed its howitzers to teach the future leaders of the Army on the employment and crew drills involved with the M119A3 howitzers. While B Battery was heavily incorporated in branch week at West Point,

the battalion conducted Table XII qualifications, as well as a battery defense exercise using 1st BCT engineer support.

The battalion was chosen to provide indirect fires for 75th Ranger Regiment three times throughout the year. This training provided the fire direction center, sections, and forward observers with scenarios many had not had the opportunity to conduct before.

In November, the battalion conducted an FTX focused primarily on the certifications of Table VI through XII for the batteries. Finally, they fired three combined arms live fire exercises for 1st BCT, 101st Airborne Division.

The *Proud American Battalion* has proven to be an exceptional asset on the battlefield, and has shown that no matter the mission, they will succeed. From deploying two platoons, conducting numerous ranges, teaching future Army leaders, and building morale throughout its ranks, the *Proud American Battalion* always sets the highest bar for what a field artillery battalion should be. The unit is currently in the training phase for a JRTC rotation in April 2016, which will prepare them for their next *Rendezvous with Destiny*.

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

Fiscal year 2015 marked a historic time for the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 101st Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as the *Red Knight Rakkasans* conducted their seventh combat deployment since 2001.

Elements of the battalion deployed in Operation Resolute Support to provide Fires for Afghan and coalition forces in Train Advise Assist Command-East.

Second Platoon, C Battery successfully fired more than 50 near-precision munitions and more than ten precision munitions in support of operations. Along with the firing platoon, the battalion deployed over 80 fire support personnel to help 3rd Brigade Combat Team with missions ranging from advising Afghan partners to being part of the Global Response Force. After the deployment, all fire support personnel moved into the new battalion footprint as they consolidated under 101st DIVARTY.

In addition to the deployment, the *Red Knight Rakkasans* executed Table XVIII (battalion live fires) to include the Division Artillery Readiness Test which was the first on Fort Campbell, Ky. in over a decade. The external evaluation by DIVARTY during Table XVIII was crucial for the battalion to assess and evaluate each battery and ability to mass fire.

In August the battalion deployed over 350 pieces of equipment by rail and line haul to Camp Grayling, Mich. for Exportable Combat Training Capability Rotation 15-06. While training at Camp Grayling, the battalion conducted numerous situational training exercise lanes; forward support company recovery lanes; nuclear, biological and chemical operations; several live fires, and three live battery air assault raids. The firing batteries provided direct support to three infantry maneuver battalions from 37th Infantry Brigade Combat

Team, Ohio National Guard in order to facilitate the Total Army Training Integration program. The National Guard provided multiple combat multipliers to include engineer and air assets to support defensive lane and air assault raid training.

As the *Red Knight Rakkasans* closed out the year, the battalion conducted battery air assault raids with the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade, New York National

Guard, howitzer certification, consolidated fire support team training certification, including joint fires observer recertification, helped refine and standardize DI-VARTY tactical standard operating procedures, and held Saint Barbara's Ball. The *Red Knight Rakkasans* are fully trained and ready to fight they look forward to the next *Rendezvous with Destiny*.



Soldiers from the 138th Field Artillery Brigade prepare to engage targets for their Basic Rifle Marksmanship qualification at Whendel H. Ford Regional Training Center, Greenville, Ky., during the unit's annual training. Photo courtesy of 138th FAB.

Kentucky U.S. Army National Guard 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Kentucky

Soldiers in 138th Field Artillery Brigade continue a long a trajectory of reset and retrain for 2015.

Having had nearly half the brigade's Soldiers deployed in overseas operations during the past two years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; 2014 saw the

unit successfully reintegrate and recover from sustained operations across a wide spectrum of missions both artillery and non-artillery related. The focus for 2015 was to retrain, recertify, and reorganize artillery skills and competencies in order to face new threats and demands.

The motto for the Kentucky National Guard is *Unbridled Service*, indicative of the proud association with horses in Kentucky, while the brigade motto is *Kentucky*

Thunder, which lends to the proud sounds coming from Fires weapon systems.

The Soldiers are proud to selflessly serve the nation and communities as Army National Guard Redlegs.

1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery, Morgan's Men

Upon the return of 1st Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery from a non-standard mission to the Middle East in late 2013, they continued to refine their field artillery skills through realistic, relevant training focused on all "Big 3" modifications added to the unit's M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) in 2015.

The HIMARS crews used the new systems to standard to perform fire mission processing at all levels through the PRC-150 HARRIS.

Training included several "firsts" for the Battalion. Among the crew members sending rockets downrange during Multiple Launch Rocket System Table VI was Spc. Logan Green, the first female 13M MLRS Crewman to ever fire a rocket with 1-623rd FA. Green, a 2015 recipient of the Minuteman Scholarship, plans to pursue a commission as a field artillery officer through the University of Kentucky ROTC program.

Working closely with range control at Camp Atterbury, Ind., 1-623rd FA became the first MLRS or HIMARS unit to live-fire on that post. This was a unique opportunity that provided additional experience and also established a new training capability there.

Another milestone was support of the MLRS Crewmen Advanced Leadership Course by 1st Battalion 238th Regiment. Nine Soldiers, seven from the 1-623rd FA,

completed the first week of the course at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Greenville, Ky. before traveling to Camp Atterbury to complete week two in the field with 1-623rd FA during annual training. For the culminating event of the course, the students were certified by the battalion's master gunner and then participated in a HIMARS live fire with the rest of the battalion.

This was the first time a live fire was part of the course, but something that regional training institutes throughout the country are considering as part of their course of instruction.

The partnership between 1-623rd FA and 1-238th Regional Training Institute proved this concept is viable, allowing Soldiers to complete the Advanced Leadership Course while also participating in valuable training with their assigned units and crews. This cooperative effort resulted in Soldiers completing the course with very little additional cost to the Kentucky Army National Guard.

In addition to focusing on field artillery tasks, *Morgan's Men* continued to excel in providing support to local communities and the Commonwealth of Kentucky through the performance of a wide-range of state active-duty missions.



Self-propelled howitzers from the C Battery 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, wait for their turn to move to the firing range during the unit's annual training at Fort Knox, Ky. Photo courtesy of 2nd BN, 138th FA.

2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, Longrifles

The 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery annual training was broken into two phases. The first phase (eight days) was conducted at Fort Knox, Ky. where the battalion focused on completing all section certifications and its first live fire exercise (LFX) since 2010. The battalion completed Army Warrior Tasks, Soldier readiness processing, individual weapons qualification makeup, Army Physical Fitness Tests, noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the Year boards and Long Rifle Raids during the week-long second phase at Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center.

Throughout annual training, 2-138th FA focused on section qualifications culminating in a LFX. One thousand, 148 rounds rounds drawn from the Fort Knox ammo supply point were expended safely and accurately leaving nothing more than

dunnage to be turned in. The battalion was able to certify 12 howitzer sections, seven fire direction sections, the meteorology section and the fire support team.

A live fire demonstration captured the attention of visiting employers of 2-138th FA Soldiers, who were attending for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve team that coordinated the visit to 2-138th FA annual training. Employers witnessed firsthand how their citizen-Soldiers not only make it their business to thrive, but support the greater good of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the nation.

The 2-138th Forward Support Company executed a flawless forward arming and refueling point to distribute ammo and fuel to the firing batteries. They also successfully coordinated logistical packages

with 103rd Brigade Support Battalion and the 2-138th units at designated logistical resupply points. In the end, they distributed 1,148 rounds (to include propellants, fuzes, and primers), 11,618 gallons of fuel, over 3,500 TOTMs, 10,000 pounds of ice, and served over 5,200 hot meals during field operations.

The battalion chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear section completed the remaining 185 Protection Assessment Test Systems on protective masks while in the field at Fort Knox. This section also conducted Army Warrior Tasks for all units while at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. The classroom training was followed by the gas chamber.

For the remainder of the year 2-138th FA conducted a field training exercise to achieve digital fire missions from the observer to the delivery section with precision guided munition capability. Crew served weapon qualifications were conducted while planning and preparing core mission requirements for its state mission.

The battalion provided defense support for civilian authorities by providing security and interagency command and control for the Breeders Cup horse race held at Keeneland Racetrack in Lexington, Ky.

The *Longrifles* are prepared to move forward and master core competencies while maintaining the capability to support the domestic mission for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the nation.

103rd Brigade Support Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Brigade, *Thunder Support*

During training year 2015, 103rd Brigade Support Battalion applied the experience they gained from the Sustainment Training Center in Camp Dodge, Iowa in 2014 in which Company B managed and completed 100 percent of the brigade's S-Services on 94 pieces of equipment. Doing it once would be an accomplishment in itself, but they have done it for eight consecutive years. This time they did it while also participating in Army Warrior Task exercises throughout the year.

Army Warrior Tasks completed were: establishing an entry control point during the quartering party; M249 familiarization firel individual weapons qualification; night vision goggle drivers training; nuclear, biological chemical individual weapons

qualification, and nuclear biological chemical gas chamber.

Soldiers of 103rd BSB also accomplished 98.5 percent qualification of drilling Soldiers for individual weapons qualification; 100 percent licensing for the High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicles and more than 100 work orders for maintenance and repairs; 25 percent of the required annual services in a two-week period, and 74 percent of the Soldiers were cross-trained with different skill sets.

Not to mention, they provided logistical support for two battalions and the brigade by conducting convoys covering nearly 10,000 miles, providing 15,000 meals, 5,500 gallons of water, and 15,000 gallons fuel.



Leaders from 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, conduct a series of tests during the battalion's Red Leg Challenge on Jan. 30 at Marion Bonner Recreation Area, Fort Polk, La. Photo by Sgt. David Edge.

Fort Polk, La.

5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, Thunder

Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, *Thunder*, focused on section qualifications in February. This collective training shaped the fight-to-the-field ethos the battalion carried forward into platoon qualifications in March.

In June, the battalion executed both a mission readiness exercise and a decisive action training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center. Successful counterfire defined the decisive action portion of the rotation, while security force partner-

ships forged the mission readiness members of the battalion.

In September, an element of the battalion deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

During October and November, the battalion fielded M119A3s and M777A2s and executed section qualifications on the new weapon systems. The battalion looks forward to continuing the tradition of quality collective training and prepares for future operations.



A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, climbs up the side of a hill that has been covered in snow and ice. Photo courtesy of 1-101st FA.

Massachusetts U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, South Regiment

While the winter of 2015 was one of the worst, the members of the 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment proved to be at their best during an intense training year in support of the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Shifting gears from the previous training year in which the battalion successful-



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, fire a ceromonial cannon with the U.S.S. Constitution in the background. Photo courtesy of 1-101st FA.

ly completed a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. the 101st FAR took to the mountains of northern Vermont in January for one week of dynamic winter mountain warfare training and live-fire exercises in extreme cold weather conditions.

The Redlegs of the South Regiment honed their mountain warfare skills, which included ice wall climbing, rappelling, medical evacuations and land navigation while successfully firing more than 500 artillery rounds in sub-freezing temperatures.

Meanwhile, a series of powerful winter storms struck the northeast, which created some of the highest snowfalls in history and coincided with record-breaking low temperatures. As a result, the members of the regiment responded to multiple state activations to assist the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Soldiers proved their mettle by clearing snow around fire hydrants throughout the city of Boston and assisting with snow removal on the train and subway tracks which crippled sections of the widespread Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority in February.

Furthermore, the battalion supported multiple ceremonial events throughout the state, including the Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations as well as the annual June Day celebration in support of the ancient and honorable artillery company.

In October, the U.S.S. Constitution undertook its final voyage before entering dry dock for renovations. The Navy's oldest commissioned warship traded ceremonial cannon fire in Boston Harbor with the Army's oldest field artillery unit in a ceremony at Fort Independence.

The summer of 2015 was just as rigorous as the battalion traveled to Fort Drum, N.Y. in June. Transitioning from the extreme cold weather conditions of Vermont, the battalion quickly readjusted to the hot summer days in upstate New York. The firing platoons, in just a week's time, conducted Tables V and VI as well as multi-echelon integrated brigade training, supporting the maneuver units from the 86th IBCT and safely firing more than 1,300 artillery rounds.

Moving into fiscal year 2016, the Soldiers look forward to the composite field artillery transformation by bringing back C Battery and the fire supporters to the battalion. In addition to becoming proficient with new upgrades to the M119A3 light howitzers and the fielding of M777A1 medium howitzers, the battalion looks forward to the further expanded capabilities the South Regiment's Redlegs.

Michigan U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, Sudden Death

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment, *Sudden Death*, trained to assume command and control of the partnership and training mission at Camp Red Leg, United Arab Emirate in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Spartan Shield.

Honored to be selected as the second National Guard unit ever tasked to perform this mission, *Sudden Death* stands ready to complete the mission and to continue the work of their predecessors by maintaining and improving relationships already in

place and striving to make it even better for follow-on units.

Sudden Death completed all pre-mobilization requirements and qualified 16 high-mobility artillery rocket system (HI-MARS) crews during 2015.

During the live-five exercise (LFX) they provided their own forward observers and fired without aerial observation for the second year in a row, something never previously done at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center due to local range restrictions.

Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, pull rear security while on the way to the next operating area. Photo courtesy of Michigan Army National Guard public affairs.





Aerial view of a 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Soldier checking safety data inside a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launcher on a firing point. Photo courtesy of Michigan Army National Guard public affairs.

During the qualification LFX Sudden Death experienced a brush fire at one of their firing points that quickly posed a threat to personnel and equipment, and to tens of thousands of acres of prime northern Michigan wilderness.

The battalion always prepares for grass fires during Multiple Launch Rocket System firing at CGJMTC. A significant strength of any National Guard unit is their Soldier's abilities and professions outside of their military specialty. They have many Soldiers whose civilian careers enhance their capabilities. In this case it was Sgt. 1st Class David Howie, an A Battery platoon sergeant who serves his community as an on-call firefighter.

Being a firefighter, Howie directed the attack toward the leading edge of the fire from the burned side and they were quickly able to knock down 10-12 foot flames and contained approximately 50 percent of the fire when approximately 30 reinforcements arrived with shovels, brooms, and five-gallon water jugs. Upon arrival, Howie quickly helped them fill and use several Indian Fire Pump Packs (a five-gallon backpack-style firefighting apparatus) and together they were able to contain the fire completely. Plans and preparations, including rehearsals, helped prevent injury and loss of equipment and protected natural resources. The skills found throughout the Army Reserves and National Guard are proven force multipliers.

During the annual Operation Northern Strike (a multi-national, joint, combined arms, live-fire exercise) at CGJMTC, Sudden Death launcher crews trained on preparing the HIMARS for air movement.



Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery, fire a reduced range practice rocket during Table VI qualification at the Joint Maneuver Training Center, Camp Grayling, Mich. Photo courtesy of Michigan Army National Guard public affairs.

Working with Air National Guard crews and loadmasters from several different states, Soldiers honed their skills for two days and on Day Three, they took flight. One crew prepped their launcher and loaded it onto a C-130 at Grayling Army Airfield while another crew loaded as passengers.

The aircraft took off and flew to nearby Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center where the crew off-loaded and brought the launcher back to full mission capability. The two crews switched and the new crew did the same for the flight back to Grayling. They completed two full rotations and four crews were the first in the battalion to take flight in their M142. The 1-182nd FAR is now fully prepared to conduct HIMARS Rapid Infiltration (HI-RAIN) missions.

The *Sudden Death Battalion* continues to train hard in preparation to respond with the artillery sense of urgency to deliver lethal Fires in order to dominate the operational environment. They continuously strive to be the best. *King of Battle — Sudden Death!*

Minnesota U.S. Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery

Just prior to 2015, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery, reorganized to a 3x6 battery footprint. In April, the battalion staff and many support elements participated in the 1st Battalion, 34th Airborne Brigade Combat Team's Warfighter Exercise at Camp Ripley, Minn. where the battalion executed military decision making processes (MDMP) and mission command in preparation for a decisive action plan.

In May, 1-125th FA participated in the eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise at Camp Ripley. The battalion con-

ducted operations including; MDMP, mission command, and Table XII certification, while validating perimeter defense, mass casualty, conduct tactical convoy, survivability and relocation and communications.

Soldiers in 1-125th FA remain poised and ready to assist local units of government in the event of a state of emergency or natural disaster.

In June, 1-125th FA welcomed Maj. (P) Christopher Ward as the battalion commander. Ward will lead the battalion in the National Training Center Rotation in 2016.

1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, Thunder

1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery, *Thunder*, 115th Field Artillery Brigade Soldiers executed two different mission sets during training year 2015.

Soldiers in A Battery, 1-151st FA, out of Marshall, Minn., spent the first half of the year preparing for a rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. They executed that in June, supporting the 2nd Battalion, 11th Armored Calvary Regiment. The battalion prepared for and conducted annual training at Camp Ripley Training Center in early August, focusing on battery operations.

A Battery's rotation to Fort Irwin was comprised of 100 personnel and 41 pieces of rolling stock. The six-gun battery executed more than 100 occupation and survivability moves while working with 11th ACR during the 10-day box exercise. A Battery was the first to partake in such training for 1-151st FA in over a decade and it

proved to be a challenging, but rewarding experience.

In recognition of A Battery's efforts, they received the Hamby Award (Second Class) from the 2-11th ACR. It was presented to A Battery for their efforts as an opposing force providing excellent training to the rotational unit.

The battalion conducted annual training late July through early August focusing on field artillery Table XII standards, crew-served weapons qualification, and new equipment training (NET) fielding of the Joint Capabilities Release (JCR) communications platform. The year's funding constraints challenged them to combine a collective exercise and a NET fielding of over 50 JCR platforms, but the battalion accomplished both missions.

Going into reset for training year 2016, the battalion's focus will shift toward individual and unit readiness for future operations.

Mississippi U.S. Army National Guard

2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, Dragons

Artillerymen from the Mississippi Army National Guard, 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, *Dragons*, are preparing for their upcoming 2016 annual training event at Fort Hood, Texas and the National Training Center, at Fort Irwin, Calif., in 2017.

In 2015, the battalion participated in an Exportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) at Camp Shelby, Miss. During XCTC they conducted fire mission Tables I-XII, direct fire missions, multiple forceon-force exercises, as well as a combined arms live-fire exercise.

The 2016 Multi-echelon Integrated Brigade Training (MIBT) exercise will be the first time this unit has participated in a MIBT. The focus of MIBT for this battalion will be to be more proficient with force-onforce operations, command post operations, and artillery Tables X-XII. This exercise will



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, and their civilian employers participate in a day of training. The "Boss Lift" is an annual event which was held during the Exportable Combat Training Capability exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss. Photo courtesy of 2-114th FA.

lead into a 2017 National Training Center rotation just in time to meet their ready year of the Army Force Generation Cycle.

1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, headquartered in Newton, Miss. is currently deployed to the National Capital Region. The battalion is conducting Ground Based Missile Defense operations as part of the Integrated Air Defense System in support of Operation Noble Eagle. The battalion's battery locations are: Newton (Headquarters and Headquarters Battery), Bay Springs (Battery A), Forest (Battery B), Morton (Battery C) and Newton (Battery D).

The Fires Center of Excellence awarded the Alexander Hamilton Award to Battery C, 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery in the beginning of the year. The award recognizes the outstanding air defense artillery and field artillery Reserve component U.S. Army National Guard battery of the year for exceptional achievement, superior mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence. Nominations were evaluated on tactical proficiency, operational readiness rate, safety, and other key and distinguishing indicators.

In the first quarter of 2015, the battalion received its notification of sourcing for the unit's third rotation to the NCR in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

The battalion initiated a robust training plan that incorporated individual and collective tasks. In addition to normal mobilization training requirements, the battalion conducted Air Defense Artillery – Distributed Mission Operation training which enabled the successful training of the air defense artillery fire control officers, forward area air defense engagement operator, forward area air defense engagement operator 3D, National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS) tactical control officer and the Norwegian Advanced Sur-

face-to-Air Missile (NASAM) tactical control assistant.

In the fourth quarter of the year, the battalion conducted its mobilization readiness exercise (Exercise America's Shield) at Gulfport, Miss. During this training event the battalion successfully certified all Avenger, Sentinel and Joint Air Defense Operation Center crews in accordance with U.S. Army Forces Command standards specific to the National Capital Region-Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS) mission utilizing First Army Training Support Battalion.

For the first time NASAMS crews were afforded the opportunity to familiarize themselves upon an actual NASAMS weapon

A Soldier in 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery fires a Stinger missile from an Avenger during a live-fire exercise. Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Tynes.





Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery, view the horizon during a Stinger missile man-pad live-fire exercise. Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamann.

system, enabling realistic training opportunities and preparing them mobilization.

Upon mobilization the unit deployed to Fort Bliss, Texas and conducted Soldier Readiness Center activities. They achieved a 100 percent Soldier readiness rate while there. NASAMS fire direction personnel and the NASAMS crews underwent formal training on the weapon system and achieved a 100 percent certification rate. The battalion conducted its culminating training event (CTE) achieving certification for the battalion to deploy and execute the "No-Fail" mission of the NCR-IADS. Following the CTE, the battalion executed a live fire exercise (LFX) achieving a 96 percent kill rate. The LFX provided the expe-

rience and confidence needed for Avenger crew members to successfully perform the NCR-IADS mission.

In conjunction with the battalion's mission to the NCR, the rear-detachment supported 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team in the execution of the eXportable Combat Training Capability at Camp Shelby, Miss. The battalion continues to train for decisive operations and will support the 155th ABCT in training year 2016 during the execution of the Multi-echelon Integrated Brigade Training exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, followed by a rotation to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California in fiscal year 2017.

Missouri U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment



Staff Sgt. James Chevalier, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, participates in the Region Noncommissioned Officer the Year competition. Photo courtesy of 1-129th FA.

During fiscal year 2015, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, was ready with Soldier and equipment availability and compliance in all organizational inspection programs, allowing the battalion to focus on annual training alongside 45th Field Artillery Brigade.

The battalion held a three day field training exercise; four digital communications exercises; 13D, 13B, and 13F safety certifications and qualifications; howitzer

crew, section chief, and Big 3 certifications; and individual- and crew-served weapons qualifications.

They conducted a 14-day exercise at Fort Sill, Okla. alongside 45th FAB for the third time in four years. The battalion took advantage of external resources to include meteorological data from 45th FAB, ensuring the battalion met all five requirements for accurate Fires, and radar assets, allowing the battalion to adjust Fires and calculate effects on target. They also fired timeon-target missions alongside two adjacent High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System battalions under the direction of the 45th FAB for the first time in 10 years. Combined, the battalion fired 856 artillery rounds with tremendous effects, and 22 battery occupations while traveling more than 6,000 miles to and from Fort Sill with no safety issues.

Accomplishments this year: Staff Sgt. James Chevalier, 1128th Forward Support Company, won the Region V Best Warrior Competition and placed fourth at the national level; Spc. Aaron Magers, B Battery, 1-129th FAR earned honors at the state level Soldier of the Year competition; 1128th FSC won first place honors at the National Guard Bureau level, medium modified table of organization and equipment, for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence; and the Truman Chapter hosted a 5K and 15K ruck march in conjunction with D Battery's Memorial Day Shoot at the National WWI Museum on Memorial Day.

New Hampshire U.S. Army National Guard 197th Field Artillery Brigade, *Granite Thunder*

It was an eventful year for 197th Field Artillery Brigade, which included the completion of a warfighter exercise, deployment of two High Mobility Artillery Rocket System battalions to the Middle East, transition of brigade leadership and preparation for an upcoming mission within the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

Beginning 2015 on a strong note, 197th FAB trained alongside 38th Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Ind. for a warfighter exercise that demonstrated their strength in executing decisive operations in a dynamic environment. The exercise allowed the brigade to integrate fire missions at the division level, employing all elements of fire power to include air-tosurface, surface-to-surface, and non-lethal methods within the full spectrum of operations. They put their digital architecture to the test through battle and crew drills, earning praise for their use of Army Battle Command Systems and overall digital standard operating procedures.

In addition, as the first warfighter exercise to incorporate the joint air ground integration cell concept, the brigade gained insight into upcoming changes for future field artillery operations. In sum, each component of the exercise contributed to combat readiness and efficiency, paving the way for their upcoming mobilization.

In June, Col. Thomas Spencer, who now serves as the assistant adjutant general for the New Hampshire National Guard, relinquished command of the brigade to Lt. Col. John LeBlanc. LeBlanc previously served as commander of 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the brigade.

With another deployment around the corner, 197th FAB spent the remainder of 2015 focused on carrying out essential tasks for a field artillery mission in the Middle East. There will no doubt be challenges and victories in 2016 that the *Granite Thunder Brigade* is more than ready to handle.

3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, Granite Steel

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, *Granite Steel*, deployed from New Hampshire to several countries in the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield, where they were responsible for theater security cooperation engagements with foreign field artillery units and improving life support facilities at their assigned duty station.

In February, the battalion departed New Hampshire to conduct mobilization at Fort Bliss, Texas. The battalion executed live-



In October, Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment, executed a combined Table XII live-fire exercise with four M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) and three HIMARS from its host nation military partner. It was the culminating fires for Operation Golden Falcon, a theater security cooperation training engagement, in support of Operation Spartan Shield. Photo by 1st Lt. Benjamin Moreau.

fire exercises, air mobility operations with C-17 Globemasters and a C-5 Galaxy and all mobilization requirements leading to a successful validation in April.

Following an intense year of preparation, 3-197th FAR departed in March to carry out their mission in the Central Command area of operations. The battalion is currently engaged in live-fire exercises and training maneuvers with partner nations. Also deploying as a battalion-level High Mobility Artillery Rocket System unit, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery Regiment (Michigan Army National Guard), left for the Middle East shortly after training with 197th Field Artillery Brigade for the warfighter exercise.

The battalion arrived at its assigned duty station in April and immediately participated in Eager Lion 2015, a multinational live-fire exercise in Jordan. During the deployment, the battalion executed six platoon-level live-fire exercises in three

different Middle Eastern countries with 72 reduced-range practice rockets fired; conducted CH-47 Chinook slingload training with launcher pod containers, and participated in numerous training engagements with foreign militaries that enhanced interoperability between the United States and those militaries.

Finally, the battalion completed significant improvements to its assigned duty station. Improvements included retrograding all existing force provider systems and updated systems; connecting the duty station with the Armed Forces Network; creating and upgrading Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities, and enabling 24-hour maintenance operations in austere conditions with the procurement of climate controlled maintenance tents.

3-197th FAR Soldiers redeployed to Fort Bliss, Texas and New Hampshire in December.

New Jersey U.S. Army National Guard

3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment

The New Jersey Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery Regiment completed another year of demanding training and transformation.

The year began with the battalion relocating Soldiers and equipment into two new armories. The armories now house a firing battery and fire support detachment.

The Soldiers of 3-112th FAR then conducted reflagging ceremonies for B Battery and the Forward Support Company and uncased the new C Battery guidon. The battalion also completed a change of responsibility ceremony, welcoming in a new battalion command sergeant major.

Afterward, the battalion turned its attention to new equipment training and new equipment fielding by completing maintenance and turn in of all M119A2s.

The battalion completed the transition to a composite field artillery battalion by training on and fielding M119A3s, M777A2s, and the Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder in August at Fort Dix, N.J.

As a culminating event, the battalion conducted a fire power demonstration for New Jersey National Guard senior leaders, representatives from the Program Executive Office of Ammunition, the program manager for Towed Artillery Systems from Picatinny Arsenal, and personnel from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery, fire a howitzer during a live-fire exercise. Photo courtesy of 3-112th FA.

The battalion is now training and preparing for a brigade warfighter exercise with 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Fort Drum, New York

10th Mountain Division Artillery, Mountain Thunder

The 10th Mountain Division Artillery, *Mountain Thunder*, activated Oct. 16 at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Since its activation, the Soldiers of 10th Mountain DIVARTY worked tirelessly to complete the required equipment fielding and training as the unit builds capabilities which will culminate in a capstone exercise and validation.

Of note, 10th Mountain DIVARTY conducted the first two iterations of Mission Command System Integration Training in December which will led into a full unit command post exercise in January of 2016.

Tenth Mountain DIVARTY continues to march forward towards its primary function: to provide essential oversight and expertise in all matters related to field artillery for 10th Mountain Division.

3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, Centaurs

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, *Centaurs*, began 2015 deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center. During JRTC Rotation 15-03, they provided direct supporting Fires for 1st Brigade Combat Team Task Force Warrior.

In August, the battalion headquarters and fire support elements deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) as an advice and assist headquarters for Iraqi army (IA) forces.

Partnered with numerous IA units, the battalion provided Fires training and staff mentorship while simultaneously building partner capacity and capability throughout Task Force Warrior's area of operation. The focus of the Soldiers and leaders of *Team Centaur* were artillery skills to provide accurate Fires in support of 1st BCT.



A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, supported by C Company, 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, conducts an air assault artillery raid Oct. 8, 2015, on Fort Drum, N.Y. Photo courtesy of 3-6th FA.

These Soldiers executed a variety of livefire exercises, to include artillery Table VI, Table XII, air assault artillery raids, precision-guided munition new equipment training and a combined Table VI certification with the 2nd Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. The battalion fired approximately 2,000 artillery rounds and continues training in preparation for maneuver company live fire exercises and a brigade fire support coordination exercise. During the past year, the Soldiers and leaders of the *Centaur Battalion* demonstrated their adaptability as they executed a multitude of missions. Through the battalion's focused training strategy, they attained proficiencies and proved versatility.

The battalion enters 2016 postured to reintegrate redeploying personnel, reset equipment and continue training to develop expert platoons, batteries and fire support elements to 1st BCT, 10th Mountain Division.

2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, Allons

A majority of the Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, *Allons*, deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Sentinel with the mission of providing security to coalition

forces in Kabul and giving fire support to coalition forces in Southern Afghanistan. The battalion is currently readying themselves for redeployment set for early 2016.

New York U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, Washington Greys

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, Washington Greys, stood tall and capable all year, enduring rigorous training that culminated in a rotation at Army National Guard's eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) program and a brigade warfighter exercise at Fort Drum, N.Y.

These were essential training events as the battalion continued to prepare for a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. in July 2016. Soldiers remained vigilant and capable, proving the battalion is ready and faithful. The battalion used its time wisely, maximizing training value which was imperative in preparing Soldiers for a productive XCTC annual training event.

The firing batteries, located in New Windsor, N.Y. and the Bronx, N.Y. conducted disciplined training on the field artillery tables throughout the year, ensuring Soldiers were ready to deliver steel-on-targets after successful howitzer section certification.

Unfavorable weather and long hours did not stop either firing battery from completing their mission and proving field artillery is the King of Battle.



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery conduct dry firing drills on their M119 howitzer during training at Fort Dix, N.J., Jan. 10. The 373 members of the battalion, as well as fire support specialists from other New York Army National Guard units conducted training to prepare for live fire exercises in May. Photo by Sgt. Michael Davis.

Headquarters Battery, based in the Jamaica area of Queens, N.Y., improved proficiency in establishing the Mission Command Center and continued while certifying its meteorological, radar, fire direction and survey sections. The biggest challenge however, came in ensuring the battalion was organized and capable during the XCTC rotation.

The ever-changing and complex nature of the event presented many opportunities for Soldiers to showcase leadership capabilities. This was further present during the brigade warfighter exercise conducted in the latter part of annual training.

Forward Support Company G, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, based in Jamaica, performed well above standard. The sustainment they provided was imperative in keeping the batteries functioning and mission ready.

XCTC provided many opportunities for equipment failure which were swiftly corrected. The Soldiers worked tirelessly and in doing so played a crucial role in the training event's successes.

The Ready Force Soldiers have been busy conducting training while the bulk of the battalion has been deployed. One training event of note occurred in October when C Battery, 2-15th FA executed the first-ever slingload and air assault of the M777 at Fort Drum.

This training ensured the Soldiers are ready to execute air assault operations, which gives 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team increased lethality and flexibility for any operating environment.

Camp Lejeune, N.C.

10th Marine Regiment, Fireball

Located at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., 10th Marine Regiment is the oldest and one of the proudest of the Marine regiments with over 100 years of service. The regiment provides fire support to 2nd Marine Division, employing the M777A2 towed 155mm howitzer and the M327 towed 120mm mortar Expeditionary Fire Support System.

In February and March, key personnel from the 10th Marines participated in a Tactical Marine Air Ground Task Force Integration Course at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., in the role of an infantry regimental landing team staff. During TMIC, the staff honed its skills and developed mature planning and combat standing operating procedures while tackling the realistic amphibious scenario presented in Exercise Spartan Advance.

Headquarters Battery, 10th Marines exercised command and control over the regiment in March and integrated over 21 Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force agencies into Exercise Rolling Thunder 2-15, a combined arms field exercise aboard Fort Bragg, N.C. Under the command and control of 10th Marine Regiment, the exercise force shot 5,946 cannon, rocket and mortar rounds safely.

In July, Marines from Headquarters Battery deployed to the Republic of Georgia to support Exercise Agile Spirit 2015, a multinational, combined arms NATO exercise.

They participated in planning drills, livefire ranges, and military operations in urban terrain training. Headquarters Battery joined the Black Sea Rotational Force, along with troops from Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania in the NATO response force-level combined exercise.

Following a regimental change of command July 31, and battery change of command Aug. 6, Headquarters Battery continued to support regimental operations while undertaking numerous material readiness efforts in order to prepare for the December Field Supply and Maintenance Analysis Office (FSMAO) inspection. Part and parcel with preparations for FSMAO inspection, Headquarters Battery focused on efforts to reinvigorate personnel, materiel and training readiness to ensure immediate availability to deploy in support of combat operations worldwide.

In addition to the above major exercises, 10th Marines continued to source global manning requirements for numerous individual augment and joint manning document billets, to include operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Horn of Africa, Marine Corps Response Force South, and Black Sea Rotational Force and Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response Africa. Throughout the year, the regiment supported the II Marine Expeditionary Force Advise and Assist Team, Operation Inherent Resolve, Iraq, with several officers as individual augments.



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Tyler Sansonetti, gun chief, and Lance Cpl. Alexander Mcaroy, both with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, check the longitude of the M777 155mm howitzer in preparation for reinforcing ground combat element units in fire support coordination drills during an integrated training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 27. Photo by Lance Cpl. Clarence Leake.

1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, Nightmare

First Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment is the largest artillery battalion in the Marine Corps. With six batteries, the Marines of Nightmare Battalion maintained a high operational tempo throughout the year, preparing batteries to deploy in support of geographic combatant commanders and both service-directed and unit exercises.

In January, C Battery, 1-10th Marines deployed for training to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms for Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 2-15, where they trained in conjunc-

tion with 1st Battalion, 4th Marines and 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines. While at ITX, the battery honed its skills as it conducted indirect fire in support of live maneuver forces at the Corps' premier training base.

In the spring, 1-10th Marines participated in Exercise Rolling Thunder 2-15, a regimental live-fire exercise at Fort Bragg, N.C., designed to simulate a real-world scenario involving the regiment's ability to provide artillery Fires to the division. The battalion used Rolling Thunder as an opportunity to phase operations from the



A Marine with K Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, manually plots data for a fire mission after receiving information about a simulated target during exercise Rolling Thunder on Fort Bragg, N.C., Oct. 19. Photo courtesy of 1-10th Marines.

battery to the regimental level. In addition to executing individual and collective training and readiness events, the battalion also validated its material readiness with a road march across eastern North Carolina.



Concurrent with Rolling Thunder, the Marines of A Battery supported Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One and Weapons Tactics Instructor Course 2-15 from March to April at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. During the six-week exercise, A Battery was an integral part of the air-ground team in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations.

Left: A CH-53E Super Stallion flies an M777A2 Howitzer to the next training area, aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 19. First Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment conducted a live-fire training exercise that required them to be able to shoot, move and communicate over a large area, in order to support fellow Marines. Photo by Cpl. Kaitlyn Klein.

Operating at both the battery and platoon level, A Battery delivered timely and accurate Fires for fire support plans which included both fixed and rotary-wing assets.

The battalion then supported 2nd Marine Regiment at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. in April. In addition to improving the battalion's indirect fire capability through military occupational specialty-centric training, the unit again exercised long-distance logistical capability by taking advantage of training opportunities away from the home station.

After returning from Virginia, the battalion focused its attention on preparing for ITX 5-15. Throughout most of the summer,

the battalion provided artillery for two infantry battalions and fired 4,000 rounds in company and battalion-level attacks. To this effort, the battalion took advantage of the realistic training opportunity afforded by delivering Fires for live maneuver forces.

Throughout the year, the battalion continued to prepare batteries and platoons to deploy independently. These separate deployments included support for Marine Expeditionary Units, the Unit Deployment Program and the first-ever rotations of artillery platoons deploying with combined arms companies to the continent of Europe.

2nd Battalion, 10th Marines, Gunslinger

The 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, started the year off with pre-deployment training efforts of E Battery. This in-

cluded a live-fire exercise and training the associated battalion fire support team for deployment with 2nd Battalion, 6th Ma-

Second Battalion, 10th Marines, 2nd Marine Division conducts artillery combined arms and fire support training during Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 3-15 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 21. Sixth Marines and subordinate units participated in ITX 3-15 to ensure all elements of Special-Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 6 are prepared for upcoming deployments and operational commitments. Photo by Staff Sgt. Keonaona Paulo.





Marines with L Battery, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, fire an M777 howitzer during a live-fire exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 30. This was the last exercise L Battery conducted as a standalone unit. Photo by Cpl. Kirstin Merrimarahajara.

rine Regiment, as part of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit on U.S. Navy amphibious ships. In February, the battalion successfully executed a no-notice fire exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, in which the battery commanders were given 24 hours to move their batteries to the field in preparation for a live-fire exercise.

The battalion participated in the 10th Marine Regiment Exercise, Rolling Thunder 2-15, aboard Fort Bragg, N.C. in March. Training included the employment of the battalion's organic weapon systems at the battery, battalion and regimental levels. Other training during this exercise included small arms, live grenade, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives and 120 mm mortar training. From

April to June, Headquarters Battery, F Battery, G Battery (both reinforced with platoons of L Battery) deployed for training to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., for Integrated Training Exercise ITX 3-15. The battalion fired over 6,000 rounds in support of multiple exercises, including the Mobile Assault Course, Air Assault Course, fire support coordination exercises and two distinct final combined arms maneuver exercises.

In June, L Battery supported Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) Course 5-15 with cannon Fires aboard Camp Lejeune, and G Battery would follow up in August with cannon support for TACP Course 6-15. Immediately following this event, F

Battery conducted a live-fire exercise prior to their assignment as the Marine Corps Response Force to U.S. Southern Command. From September to November, the battalion, consisting of Headquarters Battery, F Battery and L Battery, prepared for and deployed to Twentynine Palms, Calif., firing over 5,300 rounds of ground-delivered indirect Fires in support of 8th Marine Regiment and ITX 1-16. During this time, G Battery supported TACP 1-16 and conducted a 120 mm EFSS mortar livefire shoot. Both of these events proved invaluable for their successful execution of a live-fire training and readiness evaluation, prior to temporary reassigment to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment in support of the 22nd MEU's upcoming deployment.

Fort Bragg, N.C.

18th Field Artillery Brigade, Steel Brigade

This was a defining year for 18th Field Artillery Brigade having transformed from a composite unit under training readiness authority of the 82nd Airborne Division into the current configuration as the XVIII Airborne Corps' high mobility artillery rocket system unit. The Soldiers of 18th FAB are now America's contingency field artillery brigade with an enduring mission requirement as part of the global response force (GRF). Week-in and weekout, trained and ready HIMARS platoons from 18th FAB rotate through alert cycles for no-notice deployment, while the corps fire support cell serves an essential role as part of the XVIII Airborne Corps GRF headquarters.

To signify the end of the transformation and the beginning of a new chapter in the unit's history, 18th FAB conducted a field training exercise in March in order to fully measure the capabilities of a HI-MARS brigade. Featuring both the Army's original HIMARS battalion (3-27th Field Artillery Regiment) and the Army's newest HIMARS battalion (3rd Battalion 321st Field Artillery Regiment), the exercise challenged the 188th Brigade Support Battalion to provide sustainment and maintenance support under realistic conditions and tested the headquarter's ability to conduct mission command over extended distances. Integration of aviation, special operation, and maneuver forces challenged leaders by adding complexity to the operating environment.

Precision strike rocket and missile Fires remain a high-demand capability in the XVIII Airborne Corps. Over the course of the year, the brigade provided HIMARS battery (-) for several joint forcible entry rotations as well as a traditional decisive action rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center. Additionally, the corps fire support cell and HIMARS battalion (-) participated in exercise Dragon Spear at the National Training Center, at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Among other joint training events, units from the brigade provided live-fire and

planning expertise to several special operations forces fire support and multi-lateral training exercises as well as two joint forcible entry-vulnerability exercises at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

In August, 18th FAB cased its colors prior to deploying to the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility to serve as the Theater Coalition Forces Land Component Command Force Field Artillery Headquarters. In this capacity, the headquarters conducted mission command of firing units across the region, developed targets and synchronized intelligence col-

lection, leading theater security cooperation activities with seven partner nations.

There is no doubt the demand for long-range precision strike Fires will continue in 2016. Just as the brigade headquarters redeploys to Fort Bragg, N.C., 3rd Battalion, 321st FAR will depart to the CENTCOM region for a scheduled deployment. Meanwhile, the rest of the brigade will support the GRF and remain committed to the pursuit of higher levels of mission readiness.

When the call comes 18th FAB will be ready to deploy, fight and win in support of the XVIII Airborne Corps. *All the Way! Tough-Proud-Disciplined!*

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

Third Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, The Steel Rain Battalion continued to provide lethal Fires capability to XVIII Airborne Corps and the Global Response Force mission.

The battalion participated in numerous joint and special operation live-fire events that included multilateral exercises with 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, as well as participating in two Joint Readiness Training Center rotations, 15-08 and 16-02.

In March, the battalion participated in the brigade field training exercise (FTX) that resulted in refined battery defenses and fire mission tactics and techniques as they continue to provide long-range precision fire support to the XVIII Airborne Corps.

In April, the battalion participated in Emerald Warrior, the Department of Defense's only exercise that focuses on irregular warfare and hones special operations forces' air and ground combat skills. This exercise provided realistic and relevant pre-deployment training that encompassed multiple joint operating areas to prepare special operations forces, conventional force enablers, partner nations and interagency elements. The goal was to integrate with and execute full-spectrum special operations in a complex and uncertain irregular warfare security environment using all aspects of live, virtual and constructive training assets.

In June, the battalion participated in exercise Dragon Strike at Avon Park Air Force Range, Fla. The joint terminal attack controller-oriented exercise integrated the

battalion with Airmen from 18th Air Support Operations Group; 820th Combat Operations Squadron and 23rd Fighter and Maintenance Group. High mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS) crews provided surface-to-surface Fires for close air support missions.

In August, the battalion conducted a battalion FTX that included HIMARS live-fire qualifications and featured a visit from then undersecretary of the Army, Eric Fanning.

In October, the battalion participated in exercise Bold Quest at Fort Bliss. The success of the battalion during the event demonstrated that HIMARS can play a pivotal role in a NATO/Coalition task force. Bold Quest was a capabilities demonstration between B Battery, 3-27th FAR and several NATO partners and also served as an interoperability training opportunity for the artillery Soldiers. The battalion provided the first-ever rocket-fire support as part of an artillery systems cooperation activities, or ASCA, demonstration.

3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, Thunderbolts

This year was one of transition for the Thunderbolts Battalion, as the entire formation went from a M777 Howitzer battalion to a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion within a condensed time span.

Upon completion of the transition, the battalion was designated as the Global Response Force (GRF) HIMARS unit, with responsibilities to deploy quickly and provide precision Fires to the joint task force commander. Additionally, the battalion participated in both joint and special operation live-fires and air land training exercises throughout the year.

In January, A Battery, 3-321st FAR, Able Battery, conducted the first HIMARS live-fire after transitioning from the M777 how-itzers to the HIMARS. Soldiers in B Battery, 3-321st FAR, Baker Battery, followed suit and were designated the GRF HIMARS unit approximately 90 days later.

In March, the battalion participated in the brigade-wide training exercise that resulted in refined battery defenses and fire mission tactics and techniques as they honed their ability to provide long-range precision HIMARS fire support to the XVIII Airborne Corps. The exercise was the first brigade-level training event for 3-321st FAR as a full HIMARS battalion.

In April, the battalion participated in Jaded Thunder at Avon Park Air Force Range, Fla. The battalion provided rocket Fires and mission command for cannon, mortar and rocket Fires in support of Special Operations Forces (SOF) ground units. The exercise served to further solidify SOF-conventional force interoperability in terms of surface-to-surface Fires, airspace command and control, and joint/SOF communication initiatives.

In August, the battalion participated in Dragon Spear at the National Training Cen-

ter, at Fort Irwin, Calif. Not only did they provide strike Fires to the join task force (JTF), but they acted as the JTF Fires headquarters. The chief of staff of the Army was present to observe the HIMARS as part of the larger Joint Forcible Entry demonstration. The exercise focused on the interoperability, interdependence and integration of conventional and special operations forces in a complex, dynamic combat scenario.

In September, the battalion supported SOF units at a U.S. Army, Special Operations Command FSCX at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., providing HIMARs expertise in capabilities of the system, strike planning and airspace deconfliction. Further, the battalion deployed a platoon to the Joint Readiness Training Center to participate in Decisive Action Training Event Rotation 16-01.

The training in 2015 ensured the battalion, as part of the XVIII Airborne Corps, remains ready to deploy rapidly, enter forcibly if necessary, fight upon arrival and win any time, any place.

188th Brigade Support Battalion, Steel Eagle Battalion

The Steel Eagle Battalion continued to provide logistics for the brigade while training logisticians in a multitude of skills to sustain High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) units in expeditionary environments in 2015.

The 135th Forward Support Company and the 583rd Forward Support Company were assigned to the battalion in June and now serve in a direct-support role to 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment and to 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, respectively. The companies provide their HIMARS battalions with field maintenance (under the two-level maintenance construct), ammunition transfer and resupply (primarily rockets), field feeding, fuel and refuel on the move capability, and distribution of all classes of supply.

In June, 188th Brigade Support Battalion relinquished the TRA of the 206th Signal Company to 3-321st FAR in preparation for future missions. The relocation of the company allowed 3-321st FAR to have their own organic command post node to provide voice and data capabilities to the battalion tactical operations center. In addition to their staff and mission command responsibilities, the Headquarters and Support Company continues to provide sustainment and supply distribution to 206th SIG as well as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.

In August, the battalion participated in Operation Terminal Warrior, a combined training exercise with Army Reserve units. The battalion executed its refuel on the move capabilities during its long-range convoy from Fort Bragg, Texas, to Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Fort Story and Little Creek, Va. The exercise was designed to develop and sustain 7th Transportation Brigade terminal operations, which included performing shipboard and pier-side cargo load and offload operations.

In November, the battalion conducted Operation Algeria 42, a week-long exercise

that trained the Soldiers in the functions required of a support battalion in an expeditionary setting.

Soldiers trained in medical evacuation drills with air assets from 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade; conducted slingload operations; coordinated air-ground support, and carried out convoy live-Fires to ready logisticians for combat scenarios.

Approaching their centenary anniversary in the next 18 months, the battalion looks forward to aggressively training Soldiers to deploy, fight and win in all environments while ensuring the brigade is sustained to the utmost. *Steel Eagles!*

82nd Airborne Division Artillery

For the first time in more than a decade the 82nd Airborne Division saw the recommencement of the Division Artillery Readiness Test (DART) and Battalion Artillery Readiness Test (BART). These programs are critical to ensuring the overall readiness of the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery's batteries and battalions in the Global Response Force (GRF).

Over the summer, A, B and C Batteries from 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment were put through a realistic training scenario that allowed evaluators to test the unit on field artillery



Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery jump into Avon Park Air Force Range, Avon Park, Fla., for the 75th Anniversary of the U.S. Army Airborne. Video by Cpt. Joe Bush.

Tables XII and XV. Incorporated into the tables were numerous unit movements, emplacements, fire missions, such as an on-the-move emergency fire mission [hip-shoot] and the out-of-traverse mission. The DART culminated with the DIVARTY commander making a determination on their ability to assume the GRF mission.

In July, 3-319th Airborne FAR conducted the first BART in over a decade. The BART tested the entire battalion on their overall readiness and ability to provide close supporting Fires to their assigned brigade combat teams (BCT) as well as their ability to conduct any contingency operation the GRF may be asked to perform.

BARTs normally occur prior to a mission readiness exercise or Joint Readiness Training Center rotation before the supported BCT's assumption of GRF. The BART qualified all three firing batteries through field artillery Table XV and the battalion qualified through field artillery Table XVIII. The event culminated with the entire battalion successfully massing Fires during a time-on-target mission at 6:30 a.m. July 31.

DARTs and BARTs have proven to be extremely important as the 82nd Airborne DIVARTY seeks to hone their skills as the Army moves toward standard convention-



Pfc. Alonte Smith, a paratrooper assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, jumps from a 440th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve, C-130 onto Avon Park Air Force Range in Florida on Aug. 13 as part of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Convention. Photo by Capt. Joe Bush.

al warfare operations. Training and standards are being reapplied evenly across the DIVARTY with these programs acting as the main driving force. As the division and the Army move into the future, surface-to-surface Fires will become more responsive, lethal and accurate, thanks in large part to the realistic and stressful training the firing batteries receive during DARTs and BARTs.

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

In December 2014, the 82nd Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, *Panthers*, and 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Bragg, N.C. were

notified for rapid deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Task Force Loyalty's Advise and Assist (A&A) Team arrived in Northern Iraq in

January to support 1st Infantry Division as the A&A Team to Ministry of Peshmerga (MoP) in Erbil, Iraq.

TF Loyalty began assessment of MoP's organizational structure while coalition forces built Peshmerga Capacity with military training teams deployed across Northern Iraq's Kurdistan region. This required the battalion to execute distributed mission command across three combat and support nodes; Surge Ready Force (SRF) at Fort Bragg, Forward Support Company in Kuwait with 3rd BCT's sustainment cell and operational reserve, and the A&A Team in northern Iraq.

Requiring an ability to integrate and synchronize lines of efforts with multinational and interagency partners, TF Loyal-ty achieved success through relationships that enabled U.S., coalition partners, and Peshmerga forces to open three training sites that formed the base of MoP's force

generation model. This enabled the MoP to rapidly train forces able to deploy and defend a 1,050km forward line of troops that halted Daesh's advance across Northern Iraq.

Simultaneously, SRF at Fort Bragg maintained a high level of readiness through training that included artillery airborne and air assaults. By focusing on core paratrooper and artillery competencies, SRF was able to execute multi-echelon interoperability training with Joint and Special Operations Forces including several off-post training exercises.

Additionally, the SRF maintained its mission support requirements for 82nd Airborne Division's Global Response Force. Paratroopers of 1-319th AFAR redeployed from Iraq Sept. 21 and closed out the year with reintegration and preparation for transition to an intensive transition cycle in January 2016.

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

During 2015, 2nd Battalion 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment's primary mission was to train and prepare to rapidly deploy anywhere in the world on short notice.

A platoon-sized element is expected to be able to deploy within 18 hours. By the time the battalion transitions off the Global Response Force (GRF) duties, it will have conducted this high profile mission from October 2014 to December 2015.

While on the GRF, 2-319th AFAR has kept an exceptionally high operation tempo. Training included an emergency deployment readiness exercise in February, which deployed a platoon-sized element with an assault command post from the battalion in 18 hours from Fort Bragg, N.C., to conduct a Joint Forcible Entry (JFE) into Fort Stewart, Ga.

From January to April, the unit had an interoperability focus, working with the United Kingdom's 7th Royal Horse Artillery, the battalion air dropped and controlled two L118 howitzers and in doing so, developed new standard operating procedures when working with NATO allies.



Gunners, from 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, load a 155mm round into a M777A2 for a high-angle fire mission during a division artillery readiness test on Fort Bragg, N.C. Photo by Capt. Joe Bush.

A combined joint operation access exercise (CJOAX) in April was the culminating event with the 7th RHA. The training allowed the battalion to develop the 82nd Airborne Division's United Kingdom's Artillery Interoperability Handbook to be shared with sister battalions in the division.

In March the battalion conducted a 10day field training exercise focused on platoon certifications, composite battery training (one fire direction center controlling two different weapon systems), and training platoon fire direction centers to take over the tactical and technical role of the battalion fire direction center.

The 82nd Airborne Division Artillery stood up in April. Since DIVARTY was stood up, the Soldiers conducted the first three Division Artillery Readiness Tests (DART's) in over 10 years.

The battalion conducted a JFE and dropped two M119A3 into the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in August. They worked side-by-side with special operations forces, including the 75th Ranger Regiment and 10th Special Forces Group in order to complete this high-visibility mission for the chief of staff of the Army. Exercising with different units and diverse equipment allowed the battalion to be more flexible and effectively react to whatever contingency may arise around the world.

Prior to and following the JFE, the battalion live-fired in support of 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment's fires coordination exercise (FCX).

During September, the battalion conducted a JFE into White Sands, N.M. as part of Network Integration Evaluation 16.1. This exercise showcased the battalion's ability to jump into any situation and demonstrate the unparalleled warfighting capabilities the 82nd Airborne can project, as they dropped two M119A3 howitzers.

Following the JFE the battalion livefired at Fort Bliss, Texas in support of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment's FCX.

The battalion conducted a three-day field training exercise focused on massing the battalion in October. As part of this mission they validated the battalion's digital and voice standard operating procedures; re-established the counter-fire platoon (near and far); and re-established the battalion adjusting battery, the battalion's illumination platoon and the battalion's smoke platoon.

Moving from October into November, the battalion held a JFE with Canadian forces, starting 2015's second CJOAX into Fort Bragg. During this exercise the battalion continued to build relations and standard operating procedures with NATO allies, tested newly fielded CS-15 communications equipment, and supported 1-73rd Calvary's FCX.

In December the battalions conducted a live-fire exercise in support of 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment's FCX. The battalion ended the year having safely fired over 4,500 105mm rounds, 1,200 155mm rounds, one emergency deployment readiness exercise, two CJOAX's, six JFE's, three battalion-level FTX's, three DART's, fielding of CS 15 equipment and eight FCX's.

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

From January to December, 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment's mission has been to deploy worldwide within 18 hours of notification to a designated contingency area of operations and provide timely and accurate Fires in support of maneuver forces.

That mission has been at the forefront of the unit's training and readiness priorities in preparation for assuming the roles and responsibilities of the Global Response Force's (GRF) field artillery battalion.

The 82nd Airborne Division's training construct predicates a unit's assumption of GRF with eight months of intensive training which leads to a combat training center (CTC) direct action rotation. Although that is the standard construct, the Gun Devils, in fact, completed three CTC rotations during their eight-month training cycle. Those rotations were Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 15-06 in April; a Joint Multinational Readiness Center rotation in support of Swift Response in August; and JRTC Rotation 16-02 in November. The following paragraphs describe those CTC rotations, as well as the additional training milestones, that ultimately led to the battalion's assumption of GRF at the end of 2015.

In January, the battalion stood on the cusp of its first intensive training cycle (ITC) in over two years. However, the real-world deployment of 1-319th AFAR caused a divergence in the standard ITC training progression of the Gun Devils.

In the first week of January, the battalion was called upon to support JRTC 15-



An M119A3 crew, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, works together to lift and displace their 4,000-pound light towed howitzer during the first Battalion Artillery Readiness Test (BART) in more than a decade. The BART, conducted on Fort Bragg, N.C., validated the *Gun Devils'* ability to coordinate complex fire missions before assuming the Global Response Force mission in December. Photo by Capt. Joe Bush.

06 instead of the initial section and platoon-level ITC events.

In April, the battalion deployed to Fort Polk, La. to execute JRTC 15-06 in the decisive action training environment. The battalion conducted all planning at intermediate staging base (ISB) Alexandria and conducted an Airborne Joint Forcible Entry at the request of the Atropian government to defeat threat forces, conduct a non-combatant evacuation operation and enable the restoration of Atropian sovereignty.

The battalion provided direct support to Task Force Devil thus enabling the rapid build of combat power in the lodgment, the successful defense of key mission command nodes and the brigade attack to destroy Arianan threat forces.

In July, less than two months after JRTC 15-06, the battalion conducted a home station field training exercise (FTX) in support of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. During the FTX, the *Gun Devils* provided close supporting Fires, counterfire, and suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) in support of the maneuver brigade, which enabled the seizure of both the lodgment and follow-on objectives. The unit then used the momentum gained during the FTX to springboard into Battalion Artillery Readiness Test 15-01. With oversight from the 82nd

Airborne Division Artillery, the firing batteries qualified on Table XV and the battalion qualified on Table XVIII, conducting multiple movements, fire for effect, emergency missions, and schedule of Fires. The Soldiers concluded the BART by conducting a schedule of Fires, which entailed a time-on-target mission, which massed the entire battalion in effect. The FTX and BART displayed the 3-319th AFAR's ability to deliver timely and accurate Fires with devastating effects on any enemy.

The month of July was a tremendous training opportunity and the month of August would not be different. The battalion embarked on its second CTC rotation of the year, Swift Response 15 (SR15).

SR15 was the first iteration of what has become an annual multinational training event in Europe designed around a U.S. Army brigade-level airborne combined joint forcible entry operation. The objectives of SR15 were several and varied. Units learned to assemble a coalition using an intermediate staging base (ISB); form a cohesive and interoperable team; continue to build upon relationships within the NATO Airborne and Crisis Response Force community; and demonstrate the reach of the Global Response Force with a linkage to Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Swift Response 15 exhibited the high readiness of not only conventional, but also special operation forces from 10 NATO nations, over a span of 13 training locations and four countries. This exercise was hailed as the largest combined airborne training event in Europe since the end of the Cold War.

In pursuit of SR15's objectives, the Gun Devils provided elements from Forward Support Company, B Battery, and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. The Gun Devils executed an airborne joint forcible entry with paratroopers from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom, and then established firing capability to support Task Force Devil operations throughout the area of operations in Hohenfels Training Area. The exercise helped strengthen the habitual ties between the battalion and the Devil Brigade.

Upon completion of the exercise, HHB and B batteries transitioned to Grafenwoehr Training Area to provide Fires in support of maneuver live-fire exercises with 1st Brigade Combat Team and other fellow NATO partners. This secondary event allowed the unit to meet additional training objectives such as decentralized platoon operations focused on convoy operations, fire mission processing, and emergency and direct fire missions.

During the months of September and October, the Gun Devils executed major readiness and training events in preparation for their JRTC validation and GRF assumption.

In November, the battalion conducted distributed planning from Fort Bragg, N.C. and ISB Alexandria, and then conducted the JFE with A Echelon personnel and equipment from home station. The battalion supported Task Force Devil and its nine other subordinate battalions, providing counterfire, SEAD, neutralization and destruction Fires to neutralize and destroy threat capabilities while enabling friendly

freedom of maneuver. At the conclusion of the successful rotation, the battalion certified its delivery of Fires capabilities and prepared to assume GRF in support of 1st BCT, 82nd Airborne Division.

At the close of 2015, the unit stands as one of the most highly trained and lethal field artillery battalions in recent history. The *Gun Devils*, without question, are poised to provide the striking power necessary to prevent or deter conflict, prevail in war, and create the conditions for favorable conflict resolution. They truly are the tip of the spear of America's Guard of Honor and the Nation.

North Carolina U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion 113th Field Artillery, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, *Vikings*

The Soldiers of A Battery *Vikings*, 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina U.S. Army National Guard, spent the last eight months on active-duty supporting the nation's freedom conducting a non-standard mission in Bahrain.

When called upon, 1-113th FA Axehandles, built a unit from all batteries within the battalion, comprised of over 10 different military occupational specialties to field the 160-man unit. These Soldiers volunteered to be members of the Viking Battery with the mission to provide security to a Naval Air Base.

The Soldiers in A Battery started their pre-mobilization in October 2014 with only six months to train as a unit before heading out of the door to leave their families behind and defend the country.

Capt. Bradley Murray, A Battery commander, and 1st Sgt. Kenneth Heavner, A Battery first sergeant, accepted the challenge to train their unit plus the additional 80 Soldiers to fill out the mission requirement. The leadership of this battery, offi-

cers and noncommissioned officers, successfully accomplished the first step in this mission by creating a cohesive unit.

The Soldiers of *Viking Battery* took on every task as a challenge which proved most successful during their pre-mobilization training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The *Vikings* successfully completed their three-week long pre-mobilization training ranging from basic Army warrior tasks and ending in successful real-world training lanes where the scenarios prepared the most junior Soldiers and leaders alike.

Of course, like any other unit, there were obstacles to overcome, but A Battery grew stronger with each challenge to become ready to fight. Next, A Battery headed to Fort Bliss, Texas, for post-mobilization training where they conducted their validation training in accordance with First Army. During the post-mobilization training, *Viking Battery* honed their skills through multi-component integrated collective training to prepare even more for their worldwide mission.



The *Vikings* from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina U.S. Army National Guard take a moment during pre-mobilization training for a unit photo, March 2015 on Fort Bragg, N.C. Photo by Cpt. Jared A. Davis.

In June, A Battery completed a transfer of authority with their active-duty counterpart and assumed all duties and responsibilities. The *Vikings* continued to exceed the

standard of every mission as expected. As Redlegs, represented the unit proudly by continuing to be adaptive and innovative as they continue their non-standard mission.

5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, Griffin Battalion

The Soldiers of 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, 732nd Forward Support Company executed a successful Train/Ready Year 1. The battalion had not fired rockets since annual training in June 2011 due to a deployment to Egypt for the Multinational Forces and observers in 2013. The Griffin Battalion completed three key tasks during the year: Big Three Mod (Harris radio system, enhanced driver's system and Blue Force Tracker); Table VI live-fire certifications with all crews and fire directions centers; and developed staff mission command by conducting military decision-making process training.

The focus of inactive-duty training and annual training was individual and crew safety certification for all launcher sections and fire direction centers.

The motivated Soldiers of the *Griffin Battalion* accepted the challenge and spent long inactive-duty training weekends sharpening their field artillery skills through the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test and Written Artillery Safety Tests.

The 732nd FSC focused on supporting the battalion by conducting intense Rearm, Refuel, and Resupply Point (R3P) training.

The training culminated in the battalion's participation in Operation Carolina Thunder, a joint exercise between the North Carolina U.S. Army National Guard, South Carolina U.S. Army National Guard and 82nd Airborne Division elements.

The event began with 732nd FSC distributing 11 live rocket pods to launchers, firing 66 rockets for Table VI certification. The event culminated with a suppression

of enemy air defense mission to support 40 AH-64 Apaches.

The battalion brilliantly displayed the joint capability of the field artillery and the North Carolina U.S. Army National Guard. Additionally, the battalion's master gunner, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Richards, was awarded the prestigious Army National Guard General Bilo Forward Support Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the field artillery community.

Fires Cell, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team

Soldiers in 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Fires Cell, began preparing to lead non-kinetic fires efforts within the Kosovo force peace support mission in April. Rather than join a force-on-force fight, 30th ABCT veterans from 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery and 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery had to find a way to use their targeting experience within a stability operation as part of a multinational team.

Between April and June, the Fires Cell worked through several scenarios and strategies in order to determine that "right" fit—incorporating operations and intelligence with community relations and public messaging, all within Kosovo's complex information environment.

After a successful Joint Multinational Readiness Center rotation, the Fires Cell molded the targeting process into two distinct effects processes — decisive and shaping, with each nested to the brigade commander's campaign plan.

The decisive effects cycle is driven by the open-source and human intelligence fed through the battle group's all-source collection element (ACE).

Through the ACE, effect nominations are identified, analyzed and weighed against one another during constructive debates about each effects' ability to increase or maintain safety, security and freedom of movement in Kosovo. Once recommended and approved by the chief of Fires, the brigade commander, another veteran Redleg, approves his selections and sends them to the battle group S-3 to develop and implement the operation.

This process is based on field artillery targeting practices while remaining flexible for Kosovo's stable (yet fragile) security environment.

The Fires Cell has led the staff in developing innovative, proactive plans to normalize relationships in the Balkans, and has also prepared many strategies for the battle group's response to potentially volatile friction points.

The shaping effects cycle uses a related, but not identical, process to focus on development, resiliency and relationships within



Capt. Jonathan Laton, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team headquarters, leads a game where students used teamwork and communication to untangle without letting go of each other's hand Oct. 17 during a Violence Free Future youth tolerance event in Kacanik, Kosovo. Several members of Multinational Battle Group-East volunteered for this event and others to promote pro-social behavior among Kosovo's youth. Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Junell.

the battle group to ensure leaders and Soldiers are working together toward the U.S. Army Europe commander's priorities.

The proactive approach to internal development is a meaningful way to prioritize, track and connect across lines of effort. This cycle arms the battle group's subordinate command teams with tools and opportunities to simultaneously build mental and spiritual resiliency within their ranks while also chasing higher-level "wins" for Kosovo forces (KFOR) and the Army. For example, the Soldiers use combined exercises and cultural exchanges to build interoperability with NATO and KFOR partners. They have also used local oppor-

tunities, such as the Pristina Rotary Club and the Violence-Free Future program, for Soldiers to be role models and leaders in the local community.

The effects process continues to be refined and is now being modeled and implemented at NATO's multinational KFOR headquarters to synchronize efforts at the higher echelon. In taking on the hard challenge of developing and implementing these mission-specific effects cycles, they believe they've found a new relevance for the FA community in non-kinetic environments, and greatly improved the flexibility and creativity of the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team Fires Cell. 151

North Dakota U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery, had a very robust training year focused on "getting back to basics."

The battalion, with headquarters in Grand Forks, N.D., and outlying batteries in Fargo, N.D. and Bismarck, N.D. capped off the year with a successful Avenger live-fire exercise at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The air defense community in North Dakota has a long storied list of deployments and mobilizations. The bulk of the battalion came off mobilization in support of Noble Eagle in May 2014.

After reintegration, when the battalion became whole again, units began training in preparation for the next year. The main event for the battalion took place in June when the entire battalion traveled to Camp Ripley, Minn., to conduct their annual training.

The mission and the intent for the units was to work on decisive air defense operations. The units focused on reconnaissance, security and occupation of air defense sites; defense of static assets; and defense of a convoy. In addition to working these tasks into their annual training plans, units also conducted individual weapons qualification, crew served weapons qualification, grenade qualification, and a multi-mission mobile processor range.

For many Soldiers, this was the first opportunity they had to exercise and practice the art of air defense.

The battalion transported four Avenger er fire units and nine certified Avenger teams to Camp Lejeune during a live fire exercise. Soldiers and leadership arrived at Camp Lejeune, downloaded their personal equipment, received their Avengers, and headed out to the range to conduct a rehearsal of concepts (ROC) drill.

Three Avengers were staged on the firing line which overlooked the ocean with the fourth Avenger in position as a tracking training practice station. After the ROC drill was complete and the equipment was secured, Soldiers had the opportunity to visit the surrounding area of Camp Lejeune.

The next morning the live-fire was conducted and the teams successfully fired all nine missiles effectively destroying outlaw targets.

The Soldiers of 1-188th ADA look forward to the future and the challenges that await. The battalion will support a Combat Training Center Rotation in August and September of 2016 at Fort Irwin, Calif. and are ready to head back to support Operation Noble Eagle in the National Capital Region.

Morale is high and Soldiers and their leadership are anxious to put their training and expertise to work in support of whatever mission they receive. *First to fire*.

Ohio U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment, Bold

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment, Bold Battalion, executed a demanding and successful training year 2015. Soldiers participated in five major events spanning six training locations. True dedication was exemplified by traditional guardsman after they completed an extreme training schedule in no more than 38 days.

In March, the battalion conducted a command post exercise with 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. It allowed a new staff to hone their skills on the military decision-making process while building on the battalion's digital proficiency capabilities. Using the lessons learned from this training event the battalion conducted a major revision of the tactical standard operating procedure and tactical operations center standard operating procedure that ensured success for future field training exercises.

In May, the battalion fielded four platoons of 105mm howitzers during a four-

Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery, participate in a live-fire exercise in May at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Photo by Cpt. Kevin Sullivan.



day exercise. Over 500 rounds were expended resulting in all platoons certifying on field artillery Table XII. The exercise started with the platoons receiving a tactical operations order deploying them directly from a forward operating base to designated artillery firing points. Platoon leaders were required to conduct troop leading procedures in order to establish and maintain firing capability. Sections completed field artillery Table VI during day one of the exercise, as a result 100 percent of sections were certified by unit commanders. Platoons then spent the next two days conducting demanding firing operations to ensure successful completion of field artillery Table XII.

Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery, deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., as part of the 15-10 Rotation in September. Photo courtesy of 1-134th FA.



In August, the battalion staff, with assistance from G Company, 237th Support Battalion participated in a brigade warfighter exercise (WFX) and an eXportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC). Over four days of simulated combat, the battery response cells were responsible for expending over 3,000 rounds to include 106 family of scatterable mines and eight Excalibur rounds. The devastating capabilities of the artillery were truly realized during the defensive phase of the operation where artillery fire was utilized to conduct a turning maneuver on the enemy counter-attack.

In the final hours of the exercise the response cells successfully deployed a final protective fire line assuring the survivability of the forward cavalry squadron. Additionally, concurrent to supporting the WFX, G Co., 237th SB participated in distribution and recovery lanes during xCTC. These culminating events allowed the FSC command team true insight to the challenges and complexities associated with supporting an artillery battalion.

In September, A and B Batteries deployed to Fort Polk, La. to act as opposing force against 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, during Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 15-10. Soldiers of 134th FAR were recognized as the most deadly artillery unit to conduct a JRTC opposing force rotation. In total, 222 fire missions were shot by 1-134th FAR elements resulting in 283 casualties, to include destroying one Q36 and 20 military vehicles, during a 24-day training exercise.

Batteries maneuvered within enemy territory against a technologically superior opponent while still providing responsive and accurate Fire. Soldiers utilized these capabilities to move within range and deliver devastating Fires on the enemy brigade command post, resulting in the destruction of multiple high value targets. Soldiers from the 1-134th FAR, Bold Battalion, practiced their craft through multiple live-fire and simulated training events during training year 2015. The lessons learned through the aforementioned training exercises posture this battalion for success now and into the future as the National Guard and Army train to fight and win in a complex world.

174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

In fiscal year 2015, 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade participated in Warfighter Exercise 5-15 at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind. It was a first for the ADA community, and a true test for the relatively young brigade.

The Soldiers provided air defense for the entire area of responsibility during the event and it provided an opportunity for the headquarters to exercise their air and missile defense planning and control systems. The realistic training for the officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers will make them better prepared as they continue to increase involvement in missions outside the state of Ohio.

In late 2015, the ADA brigade welcomed home its task force from the National Cap-

ital Region. Task Force Luzon, located in Washington, D.C., was responsible for integrated air defense for the region in conjunction with U.S. Northern Command. During 2016, the brigade headquarters will begin preparation for its next rotation into the NCR.

During 2016 the brigade headquarters, accompanied by Headquarters Battery,

1-174th ADA and a firing battery will participate in Operation Anaconda, a NATO joint training exercise with European Command located in Poland. The headquarters and subordinate elements will provide air defense for the exercise, participate in live-fire events, and increase proficiency on operating in an austere environment.

1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, mobilized to the National Capital Region in support of Operation Noble Eagle. During the mission, the battalion had the unique opportunity to participate in an exercise that was designed to assess the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and Continental U.S. NORAD Region (CONR) capability to identify and track low-altitude, slow-speed aerial vehicles.

This joint effort included experts from the Federal Aviation Administration, NORAD, CONR, the Eastern Air Defense Sector, Joint Air Defense Operation Center (JADOC), and other agencies, and afforded all participants the opportunity to accumulate data to determine the operability of recently improved capabilities within the overall architecture of the system.

For their part in the exercise, Soldiers from the battalion were placed at Fort Washington Park in Maryland to relay observation information back to the JADOC.

"Air defense of this nation is our number one priority," said Lt. Col. Nicole Ga-

A Soldier from 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, scans the horizon over the water in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Photo courtesy of 1-174th ADA.



briel, Task Force Shiloh commander. "It is truly special for this battalion to be a part of this exercise at this historic location."

Fort Washington was the outer defense for the nation's capital during the Civil War, and by 1896, contained eight artillery batteries that, in conjunction with Fort Hunt, made up the Potomac Defense Command. Since Air Defense Artillery had its beginnings in the coastal artillery, this exercise left the Soldiers who participated feeling as though they had connected the past to the present by testing the capabilities of modern ADA sensor and defense systems within the NCR at the very post that was on the front lines of the defense of our young nation's capital in the early 1800s.

Also playing a role in the exercise was Task Force Luzon, the forward element of 174th ADA, who happens to be the higher headquarters for Task Force Shiloh both in the NCR as well as in Ohio, where both units are from.

"The defense of our homeland is dependent on our ability to meet and defeat emerging threats and technologies by adjusting and enhancing our air defense assets and procedures," said Col. Larry Pinkerton, Task Force Luzon commander. "This exercise helped us evaluate systems and procedures to ensure we can adequately detect and track potential threats."

After spending 10 months in the NCR, Task Force Shiloh redeployed to their home station of Cincinnati, Ohio in mid-November.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artilllery, pose for a photo while supporting Operation Noble Eagle. Photo courtesy of 1-174th ADA.



Fort Sill, Okla.

1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Regiment, War Eagles

The War Eagles of 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Regiment, basic combat training (BCT) continue to train tirelessly, conducting more than 18 BCT cycles.

In 2015 the battalion transformed over 4,000 volunteers into the nation's newest Soldiers, preparing them for various military occupational specialties including field artillery, air defense artillery, military intelligence, and medical service corps.

In addition to training new recruits, the battalion conducted two Fires Center of Excellence retirement ceremonies and participated in the 434th Field Artillery Brigade organizational day. The battalion escorted 30 delegates from the Leadership Federal Executive Board of Oklahoma, showing them the life of a BCT Soldier by giving tours of living areas and allowing them opportunities for simulated rifle fire and machine gun fire on a blank range.

Battalion leadership planned and executed the Fort Sill United States Military Academy Founder's Day event, hosting Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen, USMA superintendent, for a night of fun and fellowship. The battalion had several leadership changes. Lt. Col. Stephen Stasevich bid farewell to 1-19th FAR and Lt. Col. Justin Mufalli assumed command. Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Parsley changed responsibility of the battalion to Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Maynard. The War Eagles also had two battery changes of command and three battery changes of responsibility.

One of the most significant accomplishments of the battalion was C Battery receiving the Department of the Army's Supply Excellence Award at the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

Finally, the War Eagle tradition of community service continued as they maintained positive relationships with community partners such as Chick-Fil-A and the Great Plains Chapter of the American Business Club (AMBUCS). The Soldiers said they took pleasure in assisting AMBUCS with designing, setting up and executing their second annual 'Mudder's Day' 5K mud-run to raise money for the disabled in the local community.

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Ready and Vigilant

This past year was fast-paced, but very rewarding for the Soldiers of the 31st Air Defense Artillery, the Ready and Vigilant Brigade. During 2015, the Soldiers trained, certified, and deployed air defense forces to eight separate countries in both the U.S. Central Command and European Command area of responsibility (AOR), all in support of named combat and contingency operations. The Soldiers execut-



Soldiers of 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade pose in front of the brigade colors during their deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The unit defends critical assets throughout the AOR from air and missile threats. Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Kauffman.

ed countless hours of training throughout the year to both mentally and physically prepare for these critical missions. The brigade headquarters specifically deployed to assume mission command responsibilities of the Patriot air and missile defense forces in the CENTCOM AOR from the 11th Imperial Brigade.

In September, the brigade's advance party deployed to prepare the battlefield for the rest of the team. As soon as the main body arrived at the forward operating location, the mission was in full swing. When the time came, the transition of authority between 31st and 11th brigades

was smooth and seamless, with no interruption to the mission.

"Eleventh ADA's efforts greatly assisted us in establishing a good battle rhythm, delineating roles and responsibilities, defining policies and practices, and managing daily information requirements for the mission." said Lt. Col. Helene Carras, 31st ADA deputy commander.

Every Soldier worked collectively and diligently to ensure the protection of critical assets throughout the AOR from possible air and missile defense threats.

"Within the CENTCOM AOR, ballistic missiles are a growing threat. Malign actors in the region continue to expand and

modernize their ballistic missile inventories," said Maj. Dewey Miller, 31st ADA intelligence officer. "They use their missiles to threaten and coerce friendly states within the region."

This year marks Patriot Air Defense Artillery's 25th anniversary in the Middle East and the 31st *Ready and Vigilant* Brigade proudly recognizes this contribution. The Soldiers look forward to setting conditions that will better enhance and build upon this vast experience and the truly outstanding relationships they developed with host nation partners.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Hawkeyes*

The majority of the Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Hawkeyes*, deployed to Qatar in September.

During this deployment, HHB and its subordinate units ensured the protection of crucial assets throughout their area of responsibility from any possible air and missile defense threats.

At Fort Sill, Okla., Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, go through rigorous training as they prepar themselves for another deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark A. Kauffman.



The forces remaining at Fort Sill, Okla. are focused on readiness and continue to prepare to deploy should they be needed. To support this, HHB conducts unit readiness training on land navigation, weapons qualification, military occupational specialty proficiency training and the Command Supply Discipline Program. This and all required training keep basic warrior skills fresh and reduce risks that can distract a deployed force.

While the battery is always focused on the mission, they also look for ways to build esprit de corps with fellow brothers and sisters-in-arms. As a tradition before the Thanksgiving holiday, the Soldiers take time to compete in the annual 31st ADA Turkey Bowl for friendly competition and bragging rights. It also helps build unit cohesion, to remind the unit they are not only part of an Army, but also a family.

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

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *Lethal Strike*, had a busy year with focus on equipment mod-

ernization and deployment preparations. In early 2015, the battalion went through Post Deployment Build- 7.1 (PDB-7.1) up-



Pvt. Christopher McDaniel, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery, provides perimeter overwatch during the battalion's Table VIII training in September on Fort Sill, Okl. Photo by Cpt. Heriberto Silva.

grades on all Patriot related systems. The PDB 7.1 is the version of software and modernization improvement that gives Soldiers state-of-the-art warfighting capabilities.

Following these improvements, 3-2nd ADA's efforts were dedicated to training and implementing the new software and upgrades into the existing tactics, techniques and procedures.

The battalion had two distinct missions in the year 2015. In April, the battalion assumed a Contingency Expeditionary Force role in which units were prepared to conduct air and missile defense operations anywhere in the world. In order to assume

this role, the battalion underwent two main certification requirements directed from 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command: the Standardized Patriot Evaluation and Assessment Reporting and a two-week mission readiness exercise.

By the end of 2015 Soldiers conducted movement preparation area operations, line hauled their cargo for deployment and completed Soldier readiness processing to qualify for their upcoming mission.

The unit then assumed a Deployment Expeditionary Force role, in which they showcased their warfighting proficiency in the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility.

4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, I Strike

Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, *I Strike*, deployed in July, to the U.S. Central Command area of operations for one year.

Prior to their deployment, they focused on new equipment upgrades, individual and crew certifications and no-notice deployment readiness and live-fire exercises. They then conducted a long and tough pre-deployment train-up for nearly 12 months, which included a battalion-level mission readiness exercise, multiple gunnery table certifications and a standardized Patriot evaluation and assessment of readiness.

The unit's pre-deployment training prepared them to assume both their contingency expeditionary force and later their deployment expeditionary force roles. During that time the battalion spent six months as the Army's Patriot Global Response Force Battalion, ready for action anywhere in the world on only seven days' notice. That requirement included not only extensive training at home station, but also mission planning and rehearsals in both Korea and Israel.

During 4-3rd ADA's six months as the GRF, its Soldiers demonstrated in March they were ready to deploy on seven days' notice as required.

During their deployment, they focused on two critical areas. First, they conducted regular mobility training to execute a move to another site, if ordered. Second, they built positive working relationships with host nation partners in Kuwait through combined exercises, tactical seminars and team-building activities. Both of these areas helped the unit remain at their highest level of readiness to fight at a moment's notice.



Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade pose in front of a Patriot launcher. Photo courtesy of 4-3rd ADA.

75th Field Artillery Brigade, Diamond Brigade

It was a busy year for 75th Field Artillery Brigade as it deployed to the Middle East for nine months in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.

The brigade headquarters was originally assigned as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for U.S. Army Central in Kuwait. The *Diamond Brigade* also took responsibility for theater security cooperation (TSC) from the outgoing FFA, 17th Field Artillery Brigade.

The TSC mission encompassed countries from around the Arabian Peninsula and U.S. Central Command area of respon-

sibility. In addition to Kuwait, the brigade had a TAC at Camp Redleg in the United Arab Emirates in order to assist 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery and 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery during their respective rotations. They also had a liaison officer cell in Qatar at the Combined Air Operations Center.

Upon arrival in theater, the brigade headquarters established itself at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait under the command of Col. Michael Eastman and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Harrison.

From the unit's arrival Dec. 29, 2014, to its redeployment on Sept. 9, 2015, it had

an extraordinary and substantive impact on the entire region. The Soldier's ability to innovate and break new ground made it possible for the combined forces land component commander to support regional stability, and forge partnerships with regional allied militaries that have improved the defensive posture of the CENTCOM area of operations.

During their tenure in theater, 75th FAB took on multiple challenging and unique missions in support of U.S. Army Central in the CENTCOM area of operations. By the end of its deployment, the brigade headquarters, made of 75 personnel, had missions that encompassed theater security cooperation, USARCENT Force Field Artillery Headquarters, and a joint fires cell (JFC) in Jordan.

Soldiers in 75th FAB expanded operations throughout the Middle East, which included Jordan, UAE, Qatar and Kuwait. They also assumed responsibilities for Concept Plan 1533, Buehring Fires Response Element/Light High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) package and deliberate/dynamic strikes in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The brigade headquarters forged an important relationship with ARCENT, CENTCOM, CENTCOM Forward Jordan and the CAOC.

In March, the brigade headquarters moved to Jordan and set up a JFC for Operation Inherent Resolve. Their JFC provided expanded intelligence into the area of operation and utilized dynamic and deliberate strikes to degrade and destroy ISIS forces.

The brigade supported the three weeklong Eager Lion exercise in Jordan in May, which trains a joint force of Marines and Soldiers with the Jordanian military every year. In June, Col. Nathan Cook II took command of the brigade from Col. Mike Eastman.

Before the brigade redeployed in September, it coordinated with 3-197th FA and the Jordanian 29th Royal HIMARS Battalion to conduct a joint live-fire exercise. The event effectively showcased the brigade's ability to coordinate in support of regional cooperation and stability; further enhancing allied interoperability.

The brigade conducted a seminar at the Field Artillery Schoolhouse in Al-Ain, UAE, with more than 100 participants from the UAE Field Artillery Corps staff, UAE Maneuver staff, and 97th Heavy Rocket Regiment leadership. After the FA seminar, the brigade followed up with a UAE targeting exchange, which built upon the fundamentals taught during the FA seminar. Both exercises enhanced relations and set conditions for future partnership.

Finally, in September, the brigade redeployed from theater and relinquished its mission to 18th Field Artillery Brigade. In the end, 75th FAB operated at a high level and continuously volunteered to support and participate in exercises and missions to positivity impact its higher headquarters mission and improve relations with partnered nations. Not only did the Diamond Brigade support national interests, but the Soldiers never lost sight of the enemy and they positively impacted the operational environment through the targeting process that they assisted to develop and prosecute while deployed in support of USARCENT and CENTCOM. Tough as Diamonds!

163



Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery's Task Force Assassin, pose Aug. 20 in front of their M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System launchers during their deployment to the Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield. Photo by Lt. Col. Peter Sittenauer.

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

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment, *Steel Warriors*, deployed to separate locations in U.S. Central Command, providing mission support for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Spartan Shield where they were responsible for delivering timely and accurate rocket and missile Fires when called upon to do so.

An element of A Battery, Task Force Assassin embarked on a nine-month deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Over the duration of the deployment, the unit fired multiple missions, one of which was the longest recorded missile fired in

combat to date. Following the accomplishment of their mission, A/1-14th FAR redeployed back to Fort Sill, Okla. in October.

In March, in preparation for their deployment, B Battery conducted a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Rapid Infiltration (HI-RAIN) exercise, where they air loaded two M142 HIMARS launchers onto a C-17 fixed-wing aircraft at Altus Air Force Base, Okla. They flew to Fort Carson, Colo. and conducted a live-fire exercise there, then loaded back on to the C-17 and returned home to Fort Sill.

The training event contributed to the validation of the battalion's HI-RAIN stan-

dard operating procedure and B Battery's ability to meet all mission requirements in support of combat operations. Furthermore, it proved to be a landmark event for both Fort Carson and Fort Sill, as this type of training mission was the first of its kind.

By May, B/1-14th FAR deployed to Kuwait for Operation Spartan Shield on a new mission without the benefit of a relief in place transfer of authority. In this mission they were tasked with supporting and building strategic partnerships with Kuwaiti forces.

Once in country, the battery received orders to support Operation Inherent Re-

solve, which required them to provide lethal surface-to-surface rocket and missile Fires for the Coalition Forces Land Component Command-I commander's targeting priorities. In doing so, they were able to introduce and showcase a new capability that had never been seen before in this named operation.

The battalion continues to maintain an exceptional state of readiness, and is always prepared to answer the nation's call to provide lethal precision surface-to-surface Fires in support of all combat operations, anywhere in the world.

2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, Deep Attack

Second Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, Deep Attack, is committed to distinction by continuously solidifying the team to achieve mission success. The battalion places emphasis in four areas: readiness; sustaining Soldiers, families and the community; leader development; and finally, to continuously improve systems. These four areas of emphasis are nestled within the brigade's priorities and foster an optimistic command climate built on mutual confidence and trust.

The Soldiers of 2-4th FA are constantly rotating to support maneuver units and testing facilities across the nation. In the past 12 months, the Soldiers of 2-4th FA participated in the Will Interactive filming to assist senior leaders' decision making; sent an observer controller/trainer (OC/T) package to Fort Bliss, Texas; supported the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. on three occasions; and went twice

to White Sands Missile Range, N.M. to test new equipment.

The scope of these missions improved the unit, the artillery community and the United States Army.

In February, 2-4th FA participated in filming by Will Interactive, a company that provides organizations (including the military) with interactive training where the user becomes the lead character. Users make decisions, see consequences of their choices, alter storylines and experience outcomes. Soldiers participated as characters for a film that will improve the Army's senior leaders' decision-making process. Soldiers volunteered their time after work, on weekends and days off to assist in the successful completion of the film.

In March, A Battery, 2-4th FA sent multiple noncommissioned officers to Fort Bliss to fill a request for OC/Ts for 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment.

165



Soldiers in A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, stand by for fire missions Sept. 1 during Artillery Table VI training on Fort Sill, Okla. Photo courtesy of 2-4th FA.

Deep Attack's OC/Ts provided valuable mentorship, feedback and advice that improved the future success of 3-197th FAR. While A Battery was providing OC/T support at Fort Bliss, B Battery was preparing to support 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division for NTC Rotation, 15-07.

In April, the battalion sent B Battery and a TAC element to NTC Rotation 15-07 as well. Soldiers in B/2-4th FA performed general support for 52nd Infantry Division and general support reinforcing to 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery. During this time the rest of the battalion was preparing

for the casing of the 214th Fires Brigade colors and reorganizing under the 75th Field Artillery, Tough as Diamonds, Brigade.

B Battery returned to Fort Sill in May and conducted its battalion change of command. Following the change of command between the outgoing commander, Lt. Col. William Burnett and the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Cornelius Morgan, 2-4th FA participated in the deactivation of the 214th Fires Brigade.

During 2-4th FA's realignment, A/2-4th FA sent a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) section to White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) to test the new guided

multiple launch rocket system alternate warhead (GMLRS AW) munition. A crew from A Battery shot 24 of the new GMLRS AW rounds to assess its accuracy and consistency.

The following month, 2-4th FA again sent two MLRS sections to the WSMR, to test the new M270A1 cab configuration. This testing consisted of firing 138 reduced-range practice rounds. Following the WSMR test fire, A Battery was selected to support the NTC Rotation 16-02. During the upcoming months A Battery and the supporting battalion elements began an intensive training and qualification program.

In September, as part of the train-up for NTC and to build proficiency in deliv-

ering surface-to-surface Fires, the battalion executed Table XII qualifications. The battalion collaborated with 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment from Fort Riley, Kan. to provide 10 forward observers (FOs) to maximize the training opportunity for both units. The FOs accurately observed 30 rounds safely impacting in their target area. The observers also acted as the opposing force to give A/2-4th FA a more realistic training experience for the scenario they would encounter later at the NTC.

After the completion of artillery Table XII, A/2-4th FA completed its preparation to deploy to NTC. In November, A Battery successfully supported 52nd Infantry Division for NTC rotation 16-02.

A launcher crew from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, conducts reload operations during Artillery Tables I-V, February on Fort Sill, Okla. Photo courtesy of 2-4th FA.



Throughout the year, 2-4th FA participated in multiple community outreach programs in the Lawton-Fort Sill community. Through the Army Partnership with Local Area Schools program, 2-4th FA Soldiers helped Eisenhower Elementary students take on the Combat Obstacle Course. Additionally, 2-4th FA played a role in the 75th Field Artillery Brigade's Diamond Outreach program, where Soldiers painted the homes of families who could not afford to do so themselves.

The *Deep Attack Battalion* has accomplished numerous missions throughout

the year and has continued to grow strong. The unit continues to remain ready to answer any mission from the brigade and the Army.

Preparation is accomplished daily through detailed training plans and successful execution. *Deep Attack* exemplifies Soldier and family importance, creating a positive unit cohesion. The 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, 75th Field Artillery Tough as Diamonds Brigade continues to train for combat and to provide surface-to-surface rocket and missile Fires in support of unified land operations.

2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment, Mission Ready

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment Mission Ready started the year running with Table VI training. The goal was to prepare A Battery to provide ground surveillance radar (GSR) Fires to 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas, during Operation Iron Focus.

The battalion worked with the 1st AD Division Artillery and the Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to improve their understanding of how to integrate rocket Fires into Fires planning, and to utilize echelons above brigade assets such as 2-18th FA. After successfully firing a Table VI at Camp Donna Anna on Fort Bliss, A Battery participated in the BCT live-fire, culminating a fire mission involving three launchers executing three fire missions along three different azimuths of fire.

After their success during Iron Focus, the battalion rejoined their comrades from



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, conduct live-fire operations during Table XII certification at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Photo courtesy of 2-18th FA.

Fort Bliss during National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif., Rotation 15-08. The battalion proved invaluable during the rotation, with A Battery providing accurate and timely Fires to 1/1st SBCT in order to shape the deep fight and set the conditions for the success of the maneuver fight.

In October, B Battery had their time to shine at NTC providing GSR support to

168



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, learn detention techniques in preparation for their participation in the Fort Sill, Okla. quick reaction force. Photo courtesy of 2-18th FA.



Staff from the 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, conduct a training exercise at the Misson Training Complex on Fort Sill, Okla. Photo courtesy of 2-18th FA.

1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division during Rotation 16-01. With expert skill, the Soldiers showed another BCT how even a platoon of M270A1 launchers can have a significant effect on the battlefield.

The battalion is preparing for the centennial celebration of 18th Field Artillery Reg-



Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, participate in a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear operation exercise during Operation Iron Focus. Photo courtesy of 2-18th FA.

iment in 2016. Special emphasis has been placed on the unit's historical collection and to family and recreation events that build unit camaraderie and a shared appreciation in the history of The Mighty 18th.

169



Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, work alongside Airmen to secure vehicles in the cargo hold of a C-17 Globemaster III during an emergency deployment readiness exercise in March. The aircraft and crew hail from the 155th Airlift Squadron, 164th Airlift Wing of the Tennessee U.S. Air National Guard and provided airlift capability for 44 Soldiers from Lawton Regional Airport to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. Photo courtesy of 3-13th FA.

3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, Red Dragons

For National Training Center Rotation 15-06 at Fort Irwin, Calif., Army policies mandated commercial air travel from Fort Sill, Okla. to Fort Irwin, Calif. was not cost-effective and instead units should travel by bus to NTC.

Leaders within 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery worked across military branches and component commands and solicited the help of the Tennessee Air National Guard to deploy a main body from Fort Sill to Fort Irwin via C-17. The Air Force typically conducts mandatory flights without cargo, but by seeking transportation

by this means, the Headquarters Battery saved the Army and American taxpayers \$30,100 in transportation costs while facilitating intra-service operability and building partnerships. A Joint Air Attack Team (JAAT) mission load of Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and C-17 had not been done in over 10 years Army-wide.

Eager to gain training value with this unique opportunity, HHB coordinated the mission as a JAAT to deploy one M270A1 launcher and one command node fire direction center (FDC) high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) plat-

form. Upon landing the C-17 with its cargo of 50 personnel and \$2.6 million of equipment, S6 personnel at Fort Sill successfully sent a fire mission nearly 1,200 miles to an FDC at Fort Irwin via high frequency (HF) radio. The fire mission highlighted the battalion's innovative means to communicate over hundreds of miles and deliver lethal Fires.

During the decisive action rotation force-on-force phase of NTC, HHB provided mission command and fire direction for 124 fire missions including 34 live rockets. As a division-level asset to 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, the unit received no field representa-

tive assistance, so S6 used the entire primary alternate contingency emergency plan to maintain communications with subordinate and higher headquarters.

These efforts were especially impressive with the use of command post node assets since this was not organic equipment. The battalion left NTC fully trained on mission command and digital sustainment mission essential tasks.

The intelligence warfighting functions provided a great deal to the fight. HHB's targeting officer and S2 worked closely with 75th Field Artillery Brigade's radar section in using anti-jamming capability of the AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder radar and

An Airman guides Spc. Bryan Araujo and a M1165A1 command Humvee, from 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, off the C-17 aircraft at Bicycle Lake Army Airfield, Calif. Despite strong winds and an unimproved landing strip composed of paved dirt and sand, pilots and crew landed the aircraft without incident. Soldiers and Airmen moved swiftly to offload personnel and vehicles from the C-17 in preparation for the next phase of the dry-fire exercise. Photo courtesy of 3-13th FA.





A C-17 leaves a large dust cloud as the *Red Dragons*, of 3rd Battalion, 13th FIeld Artillery, roll out to conduct artillery operations outside Bicycle Lake Army Airfield, Calif. The launcher crew received and executed simulated fire missions with the Army Tactical Missile System. During the National Training Center Rotation, 10 M270A1 launchers demonstrated their ability to integrate long range precision Fires at multiple echelons. Photo courtesy of 3-13th FA.

synchronized with the 2-1st ABCT's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets to identify and destroy the enemy 1L-220 radar, a division-level high-payoff target. These actions enabled freedom of Fires from 2-1st ABCT. S2 Soldiers also oversaw unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operations. Small UAS were integrated with Headquarters Battery and the subordinate battery.

Priority intelligence requirements were disseminated to detect signs of enemy presence prior to kinetic action. HHB and its subordinate unit combined for over 60 hours of UAS flight time. For this accom-

plishment, the commanding general of Fort Irwin awarded operators under *Hell-raiser* leadership with the commanding general's coin. With MLRS as a strategic asset that generally relies on security from sister units, these pre-emptive capabilities immensely helped in the survivability of the unit.

Force protection also received focus during NTC Rotation 15-06. Reconnaissance, selection and occupation of position was done with such proficiency that augmentee observer/controllers who were organic to 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery later told unit leadership that oppos-

ing force (OPFOR) planned to attack the Hellraiser Battery tactical operation center (TOC), but the unit was so well concealed and noise and light discipline so expertly adhered to that OPFOR could not find the TOC.

Soldiers in 3-13th FA consistently spearhead and trailblaze innovation. They exceed expectations and instead complete

requirements to a standard of excellence while capturing best practices.

Major strides and lessons learned for MLRS and field artillery modularity and flexibility have been made in several warfighting functions. Daily tasks receive the same attention to detail and innovative approaches as the synchronization of warfighting functions to support timely and accurate Fires.

100th Brigade Support Battalion, Century Battalion

The 100th Brigade Support Battalion, 75th Field Artillery Brigade's multi-functional logistics Soldiers, provided continuous support to the brigade as it increased in size from two to five firing battalions.

Throughout the year, the battalion focused training on proficiency to execute tactical convoy operations and provide expeditionary logistics support to enable unified land operations.

Soldiers from 100th Brigade Support Battalion mount a vehicle for airload for the brigade's deployment to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin Calif. Photo courtesy of 100th BSB.



Additionally, the BSB focused heavily on reorganizing personnel and reducing excess equipment to reflect the fiscal year modified table of organization and equipment.

The Century Battalion assumed training and readiness authority (TRA) of 15th Transportation Company, Road Warriors, from the 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command Oct. 10 and continued to enable their readiness to execute required defense chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive (CBRNE) response force missions in support of homeland defense.

The Road Warriors successfully completed Level I-III Emergency Deployment Readiness exercises, and participated in Operation Vibrant Response May 1-10 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. to validate their ability to meet required deployment timelines and tasks. Additionally, 15th TC competed in the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence placing first in U.S. Army Forces Command and runner-up at the Headquarters, Department of the Army level for medium-sized unit.

Finally, 15th TC deployed to the National Training Center, at Fort Irwin, Ca-

lif., Sept. 4-29 for 1889th Regional Support Group's rotation as the combat service support battalion for 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, in a decisive action rotation.

During Operation Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve, the battalion deployed the Joint Network Node and Command Post Node (CPN) sections from 258th Network Support Company to Kuwait, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates from December 2014 to September 2015.

In preparation for the deployment, 258th NSC provided CPN support to 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, the Red Dragons, decisive action NTC rotation from March through April, which validated their ability to provide continuous expeditionary network support.

The newly organized Headquarters Support Company focused on turning in excess equipment – over 120 pieces of rolling stock, 1,200 pieces of non-rolling stock, and 120 containers - while simultaneously enabling the reorganization

of the 75th Fires Brigade into III Corps Field Artillery Brigade - overseeing the sustainment of three additional battalions at Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Hood, Texas and Korea.

During 2015, the battalion conducted fuel and maintenance part tactical convoy operations to 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery at Fort Bliss for 1st Airborne Division's Iron Strike Exercise. They also hosted three additional skill identifier H8 wheeled vehicle recovery training events for over 50 Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians from 75th FAB, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and the Fires Center of Excellence's Fleet Management Expansion and assumed administrative control of 75th FAB's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.

As 2015 ended, the Highlanders, Panthers, Road Warriors and Superior Voices of the Century Battalion stood ready to support the Diamond Brigade as III Corps' Field Artillery Brigade. Diamond Support!

428th Field Artillery Brigade, Cornerstone

The 428th Field Artillery Brigade, Cornerstone, establishes the building blocks for Army and Marine Corps field artillery men and women.

The brigade develops the technical skill set for advanced individual training, and mentors leaders in the basic and advanced officer courses to fight and win on today's battlefield.

This year, the brigade trained more than

10,000 Soldiers and Marines; reviewed all programs of instruction to ensure focus on the artillery core competencies; began a program focused on modernization of all FA instruction and successfully completed an accreditation review.

Over the next year, the brigade will train more than 9,000 proficient, competent, confident and adaptive Soldiers and leaders for Army and Marine FA units.



Staff Sgt. Doriot, Spc. Lavender and Spc/ Garringer fire the M119A3 howitzer at Firing Point 196, on Fort Sill, Okla., May 5, in support of 13F Advanced Individual Training. Photo courtesy of 2-2nd FA.



Soldiers of B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery, conduct the 1812 Overture salute July 2. Photo courtesy of 2-2nd FA.

2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery, Big Deuce

Second Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery is a towed 105mm light field artillery battalion that executes a direct support mission for the U.S. Army Field Artillery School.

The battalion delivers Fires and conducts logistics operations in order to provide skilled and adaptive artillerymen and women to the operational Army and Marine Corps.

On order, 2-2nd FA executes ceremonial events for the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill. This year Big Deuce Soldiers fired six battalion's worth of 105 mm ammunition – over 43,000 rounds in support of 172 training missions. The battalion conducted 160 refueling operations and executed 207 logistical operations with nearly 34,000 artillery rounds delivered.

B Battery, with their WWII-era M101 howitzers named after Medal of Honor recipients from Oklahoma, continued to serve as the Fort Sill Salute Battery. This

is a mission the unit has performed with pride since the 1970s.

Additionally, 2-2nd FA provided mascots, Big Deuce and Short Round, to all post retirement ceremonies. The mascots remained a source of pride for the Soldiers, the unit, and the installation.

In August, Master Sgt. Big Deuce VI retired to a local ranch after more than 21 years of faithful service. An eight-month-old adopted donkey has taken up the mantle as Sgt. Big Deuce the VII.

The *Big Deuce Battalion* remains focused on supporting the mission of 428th Field Artillery Brigade as it produces highly trained and adaptive field artillerymen. This unique mission allows the battalion to showcase the power, precision and traditions of the time-honored branch. The Big Deuce Battalion sets the standard for howitzer and fire direction crew drill, ammunition delivery, and ceremonial salutes.

175



Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery, 428th Fires Brigade, conclude their teamwork capstone exercise with live-fires on M119, M777 and M109A6. Photo courtesy of 1-78h FA.

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

Instructors from 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery provided the Army with more than 6,000 combat-ready, skill level one advanced individual training Soldiers across seven military occupational specialties.

The battalion conducted over 40 livefire events, employing over 11,000 artillery rounds and 60 rockets in support of course curriculums.

The battalion hosted the 31st Annual Artillery Officer Candidate School (AOCS) Reunion providing 300 alumni and guests briefs on artillery initiatives, an artillery live-fire demonstration, and an AOCS Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

Additionally, the *Teamwork Battalion* fielded a series of mobile training teams from the Bradley Fire Support Team Operators Course to provide units at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Wainwright, Alaska and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., with updated techniques for unit standard operating procedures. They used their knowledge to return tens of non-mission capable vehicles to operations.

Initiatives in 2015 included the expansion of the 13F10 course in order to incorporate precision Fires, the merger of the 13D10 and 13P10 programs of instruction to form a common curriculum in preparation of the merger of the two military operational specialties (MOSs) to form the 13J MOS in fiscal year 2018, and the integration of high physical demand tasks testing for both 13B and 13F MOSs in order to assess an individual Soldier's capability to perform the strenuous combat tasks associated with each MOS. In addition, the battalion revised the 13B and 13F culminating training exercises in order to incorporate both simulations and live fire operations.

1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery Regiment, 434th Field Artillery Brigade, *The Gauntlet Battalion*



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, participate in the Leadership Oklahoma rifle marksmanship event by talking with and elderly gentleman. Photo courtesy of 1-40th FA.

The mission of 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery Regiment's is to "receive initial entry training Soldiers and conduct basic combat training in order to transform volunteers into confident and competent Soldiers." That transformation reinforces the trust and confidence the American people have in the United States Army as 1-40th FAR trains and prepare future warfighters for operations in the defense of our nation.

Without the trust and confidence of the civilian populace, accomplishment of that mission would be exponentially more difficult. One way to increase the general public's understanding of military life and how they turn civilian into a Soldier is through the annual Leadership Oklahoma event held at Fort Sill, Okla.

In support of this perpetual dependent military and civilian relationship, Capt.

L.C. Thompson and 1st Sgt. Rene Loredogalvan of D Battery, 1-40th FAR hosted a two-day crash course of Basic Combat Training with senior civilian leadership throughout Oklahoma in September. The Leadership Oklahoma (LOK) participants are selected from both the private and public sector and include elected officials at the state and city level, judges, school administrators as well as owners of businesses. Fort Sill is just one stop of the many locations these individuals visit as they travel the state obtaining a better understanding of what Oklahoma has to offer.

After a welcome to Fort Sill by Col. Jose Thompson, 434th Field Artillery Brigade commander, the delegates met drill sergeants from D Battery. The Soldiers gave classes on basic drill and ceremony and how to march from one place to another. After approximately two hours of indoctrination into Army life by the drill sergeants, delivered in a manner which would make any former drill sergeant proud, the delegates learned quickly it was far easier to do what they were instructed the first time so as not to suffer the wrath of an irritated drill sergeant.

This was the first time in a long time some of the senior leaders from across the state had been spoken to in such direct and authoritative manner. At the conclusion of the two hour "shock and awe" treatment, the drill sergeants let down their guards and became mentors and coaches to the



 $Below: Soldiers from 1st \, Battalion, 40th \, Field \, Artillery \, talk \, with \, a \, veteran \, as \, they \, vist \, the \, local \, veteran's \, center. \ \ Photo \, and \, veteran's \, center.$ courtesy of 1-40th FA.

LOK delegates for the remainder of their stay.

During their brief, but event-filled time with the battery, 51 delegates experienced physical fitness training, drill and ceremony, rifle marksmanship, the living conditions of a BCT Soldier, a retreat ceremony, a field artillery live-fire demonstration, and a graduation ceremony where they received a graduation certificate and a CD with photos of their experiences.

The delegates' time spent at Fort Sill was not all pushups, situps, shooting rifles and marching. They also spoke with numerous senior leaders of Fort Sill. Maj.

Gen. John Rossi, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill commander, spoke with the delegates and discussed topics including the economic impact of Fort Sill on the local area, opportunities for Soldiers to continue their education, the downsizing of the military and any possible impacts to Fort Sill, and ways the community and the Soldiers of Fort Sill could work together in the future to continue to improve already strong partnerships.

The LOK event allowed local leaders to learn something new in a challenging environment under the expert tutelage and guidance of experienced military leaders.

They departed Fort Sill with a better understanding of exactly what it takes to be a Soldier. Additionally, the drill sergeants and some BCT Soldiers were afforded the same opportunity to learn from the LOK delegates as they exchanged ideas and personal experiences during nightly discussions. As a testament to the success of the event, several of the LOK delegates stay in touch with their drill sergeant to this day.

Part of the mission of 1-40th FAR is to "transform civilians into disciplined and motivated Soldiers who are trained in warrior tasks and battle drills, grounded in Army values." That is accomplished by having trainees learn the Army values, but the battalion took it to a new level by transporting an entire BCT cycle of 220 Soldiers, to the Lawton/Fort Sill Veteran's Center Nov. 11 in order to further solidify and inculcate the Army values of loyalty, honor and respect.

On Veteran's Day the Soldiers honored those who fought in past wars and listened to their stories.

Capt. Garrett Bailey and 1st Sgt. Rudy Rodriguez Jr. of F Battery, 1-40th FAR, coordinated the event. The Soldiers spent the day conducting basic facility maintenance, interacting with the veterans by having both group and individual discussions, participating in social activities, and enjoying meals together. Veterans shared their experiences and lessons learned to the attentive young Soldiers.

Normally the Soldiers would train on basic combat skills, but this Veterans Day it was their mission to learn about the sacrifices of these veterans and to honor their contribution to national defense.

As with most training events conducted in BCT, providing visual aids to support the training increases the learning exponentially. The BCT Soldiers were able to see firsthand and hear directly from those who spent their lives living and embracing the Army values and how those experiences changed them.

Additionally, the Soldier's visit taught the importance of community service and volunteering, but most importantly enabled the BCT cadre the opportunity to inculcate the Army's values. *All for one!*

1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, Hard Chargers

First Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, *Hard Chargers*, conducted instruction in Basic Officer Leadership, Captains' Career, Warrant Officer, Field Artillery Weapons Maintenance (U6), and Master Gunner courses over the course of the past year. The battalion was responsible for the successful certification of over 1,500 students from both the Army and Marine Corps respectively.

The battalion had the following weapons systems: 105mm towed light howitzers, 155mm towed howitzers, and 155mm self-propelled howitzers that were organic to the battalion. The battalion conducted: 88 observed fires, 48 live fires, eight capstone exercises (Red Leg Wars), 10 staff rides, and six trips to the McCallister Ammunition Plant.



Top: 2nd Lt. Linzy and 2nd Lt. Blake conduct live-fire familiarization on the M11A3 howitzer. Photo courtesy of 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery. Bottom: Cpt. Gonzales and Cpt. Castillo, both from 1-30th FA improve on their fire support skills during a simulation at the Fires Targeting Center, Fort Sill, Okla. Photo courtesy of 1-30th FA.



In addition, the Hard Chargers fired and observed over 20,000 while rounds, simultaneously execut various efforts in support of the Army Partnership with Local Area Schools events. They were partnered with both Cleveland Elementary School and Elgin Middle School.

Moreover, the Hard Chargers led numerous VIP visits and hosted a multitude of foreign delegations visits, which included Bahrain, Australia, and Egypt. 180

1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, Always First

The drill sergeants and cadre of 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, train and transform thousands of civilians each year into disciplined and motivated Soldiers ready to execute basic Soldier skills in their assignments across the Army.

In 2015, the battalion was the first to introduce the Army's newest points of instruction into its training. Lessons learned have made the execution of basic combat training (BCT) a much more efficient and tactically proficient environment. The inculcation meant premier drill sergeants fostered a training arena that will certainly lead to a more asymmetric warrior.

The battalion conducted 22 BCT classes throughout the year. First-31st FA was also entrusted with the Echo Mission. The Echo Mission is a joint co-op between Reserve component and active-duty drill sergeants. The main goal was to ensure Soldiers were not able to distinguish which drill sergeants were Reserve or active-duty. This mission was a success and aided in the principle that a Reservist Soldier is just as qualified and productive as an active-duty Soldier.

The battalion continues to train the newest Soldiers and build some of the Army's strongest teams under long hours and few breaks. The 1-31st FA *Always First Battalion* will always accomplish the mission.

The Marine Artillery Detachment

The Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, Okla. commanded by Col. Wayne Harrison, is home to all artillery training in the Marine Corps. With 91 permanent party Marines and five civilians, the Marine Detachment (MarDet) teaches 12 Marine specific courses and collaborates with the Army on six additional joint courses. These courses include entry-level and career-progression artillery and fire support related instruction. Additionally, the Mar-Det 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 Fires Center of Excellence.

The detachment is organized into several school houses to accomplish its mission and tasks. They include; the Marine Corps Cannoneer School, the Target Acquisition School, Marine Corps Observed Fires School, Enlisted Gunnery School and Officer Instruction Branch. All of these schools are supported and supervised by the detachment headquarters element comprised of a special staff, S1, S3, S4, and the Marine Battery.

This year proved to be a busy one for the MarDet. The respective branches trained over 1,400 officer and enlisted Marines in their entry-level and career progression courses.

In addition to training artillerymen, the MarDet sent representatives to the Spring

Artillery Operational Advisor Group (AOAG) in March and the Fall AOAG in October.

Major topics discussed included the Target Handoff Systems, Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar, and artillery ammunition efforts, doctrine updates, fire support future strategies, and centrally managed Joint Tactical Air Controllers. The Mar-Det has also submitted and/or published updates to Marine Corps and joint doctrine to include the Artillery Training and Readiness Manual rewrite, MCWP 3-16 Fire Support Coordination in the Ground Combat Element, MCWP 3-16.1 Artillery Operations, MCRP 3-16D Dynamic Targeting, and MCWP 3-16.7 Marine Artillery Survey Operations.

Additionally, during 2015, the Marine Battery participated in several base and

local volunteer events. These included the Commander's Cup Cross Country 5K, Marine Corps League Scholarship Dinner, Fort Sill Partnership School Program, International Festival, and the Buffalo Burger Cookout. The Marine Battery also hosted the 23rd Annual Devil Dog Run fundraiser accumulating over \$20,000 in funds from registrations and T-shirt sales.

As the MarDet looks forward to the year ahead it will continue to focus on making artillerymen and providing timely support to Fleet Marine Forces stationed around the world. The dedication and professionalism of the instructors and staff of the MarDet will ensure that its training produces knowledgeable and professional artillerymen that can operate in any clime or place.

Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard

45th Field Artillery Brigade, Red Thunder

It was an extremely challenging and rewarding year for 45th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters, located in Mustang, Okla.

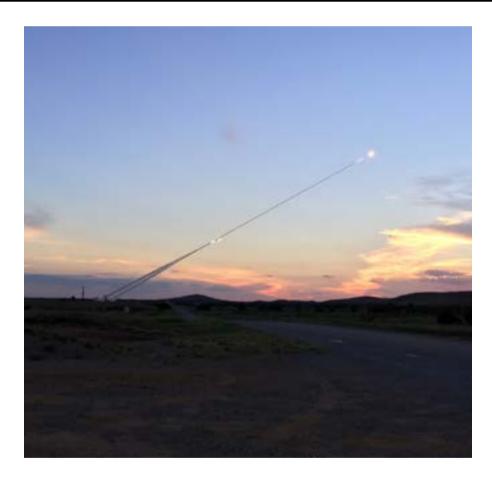
An aggressive training plan focused on integrating all the capabilities of the field artillery brigade. The Soldiers were also called upon to conduct domestic operations.

May was recorded as the wettest month in Oklahoma history. Members of the 45th FAB were called upon to respond after heavy rainfall and floods led to multiple fatalities and widespread damage throughout the state. The wet conditions affected training as well. As the brigade occupied Fort Sill, Okla. to conduct annual training, low water crossings became hazardous obstacles and floodwaters displaced dangerous wildlife, causing the brigade to shift operations to alternate training areas. However, despite the less than ideal conditions, the brigade adapted quickly and fluidly. After a few dry days, individual battalions were allowed to move into their firing positions as originally planned.

During annual training, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery of the Missouri Army National Guard and the 4th Battalion, 133rd



Soldiers from the 45th Field Artillery fire rockets while being illuminated during a night-fire exercise. Photo courtesy of 45th FAB.



Soldiers in 45th Field Artillery Brigade fire rockets at dusk during a live-fire training exercise at Fort Sill, Okla. Photo courtesy of 45th FAB.

Field Artillery of the Texas Army National Guard were aligned with 45th FAB.

The brigade synchronized several fire missions with the 1-129th FA and the 4-133rd FA as part of the brigade field

training exercise. It concluded with an unprecedented, joint training event: a digitally controlled, brigade time-on-target livefire exercise.

The culmination of this was 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery 36 rocket launch which was the backdrop to the brigade commander's re-enlistment ceremony. More than 70 citizen-Soldiers from the Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas Army National Guard re-enlisted during the ceremony, which was attended by a congressional delegation. Lastly, 45th FAB welcomed a new brigade commander, Col. Gregory Lankford.

Overall, 2015 proved to be a successful year for the brigade. Challenging conditions allowed the Soldiers to exercise both domestic operations and contingency training plans while realistic training increased individual Soldier proficiency and allowed each section to exercise and refine their operations.

1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Thunderbird

The 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery had a very successful year. In January, B Battery returned from their deployment to Afghanistan. After a warm welcome home and completion of their yellow ribbon events, they eagerly rejoined their brothers and sisters in arms across the battalion.

In March, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery trained on the deployable rapid assembly shelter setup and tactical operations center operations in preparation for the next major training event, a three-day field training exercise (FTX) at Fort Sill, Okla. in April.

The entire battalion, with all organic units for the first time in over two years, took to the field at Fort Sill for annual training from May 30 through June 13. The theme for this training event was back-to-the-basics, focusing on reintegration of the battalion, resharpening basic Soldier skills and demonstrating proficiency at field artillery tasks. The battalion participated in several synchronized fire missions with 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery and 4th Battalion 133rd Field Artillery as part of the brigade FTX.

The culmination of this was a 36-rocket live-fire exercise with a grand finale of a final rocket launch synchronized with the brigade commander's re-enlistment ceremony for all Soldiers in the brigade extending their enlistment. Finally, the battalion welcomed their new commander, Lt. Col. Mike Horton at the change of command ceremony June 11, taking over from Lt. Col. Jerald Gilbert.



Members of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Oklahoma Army National Guard load onto a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during training exercises at Camp Gruber, Okla. The training offered Soldiers the opportunity to participate in airborne insertions and extractions, room clearing and POW recovery exercises, hand grenade ranges and an improvised explosive device vehicle-training lane. Photo by Maj. Geoff Legler.

The entire battalion moved by a combination of ground convoy and Chinook airlift to Camp Gruber, Okla. in September. The focus of this event was to train on basic Army warrior tasks as well as the retention and morale of current Soldiers. The battalion offered a weekend of high speed, motivating training in conjunction with a Thunder Mudder mud run along with the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

November marked another key change in leadership as Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Wynne assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Rackley, who retired with over 41 years of military service. During the remainder of the year, the battalion focused on the administrative and medical readiness tasks necessary to stay prepared for the next mission ahead.

Oregon U.S. Army National Guard

2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment

The 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team had an extremely successful and challenging year. The battalion was able to safely fire over 1,906 rounds for the fiscal year incorporating special munitions, emergency missions and sling load and air assault operations at Yakima Training Center, Wash.

The Artillery Air Raid exercise was a milestone for the Soldiers as it was the first time ever accomplished by the battalion thus completing its elusive mission essential task list (METL).

The battalion finished the year not only accomplishing all assigned METLs, but it mobilized 60 Soldiers in support of domestic operations. Over 15 fires ravaged Oregon's National and State Forest and the Soldiers were instrumental in putting them out consequently supporting the state mission as well. The year culminated with the battalion developing aggressive operational plans to integrate all Fire support personnel into the battalion and prepare for fielding of M119A3 and M777A2 howitzers.

Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, prepare a howitzer for air assault operations by the California U.S. Army National Guard during annual training 2015. Photo courtesy of 2-218th FA.





Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery, pose for a unit photo. Photo courtesy of 1-108th FA.

Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery

Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 108th Field Artillery continued to maintain readiness and relevance despite the fact the battalion was in its reset year. First battalion, 108th FA, 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division of the Pennsylvania U.S. Army National Guard is based out of Southern Pennsylvania with units in Carlisle, Hanover, South Mountain, Philadelphia, and soon in Gettysburg as well.

Recently F Company, 328th Brigade Support Battalion has been attached with the implementation of the forward support companies within the brigade.

The battalion started the year with artillery skills proficiency tasks and training on the military decision-making process. This led the battalion through its artillery tables and certifications/qualifications and then to individual weapons qualification. In a very rainy and windy June, the battalion executed its first qualification (live-fire exercise) at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Task Force Joshua's Soldiers were focused and resilient and drove through the inclement weather conditions to complete mission requirements.

In August, the battalion travelled to Fort A.P. Hill, Va. for annual training in order to complete section qualifications. While at FAPH, the battalion focused on its core artillery mission of providing fire support for 56th SBCT's maneuver elements. Fire support elements were attached from 2nd

Battalion, 112th Infantry from Lewistown, Pa. The battalion trained to platoon-level proficiency by completing Field Artillery Table XII (platoon qualification) firing 1,209 rounds without incident. The battalion also conducted an air raid training event in conjunction with the Navy's Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 based out of Norfolk, Va. This joint relationship was established during annual training in 2014 when both units conducted raid training at Camp Atterbury, Ind. Finally, the battalion focused on crew-served weapons ranges, a best section competition for all howitzer sections and fire direction centers and a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony for 27 newly promoted NCOs. This annual event always builds espirit de corps among the Soldiers.

September closed out the battalion's reset year within the Army Force Generation cycle with some excitement. Effective Sept. 1 the battalion received its forward support company, Company F, from 328th Brigade Support Battalion. This 86-Soldier company consists of a field feeding team, combat repair team, fuelers and hauling assets which can move 155mm ammunition throughout the battalion's area of operations. This harkens back to the service battery of old.

In addition, the fire support Soldiers from the brigade were welcomed back to the battalion and consolidated in the authorized strength for Headquarters Battery bringing its assigned strength to 273, double its original authorized strength. With this addition, the authorized strength for the battalion climbed to 525 Soldiers plus an additional 86 Soldiers in Forward Sup-

port Company. With the increase in authorized strength, the battalion is still over 100 percent in manning.

In September, the battalion executed a National Special Security Event for the Papal visit to Philadelphia, Pa. The battalion's strength of 418 Soldiers had a mission to support the Philadelphia Police Department with road closures along with vehicular and pedestrian traffic control. The battalion excelled at this mission with no serious incidents.

At the conclusion of the training year, the battalion had a medical readiness percentage of 92 percent. The battalion conducted M101A1 ceremonial howitzer salutes for Army War College graduations and the Carlisle Barracks' Jim Thorpe Sports Days. In addition, the Soldiers continued annual support of the regional Special Olympics at Messiah College and 6th Annual Fallen Soldier 5K which raised funds for Gold Star families of two 56th SBCT Soldiers who were killed in Iraq when the brigade deployed in 2009.

The battalion continues to exceed its readiness, strength and training goals by maintaining a rigorous training program and aggressively correcting Soldier readiness deficiencies. This takes a true team effort. Soldiers and leaders of the battalion enjoy a high level of morale and appreciate everyone's hard work, mutual dignity and respect. Task Force Joshua Soldiers continue to make or exceed the standards in all goals and objectives. The battalion has a saying, "It's not the standard, it's the Joshua standard" and all Soldiers in the battalion personify the battalion motto "Not Self, But Country."

187



Missiles from Multiple Launch Rocket Systems of 210th Field Artillery Brigade and 5000th Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Brigade, 5th Corps, Republic of Korea army fly across the range into the designated target during the Combined Integrated Firepower Exercise Aug. 17 at Seungjin Range, Pocheon, South Korea. Photo by Pfc. Jae woo Oh.

Camp Casey, Republic of Korea 210th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunder

While continuing its mission to deter North Korean aggression and maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula, the 210th Field Artillery Brigade strove to maintain the highest levels of mission readiness through artillery proficiency, strengthened U.S.-Republic of Korea (RoK) army partnering and the operational assurance that the Thunder Brigade is always ready to Fight Tonight.

Throughout the year, the Thunder Brigade focused on making real-world contingencies through tough and realistic training.

The brigade sharpened its operational capabilities by participating in Korea's annual Key Resolve and Ulchi Guardian Freedom exercises while increasing tactical capabilities through the execution of their Joint Air Attack Team, the 2nd Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division warfighter and combined U.S.-RoK joint live-fire exercises.

Additionally, the brigade received a distinguished invitation from the Korean Defense Ministry to participate in the Combined Integrated Firepower Exercise, the country's largest military demonstration.

The exercise consisted of participation from joint combined arms elements from across the Peninsula and was attended by Park Geun-hye, the President of Korea. The month-long force projection demonstration garnered worldwide media attention and included the brigade's Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) and Paladin self-propelled howitzer platforms.

Following suit with the Army's restructuring of field artillery brigades, 210th FAB spent a considerable amount of time preparing for and conducting a transformation of their battalion task organizations. The transition from three batteries to a two-battery formation resulted in the loss of a battery within each MLRS battalion; leaving the brigade with a reduced capability set.

To augment the gap in organic combat strength for its counter-fire requirements, the U.S. Army's first rotational field artillery battalions arrived to the Korean theater of operations. Additional firepower was received through MLRS crews from 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment as well as canon crews from 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, who assumed Paladin support after the inactivation of the 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment.

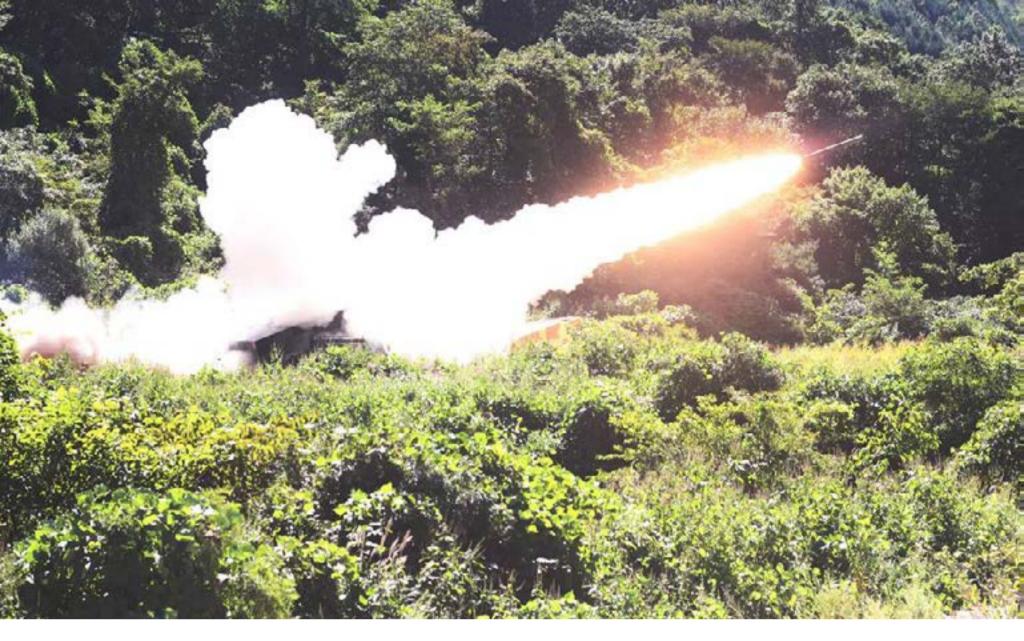
The unit also capitalized on 2nd Infantry Division's new RoK-U.S. Combined Division by partnering with the RoK 1100, RoK 2000 and RoK 5000 Field Artillery battalions to increase the robust capabilities and synchronization of combined operations with the Korean Army.

Additionally, the brigade welcomed new leadership with the arrival of Col. Christopher Taylor, who assumed command from Col. Michael Lawson, and Command Sgt. Maj. Carlos Gonzalez-Pabon, who assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Brinton.

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

1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment continued to train hard and hone their military expertise on counterfire, preair task ordering and time sensitive target missions. The *Steel Battalion* participated in multiple command post exercises such as Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian and 2nd Infantry Division Warfighter. These are key events towards being fully ready to execute their mission in defense of the Republic of Korea (RoK). The battalion conducted multiple counter fire alerts,

field training exercises and combined exercises with RoK army units that facilitated the ability to *Fight Tonight* at a moment's notice. The battalion proved they were ready during the exchange of indirect fire between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Republic of Korea (South Korea) Aug. 20. All of the training the battalion conducted led to a culmination in which the battalion fired 103 M28A1 reduced range practice rockets during four separate live-fire ranges.



Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, fire a rocket during the Ground Component Command live-fire exercise Sept. 17 near Rocket Valley, Republic of Korea. The exercise was conducted in conjunction with the Republic of Korea Army's 2000th Field Artillery Battalion. Photo by Staff Sgt. Felix Mena.

Soldiers in 1-38th FAR and their RoK counterparts continued to strengthen their partnership in multiple combined exercises. Batteries conducted training with the RoK army infantry units assigned as the designated security forces (SECFOR) for their batteries, culminating in a combined live-fire exercise in August that established the foundational combined SECFOR standard operation procedure for the brigade.

Additionally, the Steel Battalion continued to partner with RoK 2000 Battalion executing a combined rocket live-fire during September's ground combat command's counter-fire task force combined field training exercise, successfully firing 24 rockets in support of Third RoK Army fire plans. The combined training with RoK maneuver and artillery partners continues to strengthen the alliance which is vital to the success of the mission on the peninsula.

The battalion continued to develop their young leaders with an extensive professional development program that ranged from classes on a M270A1, to the Army as a profession.

The continuing development has a huge impact on the force as the Soldiers leave the battalion and head to stateside units, fostering a culture of military professionalism making the United States Army the best force in the world.

The Soldiers of Steel Battalion supported local partnerships like Dongducheon

High School, Sadong Elementary School and several other organizations by volunteering their time to the local community over the past year. Soldiers helped teach English to all ages in the area schools and community centers. Others volunteered their time at the soup kitchen or delivered

charcoal to the elderly before the winter cold struck. Their actions paid huge dividends with the local community and the Soldiers of 1-38th FA continue to be ambassadors of the *Thunder Brigade* and the U.S Army.

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

The 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, *On the Minute*, is one of two forward-deployed, permanently stationed field artillery battalions on the Korean peninsula. The regiment spent the last year fo-

cused on honing their field artillery skills, building a team of trained professionals, and increasing their readiness.

The Soldier's primary mission is to maintain a constant state of readiness in

Soldiers in C Battery, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, fire a Multiple Launch Rocket System during a cross-boundary live-fire March 25 near Cheorwon, Republic of Korea. The live-fire was part of a larger combined joint exercise with elements from the Marine Corps and Air Force as well as the Republic of Korea army and air force. Photo by Sgt. Brandon Bednarek.





Soldiers in 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, give an overview of the U.S. Army's Multiple Launch Rocket System to Republic of Korea citizens, Aug. 17, during the Combined Integrated Firepower Exercise at Seungjin Range, Pocheon, South Korea. Photo courtesy of 6-37th FA.

preparation for a swift response in the face of a North Korean provocation. As a key component of the ground combatant commander's counterfire task force, 6-37th FAR focused their efforts on providing proactive and reactive counterfire against North Korean long range artillery. To demonstrate this state of readiness, 6-37th FAR conducted regular mission readiness exercises to test and validate their ability to conduct a limited or no-notice alert and mobilization.

Key training opportunities this past year included a combined integrated firepower exercise (CIFE) and the use of combined arms coordination to conduct aerial resupply. In August, A Battery, 6-37th FAR con-

ducted the CIFE with other U.S. and partnered Korean units which demonstrated the ground and aerial capabilities of the US-RoK alliance.

In October, B Battery, 6-37th FAR conducted aerial resupply of Multiple Launch Rocket System ammunition pods with 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade. During this exercise, B/6-37th FAR validated the ability to slingload MLRS pods and transport them to forward positions on the battlefield.

The *On the Minute Battalion* continues to stand watch from its forward deployed position and is ready to *Fight Tonight* as they prepare for future training opportunities in 2016.

192



Col. Mark Holler, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander, pays tribute to the men of Task Force Smith during the 65th anniversary memorial ceremony July 2 at the Jukmiryeong War monument. Nearly 40 percent of the Soldiers who served in Task Force Smith lost their lives during the Battle of Osan. Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Denby.

35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, *Dragons*

The 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is comprised of two battalions: 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, forward stationed across the Korean Peninsula. The brigade is a subordinate unit of Eighth Army. The brigade headquarters is located at Osan Air Base and is the Army's only forward stationed air defense artillery brigade.

The unit's mission is to conduct joint and combined air and missile defense operations to protect assigned critical assets from surveillance, aerial attacks, and missile attacks in order to deter and defend against North Korean aggression, and enable United States Forces Korea combat power generation for Combined Forces Command decisive operations in the Korean theater of operations (KTO).

Over the past year, *Dragon Soldiers* participated in numerous joint and combined training exercises across the peninsula. In February, 35th ADA executed a high visibility brigade-level air defense command post exercise (ADX/CPX). During the exercise, a Patriot Global Response Force (GRF) deployed to the KTO for the first





Pfc. Jerver Lopez-Polanco, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery medic, tends to a "casualty" Sept. 3 during Expert Field Medical Badge training. Lopez-Polanco has served in South Korea for the past three months and is a native of Fairfax, Va. Photo by KATUSA Pfc. Kim, Yo Seup.

time and underwent a rigorous reception, staging, onward movement, and integration process culminating with the assumption and operation of Patriot equipment sets already in theater.

In conjunction with the GRF forces from 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, the brigade employed Reconfigurable Table Top Trainers in order to conduct real-time air battle management training with 31st Air Defense Artillery located at Fort Sill, Okla., making this the first Contiguous United States based ADA brigade to participate in an intra-brigade ADX/CPX with an Outside Contiguous United States unit.

Peninsula-wide training exercises such as Key Resolve and Ulchi Freedom Guardian enabled the Dragon Brigade to execute mission command tasks and train for contingency missions utilizing the brigade's wartime operations plan.

Dragon Soldiers also participated in several peninsula-wide, Air Force-centric exercises including Max Thunder in April and Vigilant Ace in November. During these exercises, air defense fire control officers at Osan Air Base partnered with Airmen from the 621st Air Control Squadron to operate as an integral connection in the joint kill chain between 35th ADA Patriot units and Air Force operators as they

195

monitored the skies for simulated threats. The Soldiers of 35th ADA also dispatched Patriot batteries to several RoK air force (RoKAF) bases to train on joint and combined air battle procedures while honing interoperability initiatives with the brigade's RoKAF partners.

Interoperability with the RoKAF was a key focus for 35th ADA this year. In May, evaluators from the brigade's standardization office, joined their RoKAF counterparts to conduct the first-of-its-kind, U.S./ RoK combined Table VIII evaluation of the RoKAF's 553rd Air Defense Artillery at Gumdan Air Base. In July, air defenders from the ROKAF's 199th Air Defense Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery joined forces for a weeklong exercise linking U.S./RoK air defense systems at Jungwon Air Base. Building upon a successful combined interoperability exercise in October 2014 where U.S. and RoK Patriot units successfully transferred digital data for the first time, units furthered the concept by increasing the distance between the two systems and linking their communications equipment.

Beginning in September, the brigade upgraded existing Missile Segment Enhancement Patriot Launcher Systems from the M901 variant to the M902 with further enhancements to the M903 variant planned

in the near future. The new enhancements allow for missile engagements at greater ranges and at higher altitudes in order to defend against emerging threats on the Korean Peninsula.

In October, 35th ADA fielded four Secure Internet Protocol Router/Non-secure Internet Protocol Router Access Points and 10 Tactical Transportable Troposcatter (SNAP/TROPO) systems. These systems were organically assigned to Patriot batteries within 35th ADA. This marks the first time these digital communications systems have been organically fielded to units within the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Regiment outside of Central Command and combat operations.

The Korean theater of operations is a complex, dynamic, and uncertain operational environment. The 35th ADA Brigade is a key enabler and force multiplier with a capability to help reduce complexity and uncertainty in the KTO. The Soldiers provide air missile defense and contribute to the ongoing security and stability of the Korean Peninsula. The 35th ADA, along with joint and combined partners, assist in maintaining the Armistice. They are a team of air and missile defense professionals who stand ready to deter, defend, and if necessary, defeat adversaries' asymmetrical threat. *Ready In Defense ... Always!*

2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, Guardians

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, had a busy year maintaining readiness on the Korean Peninsula. Stationed at Camp Carroll and Kunsan Air Base, the *Guardian Battalion* stands ready

to defend critical assets and strengthen relations with Korean allies.

Operating on the Korean Peninsula poses many unique, real world challenges. Throughout the year, each battery in the

battalion conducted multiple Patriot stored combat load exercises. During these exercises, crews from the launcher platoons transitioned to their missile storage area to train on missile loading procedures. All efforts were supported by the Republic of Korea (RoK) army, so completing them not only prepared the unit for war, but also strengthened relationships with the allies. Guardian Soldiers also conducted multiple T-1 validations in which Soldiers con-

ducted movement to wartime locations to verify communications functionality.

Soldiers in 2-1st ADA excelled at their assigned mission and remain ready to provide air and missile defense capabilities to the Korean Peninsula at a moment's notice. The *Guardians* planned and executed a multitude of mission sets with commendable results while strengthening relations with RoK allies and joint partners.

6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, Iron Horse

Stationed at Suwon Air Base, the 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment has embodied their motto of *Always Prepared* throughout 2015. With readiness as a top priority, the *Iron Horse Battalion* conducted two multi-week field training exercises designed to be a comprehensive test of the unit's ability to rapidly transition to wartime operations and execute its air defense mission.

In addition, each battery sustained their semi-annual Table VIII gunnery requirements while the battalion completed two range density exercises to ensure our Soldiers remained proficient in their warrior tasks and battle drills.

The 6-52nd ADA continued its legacy of strengthening the alliance between U.S. and RoK forces through several key training events. In November, the unit completed their quarterly combined interoperability exercise which brought the two nations together to conduct integrated air defense operations with synchronized and de-conflicted Fires using common brevity codes. The *Iron Horse Battalion* also worked with the 177th Republic of Korea Air Defense

Artillery to organize a friendly competition which tested the air defense skills of Soldiers from each unit.

Constantly looking for new training opportunities, the battalion successfully conducted slingload operations with Patriot missiles in October; the first event of its kind in the Korean Theater of Operations (KTO). This training evaluated the feasibility of conducting missile re-supply via rotary wing aircraft in the event ground methods of transportation are unable to be used.

The *Iron Horse Battalion* also strives to make an impact in the local community. As part of the battalion's Good Neighbor Program, Soldiers volunteered at local orphanages and nursing homes, participated in local community events, and instructed English at local middle and elementary schools. Efforts to reach out to the community have strengthened the alliance with the Republic of Korea and resulted in a lasting partnership with the Korean people.

The Iron Horse Battalion remains steadfast, vigilant, and focused on their mission to defend the KTO and are truly dedicated to being *Always Prepared to Fight Tonight*.

3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment

It was an extraordinary year for 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment-Korea. As integral members of the 607th Korea Air and Space Operations Center and 7th Air Force team, they achieved new heights of joint and combined air-ground integration in support of the Combined Ground Component Command and Eigth United States Army.

Additionally, 3rd BCD-K implemented the Fires Leader Development Strategy by converging the branch core leader competencies necessary to achieve Fires leaders capable of improving combined, joint and coalition integration at the operational and strategic levels. Consequently, they significantly contributed to the Fires Center of Excellence initiatives to advance the Fires force and enhance the Fires digital platforms with sister services and Republic of Korea (RoK) partners.

This year's two national-level exercises, Key Resolve '15 and Ulchi Freedom Guardian '15, provided improved scenario complexity designed to exercise the full range of smart power available to the RoK-U.S. alliance. Based on the integral lessons learned from these exercises, 3rd BCD-K developed four training modules to address reoccurring shortfalls among ground forces in joint education and training; strategic / operational joint fires, intelligence surveillance reconnaissance processing, airspace management, and airlift operations. They executed this Strike Deep University line of effort across the peninsula to U.S. and RoK units as both small



Soldiers from 3rd Battlefield Coordination Detachment pose for a unit photo. Photo courtesy of 3rd BCD.

mobile training teams and in larger conference settings.

Two ground liaison detachments supported numerous exercises on the Korean peninsula and remain instrumental in the Fighter Wings' ability to Fight Tonight. The 375th Ground Liaison Detachment, aligned with 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base, and 376th Ground Liaison Detachment, aligned with the 8th Fighter Wing at Kunsan Air Base, coordinated close air support training daily for both U.S. and RoK Air Force units. Additionally, 3rd BCD-K broadened the experience base of their Soldiers by sending observer controllers to certify with their sister unit, 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment in Hawaii, during exercise Talisman Sabre. They also provided a team of augmentees to 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment in Germany for exercise Blue Flag.

Throughout periods of real world provocations and elevated tensions, the RoK-U.S. alliance has remained steadfast, and 3rd BCD-K stands ready to maintain and defend the stability in the KTO as part of the U.S. Forces Korea and the Combined Forces Command teams. Strike Deep!

Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, Wolfpack

The 4th Battlefield Coordination Detachment, *Wolfpack*, at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. is the Army's liaison to U.S. Air Forces Central Command and 609th Combined Air and Space Operations Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

The unit's mission within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR) is to act as an integrator and coordinator for the Combined Forces Land Component commander and the Combined Forces Air Component commander for land power requirements. The focus is on synchronizing air and ground operations within the USCENTCOM AOR and establish combined joint operating areas.

Throughout much of 2015, 4th BCD facilitated and coordinated close integration of air, space, and land forces as the only split-based continuously deployed BCD in the Army. Wolfpack Soldiers were embedded in all the divisions of the Combined Air Operations Center located in Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. In addition, 4th BCD continued to provide forward deployed ground liaison detachments (GLDs) to support air expeditionary squadrons, composite squadrons, airlift squadrons, and carrier air wings throughout the CENTCOM AOR.

They helped distributed operations in Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Resolute Support (ORS) as well as other NATO missions. For the past 12 months, 4th BCD assisted with the coordi-

nation of over 31,500 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sorties, 20 air drops, and delivered approximately 420 emergency bundles of humanitarian assistance to coalition forces and displaced persons. The BCD was instrumental in the synchronization of air and space power for Combined Joint Task Force OIR, resulting in over 15,100 close air support (CAS) requests, 27,600 CAS sorties, 46,900 flight hours, 8,000 airstrikes, and the employment of over 26,000 weapons in support of OIR and ORS.

4th BCD continued an aggressive force generation model to prepare the CO-NUS-based Soldiers for deployments across the CENTCOM AOR. This included the adoption and execution of both BCD and GLD certification programs to establish baseline knowledge for all personnel. This certification program included support from the Army Joint Support Team as well.

The BCD assisted with multiple exercises, including: Bright Star (Egypt), Blue Flag (Hurlburt Field, Fla.), Gulf Flag (Shaw AFB, S.C.), Marine Expeditionary Force (Camp Lejeune, N.C.), Marine large scale exercises (Quantico, Va.), Eager Lion (Jordan), Warfighter exercises and others. The BCD developed a strong partnership with the 505th Command and Control Wing at Hurlburt Field to ensure all personnel re-

ceived the proper training to integrate air power in the CENTCOM AOR.

CONUS GLDs supported Joint Readiness Training Center rotations, Prairie Warrior (Minot Air Force Base, N.D.), Green Flag – East (Fort Polk, La.), Green Flag – Little Rock (Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.), and Green Flag- West (Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.). In addition the Soldiers helped the Air Force and Navy with pre-deployment, mobility, and airdrop training operations, as well as joint and multi-national fighter and bomber CAS exercises.

They participated in Joint Air Operations Senior Staff courses as members of the symposium panels by discussing the role of component liaison elements across functions of the combined air operations center enterprise. They worked with various U.S. and international Navy carrier air wings to prepare them for deployment into the CENTCOM AOR and supported Navy operational level warfighter preparation to help their staffs develop support for unified land operations as well as understand Army capabilities.

Going forward into 2016, 4th BCD continues to support operations both CO-NUS and across the CENTCOM AOR. The Wolfpack prides itself on consistently representing the ground commander's priorities and requirements to ensure timely and accurate coordination, integration and synchronization of air power for mission success.

263rd Army Air Missile Defense Command

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command has gained recognition throughout both active-duty and Reserve components. This recognition is a direct result of training, professionalism, adaptability, and an all-around mission first attitude.

One of the most important missions 263rd Soldiers continue to support is the National Capital Region's Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS). Within the past year, 263rd has supported over 15 exercises in four countries and seven different states.

Soldiers in 263rd AAMDC (-) command and control element (Task Force Tiger) and 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Ar-

1st Sgt. Davin Powell, 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command first sergeant, briefs CONUS-Region Air Force North commander Lt. Gen. William Etter on the Avenger weapon system. Photo courtesy of 263rd AAMDC.



tillery (A) provided the quality leadership and highly trained personnel to complete a successful NCR-IADS rotation. Soldiers of the 263rd AAMDC continue to train and provide oversight of the NCR-IADS mission.

The Soldiers of 263rd AAMDC are responsible for planning, coordinating and executing exercise America's Shield and culminating training events to certify Soldiers on the NCR mission.

During this year the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery (A) and 164th ADA Brigade command and control element completed these exercises.

Soldiers in 263rd supported 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command during Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2015. This training exercise is conducted annually in the Pacific Command area of responsibility.

UFG-15 brought Soldiers to Osan Air Force Base, Korea and Yokota Air Force Base, Japan. Soldiers augmented 94th AAMDC serving in key leadership positions in active defense, G3 plans, and G2

intelligence. This exercise allowed subject matter experts of 263rd to realize the advantage of real-time information made possible by web-based tools accessible world-wide.

Soldiers in 263rd AAMDC supported the 94th AAMDC during exercise Key Resolve 2015 at Osan Air Force Base, South Korea from Feb. 24 to March 13. They provided subject matter experts from G2 intelligence, G3 active defense, future plans, passive defense, attack operations, G4, G6 and white cell controllers.

The Joint Multi-Platform Advanced Combat identification exercise (JMAC) is a joint effort between Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center, Air Force Research Laboratory, and the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Office.

JMAC develops tactics, techniques and procedures for the NCR-IADS. The 263rd AAMDC provided equipment, technical expertise and manpower to the Joint Capability Technology Demonstration Of-

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery, stand at parade rest during a welcome home ceremony held in their honor. Photo courtesy of 263rd AAMDC.





Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery, assist an elderly citizen during the unit's Defense Support to Civilian Authorities mission in response to Hurricane Joaquin's flooding and historically heavy rainfall. Photo courtesy of 263rd AAMDC.

fice to assist in development of these new capabilities.

In addition to providing exercise support to the 10th Army Air and Missile

Defense Command and 94th AAMDC, the 263rd continues to augment the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command's forward deployed deputy area defense air commander cell in the U.S. Central Command area of respon-Assigned sibility. personnel serve as

the G3 operations officer in charge and as the active defense officer. The 32nd AAMDC provides support for multiple air and missile defense exercises during each training year.

Twenty four Soldiers selected from the 263rd AAMDC, 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 2nd Battalion 263rd Air Defense Artillery and the 1st Battalion 178th Field Artillery participated in the first ever Mobile Training Team for the 14G military occupational specialty, Air Defense Battle Management System Operator Course. The team conducted the course at the Anderson Readiness Center in Anderson, S.C. Due to the availability of equipment and instructors in Anderson. Because of this mobile training team the units were able to qualify twice as many Soldiers in a 10-week period.

Soldiers in 1-178th FA began Defense Support to Civilian Authorities missions

Hurricane Joaquin

Due to the relief efforts by the battalion and police and fire departments, more than 1,080 people were rescued from their homes or vehicles. Many of these by Soldiers of the battalion itself.

Oct. 3 in response to Hurricane Joaquin's flooding and historically heavy rainfall in the state.

The unit was completing its October inactive duty training when they were called on state activeduty. Most missions were completed and Soldiers were released from state active-duty Oct. 16.

The battalion had 246 personnel on state active-duty at the peak of the operations. Soldiers in 1-178th FA conducted 147 missions in which 6,250 sandbags were delivered, 64 pallets of food and 12 pallets of water were delivered and distributed.

According to the six supported county emergency operations centers, due to the relief efforts by the battalion and police and fire departments, more than 1,080 people were rescued from their homes or vehicles. Many of these by Soldiers of the battalion itself.

Although the primary mission for 263rd AAMDC is the NORAD/NORTH-COM theater, the Soldiers stand ready to help fellow AAMDCs with exercise support and real-world deployments.

South Dakota U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery

Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery of the South Dakota National Guard began the year under the capable leadership of Lt. Col. James Linn and Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose.

Headquartered in Watertown, S.D., the battalion completed exercises concentrated on collective level tasks. Multiple field training exercises were used on inactive duty training weekends to prepare the Soldiers for annual training which was conducted in late July at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

The battalion trained extensively on its recently fielded Harris Falcon radio system and was able to conduct digital fire missions over distances in excess of 300 miles. Battery-level certification was achieved.

The live-fire exercise was a major highlight of annual training; this year's was completed flawlessly with the final mission being a full battery At My Command fire mission.

Maintenance management was also a priority, with all four units within the battalion receiving a command maintenance evaluation team inspection within the year.

All units were well prepared and received first time passing percentages of 97 percent or higher on all inspected areas.

The fielding of new equipment was also accomplished during the year with the battalion receiving Joint Capabilities Release operations and log systems.



1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, fire rockets during annual training, Aug. 2, at Camp Guernsey, Wyo. Photo by Senior Airman Duane Duimstra.

In April, the battalion said goodbye to one of its finest NCOs with the retirement of Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose who retired from the South Dakota National Guard after a career which spanned over 30 years of service to his state and nation. Command Sgt. Major Rose was replaced by Command Sgt. Maj. Lathe "Skip" Ragels, who is no stranger to the field artillery having served many years as the battalion's communications chief.

Fort Hood, Texas

1st Armored Division Artillery

First Armored Division Artillery was proud to join the Fires Center of Excellence in recognizing B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery as this year's Henry A. Knox Award winner. The honor was well deserved by a great battery and battalion who represent the best of the 1st Armored Division, the Field Artillery, and the Army.

The DIVARTY led multiple joint exercises for the division in 2015 with Army, Marine and Air Force units. During exercise Iron Rage, fire commands were relayed from the Tactical Action Center at McGregor Range Complex to elements from 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment who fired M142 High Mobility Artillery Rockets (HIMARS) at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), N.M. Iron Rage demonstrated the DIVARTY's ability to quickly maneuver artillery around the battlefield and work as a joint Fires team.

Twice this year 1st AD DIVARTY conducted exercise Hustler Trough I May 15 and Hustler Trough II Oct. 15, a joint Fires exercise with participants from more than 10 different Army and Air Force elements from across the United States.

The exercise provided a realistic training environment for both forward air controllers (Airborne) (FAC-A) and joint terminal attack controllers (JTAC) assigned to 7th Air Support Operations Squadron and joint Fires observers (JFO) assigned to 1st AD to call in artillery fire from ground-based, fixed-wing, and rotary-wing elements. Overall, A-10 FAC-A pilots conducted call-for-fire missions with artillery and mortars and provided close air support for JTACs and JFOs. The DIVARTY executed successful move-and-shoot sorties with AH-64s.

Additionally, 1st AD DIVARTY participated in three division-level decisive action training exercises integrating and synchronizing Fires, supporting deep and close operations.

Exercise Iron Focus I and II were designed to train and prepare brigade combat teams for future National Training Center rotations. Army Warfighting Exercise 16.1 was an Army proof of concept exercise that allowed the DIVARTY to integrate and synchronize Army, joint, and coalition Fires in support of division operations.

2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, Gunners

From December 2014 to December 2015, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery participated in nine field training exercises, culminating in a National Training Center rotation in June with 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st

Armored Division. In December 2014, 2-3rd FA conducted Operation Hustler Trough, a joint training event with the Air Force that synchronized surface-to-surface indirect fires with close air support Fires.

205



Soldiers from A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, fire their M777 while participating in a live-fire training exercise. Photo courtesy of 2-3rd FA.

Over that time period, A Battery, 2-3rd FA executed the battalion's first night gun raid that integrated suppression of enemy air defense indirect Fires during the air assault.

In March and April, 2-3rd FA took part in Operation Iron Focus, a brigade-level training exercise designed to simulate the rigors and challenges of NTC. They conducted battery and battalion level certifications, supported maneuver elements, and distinguished itself by providing timely and accurate Fires for the brigade. The lessons learned at Iron Focus set 2-3rd FA up for success ahead of NTC Rotation 15-08.

The Gunner Battalion went to Fort Irwin, Calif. in June to execute their NTC rotation in support of 1st SBCT. This was 2-3rd FA's first decisive action training environment rotation in many years, and

proved to be an incredible learning experience for all personnel involved.

The Soldiers successfully employed its mission command systems and developed valuable tactics, techniques and procedures for fire direction centers, howitzer crews, and the battalion staff.

They concluded the year with section, platoon, battery and battalion-level certifications, as well as a combined arms live-fire exercise in support of 1st SBCT. Additionally, B Battery executed an Emergency Deployment Readiness exercise and deployed to Fort McCoy, Wis. to conduct training as a part of Northern Command's regionally aligned forces.

The battalion deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La. in January 2016 for a decisive action rotation in support of 1st SBCT.

206

4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, Iron Thunder

The 2nd Armor Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) of the 1st Armored Division is charged with the Network and Integration Evaluation (NIE) mission, which fields, tests, and evaluates new systems and concepts for the Army. The organization has an opportunity to experience new and exciting challenge sets before the rest of the force. This means that as the direct support artillery battalion for 2/1st ABCT the Iron Thunder Battalion is at the forefront of changes that will be sweeping through the field artillery community. From count-

er-unmanned aerial systems to providing Fires for an area of operation greater than 16,200 square kilometers, this hybrid battalion of two M109A6 Paladin batteries and one M777A2 battery is made to find innovative solutions to great problems.

At the beginning of 2015, 4-27th FA moved its battalion footprint from the 2/1st AD area to that of the fully established 1st AD DIVARTY alongside the other artillery battalions of the division. In February, as the battalion was conducting continuous live-fire operations in the greater Fort Bliss

Soldiers from C Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, pose for a unit photo while supporting Operation Bold Quest in Oct. Photo courtesy of 4th BN, 27th FA.



Training Area, B Battery was awarded the Henry A. Knox Award. The remainder of the first quarter was spent in preparation for supporting NIE 15.2 through the conduct of Tables XII through XVIII.

During NIE 15.2, A Battery tested out the Field Artillery Mission Command Center concept with the Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE) providing oversight. The purpose of this test was to determine whether an individual battery could conduct decentralized operations, separate of the battalion, and still effectively provide timely and accurate Fires. Additionally, as the Army was assessing the future manning structure for Force 2025 the operational test personnel needs within future field artillery organizations.

In June and July, 4-27th FA transitioned from a 2×8 structure to that of the 3×6 with the activation of C Battery; a second battery of Paladins. This addition would be crucial to the Iron Thunder Battalion's capacity to provide fire support to 2/1st AD in the upcoming NIE 16.1. Following the standard preparatory training in August, the battalion rolled out to support the brigade for September's NIE 16.1. During this exercise - thanks to the capabilities of advanced and long-ranging mission command systems - 2/1st ABCT was able to command an area of operations 90 kilometers wide by 180 kilometers deep between Fort Bliss, Texas and White Sands Missile Range,

N.M. At times, the maneuver units were separated by great stretches of arid desert. This distance provided an all-too-real problem in trying to provide fire support for the brigade. Concurrent to NIE 16.1, a fire support team of 4-27th FA was handed the unique and interesting mission of testing the FCoE's new Counter-UAS Mobile Integrated Capability (CMIC) system. The purpose of CMIC is to provide the Army with a ground-based, lethal/non-lethal, counter-UAS and counter-indirect fire capability. Future NIEs will see it incorporated into the task organization to evaluate its capabilities to support to the brigade.

During October, at the close of NIE 16.1, 4-27th FA was also wrapped up in providing fire support for Operation Bold Quest. In this three day combined-force exercise with seven partner nations, the battalion conducted live-fire shoots alongside a platoon of Norwegian artillery. The event illustrated the joint-combined capabilities available under the experimental build of the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System.

For the close of 2015, the Iron Thunder Battalion maintained its mission readiness in preparation for future support of the 2/1st ABCT NIE requirement and continued to be the catalyst of tactical and operational change for the Army's field artillery community.

4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, Defenders

Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, Defenders, enjoyed a productive year supporting the United States Africa Command's (AFRICOM) Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF) mission. Throughout the year, the Defenders participated in



Soldiers from B Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel to the Horn of Africa. The *Defenders* worked closely with local military and civil authorities while stationed at Camp Lemonier. Photo courtesy of 4-1st FA.

multiple training exercises with their African partners. Additionally, B Battery, 4-1st FA redeployed from Djibouti where they supported Operation Freedom's Sentinel – Horn of Africa.

The RAF mission focused on building multinational staff capacity through challenging and focused command post exercises (CPXs). Leaders coached and mentored multiple staffs while deployed in Gabon, Zambia and the Netherlands. The fire supporters deployed to both Mali and Zambia where they trained partnered armies on the integration of both mortar and field artillery Fires. The battalion also

deployed medical personnel to both Chad and Cameroon to train partnered forces on tactical combat casualty care. Throughout these missions, leaders and Soldiers developed positive relationships and helped grow the capabilities of their African partners.

Soldiers in B/4-1st FA, with an attached engineer platoon, deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel – Horn of Africa. During this challenging mission, the battery provided force protection for Camp Lemonier. Due to their professional efforts, the battery received the highest score on the Navy's annual inspection

of installations within the Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia Regions. They also instructed Soldiers from five African nations on counter-improvised explosive devices while simultaneously maintaining their core field artillery skills.

While the Defender Battalion's focus revolved around the AFRICOM RAF mission, the unit continued to hone its field artillery skills to prepare for decisive action. The Defenders integrated their training efforts with both the 1st Armored Division Artillery and with the 3rd Armored Bri-

gade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. The battalion executed training events to include multiple live-fire exercises. Fire supporters deployed to Spain and executed a combined arms live-fire exercise with the Spanish Legion. The battalion also fielded precision guidance kits allowing increased capability to the maneuver brigade combat team. Throughout the year, the battalion integrated organic Fires and joint Fires serving to produce an unmatched lethal capability.

1st Cavalry Division Artillery, Red Team

This was a year of transformation for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. With the Forces Command DIVARTY implementation order published, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 41st Field Artillery Brigade, Railgunners, knew in the next 12 months the unit would be part of the historic resurrection of the Red Team.

A howitzer from 1st Cavalry Division Artillery is airlifted during an air assault training operation performed by 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. Video courtesy of 1st CAV DIVARTY.





Soldiers in 1st Cavalry Division Artillery fire a M777 during a live-fire exercise. Video courtesy of 1st CAV DIVARTY.

Their final mission before the transformation was to serve as III Corps' Force Field Artillery and Counterfire Headquarters during War Fighter Exercise 15-03. Railgunners integrated and synchronized deep Fires across the Corps' area of operations, processing over 150 fire missions.

The DIVARTY conducted several command post exercises in order to transition from a field artillery brigade to 1st CD DI-VARTY. Using live, virtual, and constructive training, the Red Team established its capability to deliver timely and accurate tactical and operational Fires in support of 1st Cavalry Division.

In April, the brigade reflagged as HHB, 1st CD DIVARTY to serve as the division's Force Field Artillery Headquarters and prepared to be the first DIVARTY "in the box" during National Training Center

(NTC) Rotation 15-07. Throughout the rotation, the DIVARTY processed over 398 fire missions shaping the division's deep fight across a 110-kilometer front.

Simultaneously, 1st CD DIVARTY provided oversight for battery (Artillery Table XV) and battalion (Artillery Table XVIII) level external evaluations to include observer fire training and a fire coordination exercise for two field artillery battalions. Red Team elements provided a realistic, train-as-we-fight environment and stressed the M109A6 batteries of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery and the M777 batteries from the Field Artillery Squadron in preparation for NTC rotations and future deployments.

Red Team Soldiers are a trained and ready force and continue to Live the Legend at the Great Place, Fort Hood, Texas.

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

The 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, Red Dragons, cased its colors May 5 and was officially re-designated as 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, Rolling Thunder. In February, the battalion deployed to the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., (Rotation 15-05) with the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to test combat readiness at all levels in preparation for deployment to the Republic of Korea (RoK). As part of 2nd ABCT's Decisive Action Rotation at NTC, the battalion provided timely and accurate Fires in support

of both live-fire exercises and force-onforce.

Beginning in May, lead elements of the newly reflagged 3-16th FAR began arriving at Camp Hovey, RoK as part of 2nd ABCT, the Army's first Korea Rotational Force. Subsequently, the battalion was attached to 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. The battalion's primary mission as part of 210th FAB was to serve with the Counterfire Task Force, contributing crucial short-range Fires capabilities in order to deter aggression by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and ensure the defense of the RoK.

Rolling Thunder Soldiers in A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, fire Paladins Aug. 28 in Operation Nightmare Thunder as part of the Republic of Korea Combined Integrated Firepower Exercise. Photo courtesy of 3-16th FA.



Once on the ground in the RoK, the battalion executed a relief in place/transfer of authority (RIP/TOA). In its first weeks in the RoK, 3-16th FAR received additional equipment on the peninsula, including two M109A6 howitzers, to bring C Battery to its full capability, updating the previous unit's 2 x 8 organization to a 3 x 6 configuration. The battalion also completed the reintegration of fire support assets from the maneuver battalions, a process 3-16th FAR had executed a year prior at Fort Hood, Texas when it executed the transformation to a 3 x 6 organization with full fire support integration. On July 2, 3-16th FAR assumed duties as the only U.S. 155 mm self-propelled artillery unit in the Pacific Command area of responsibility.

As the sole U.S. cannon battalion in the RoK, the battalion would go on in the following months to provide gunnery support to all maneuver units of the 2nd ABCT, as well as engage in combined exercises with artillery units of the RoK army. The battalion went to work immediately after the RIP/TOA, executing Operation Thunder Support with Task Force Puckett, D Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Thunder Support enabled 3-16th FAR to meet battalion training objectives, including the execution of live Fires for maneuver operations, target acquisition certification and exercise of battery-level mission command. Soldiers in 3-16th FAR were the first 2nd ABCT unit to live-fire its weapons platforms in the RoK.

In late July and throughout the month of August, 3-16th FAR conducted Operation Nightmare Thunder, providing the largest U.S. contingent to the RoK Combined

Integrated Firepower Exercise (CIFE). In addition to executing numerous live-fire missions, 3-16th FAR trained with RoK soldiers on fire mission processing, fire support equipment and the K9 155 mm self-propelled howitzers of the 828th Field Artillery Battalion of the RoK army. The exercise culminated in live-fire demonstrations for top RoK officials, including the president and minister of defense. The CIFE allowed the battalion to take a leading role in promoting the RoK-U.S. alliance, while providing Soldiers with unique cross-training opportunities.

Concurrently 3-16th FAR participated in Ulchi Freedom Guardian, an annual combined RoK-U.S. training exercise, during which the battalion used its mission command systems and ability to plan and execute specialty missions. The battalion also provided gunnery support to 2nd ABCT's maneuver battalions conducting Table XII (termed "Super XIIs" by the 2nd ID commanding general for their combination of cannon and mortar Fires with attack aviation) in August and September. They also executed Artillery Table XI to evaluate the platoons' capability to provide Fires in support of maneuver forces and the Counterfire Task Force. During this period, the battalion conducted periodic internal training alerts to test and enhance unit readiness, as well as one real-world alert in response to an act of provocation by the DPRK.

In late October and early November, the battalion conducted Operation Hwarang Thunder, a combined Artillery Table XV with 228th Field Artillery Battalion of the RoK Army. Hwarang Thunder crosstrained RoK and U.S. personnel in their re-

spective fire mission processing, fire support and mission command systems, and served as yet another opportunity to promote and strengthen the enduring RoK-U.S. alliance. As 2015 ended, 3-16th FAR

continued to provide support for maneuver forces in the RoK, to include another "Super XII" in December, and prepared for redeployment to Fort Hood, Texas in 2016. Rolling Thunder!

2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, Deep Strike

After receiving continue-the-mission instructions from the battalion's National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., rotation at the end of 2014, Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, Deep Strike, began 2015 furthering their gated training strategy in preparation for a ninemonth rotation to Camp Casey, South Korea. A key milestone ahead of the deployment occurred April 1, when 41st Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) inactivated and reflagged as 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (DIVARTY) thus realigning 2-20th FA under the 1st CD DIVARTY at Fort Hood, Texas. In May, the battalion deployed to Korea with its equipment to set the base for the rotationally deployed Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion as part of the 210th FAB.

On May 27, 2-20th FA's main body arrived on the Korean Peninsula, becoming the first rotationally deployed MLRS battalion in the Korean Theater of Operations. During their first months in the Republic of Korea (RoK) they executed an aggressive Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration in order to rapidly build combat power. Augmenting the 210th Field Artillery Thunder Brigade's

MLRS fire power, the battalion established a Fight Tonight capability in support of the Korean Ground Component Command's Counter Fire Task Force; ready to employ lethal Fires at a moment's notice. The battalion demonstrated its readiness during August, when the battalion played an integral role in providing a flexible deterrent option to North Korean provocations.

On August 16, 2-20th FA realigned under the 75th Field Artillery Diamond Brigade. The 75th FAB commander held an official patch ceremony on Oct. 14, during his visit to the Deep Strike battalion on the peninsula. As they continue their rotation in the Republic of Korea, 2-20th FA continues to support 210th FAB and 2nd Infantry Division's Fight Tonight capability. In February 2016, 2-20th FA relinquishes their responsibilities as the rotationally deployed MLRS battalion to a follow-on MLRS battalion. When they redeploy back to Fort Hood, the battalion will immediately prepare to move to Fort Sill, Okla. and complete their realignment to the 75th Field Artillery Brigade.

https://www.facebook. com/2-20-Field-Artillery-Battalion-360629588200/

14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Dark Cloud

14th Marine Regimental Headquarters is currently located aboard the Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, and its units can be found spread throughout 15 different cities in 12 states in the continental United States.

Fourteenth Marine Regiment provides general support (GS) rocket artillery and direct support/general support cannon artillery support to 4th Marine Division units, as well as providing unit and individual augmentation to I Marine Expeditionary Force, II Marine Expeditionary Force and III Marine Expeditionary Force. It also provides communications augmentation support throughout the division by facilitating long-range high frequency and satellite communications, as well as data networking capabilities. The 14th Marine Regiment units have continued to serve as a force multiplier, habitually integrat-

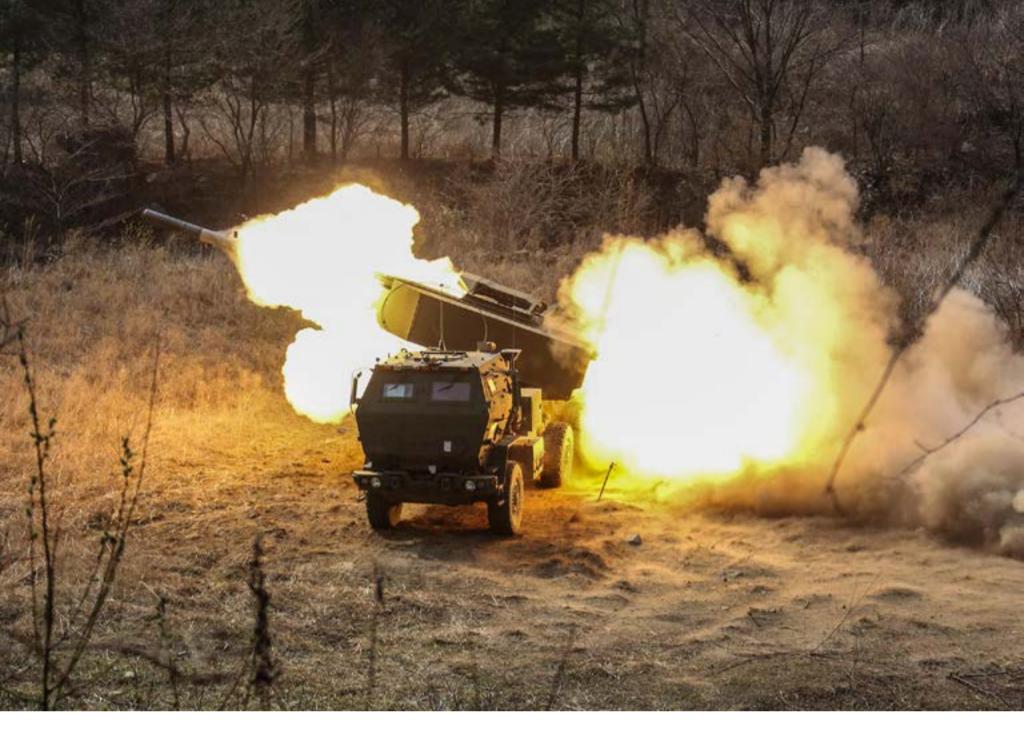
ing in battalion and higher level exercises throughout the United States, as well as outside the U.S.

The regiment additionally serves as a force artillery headquarters (FAHQ), providing a task-organized capability which facilitates command and control of GS Fires in support of the Marine Air Ground Task Force. During the fall, the regiment spent a significant amount of time conducting an operations planning team driven assessment of the roles and mission of the FAHQ, nested within the dynamics of the current operating environment, technological initiatives/advancements, and the tenets of Expeditionary Force 21. The Marines continued to support enduring tasks to provide public relations, funeral honors and Casualty Assistance Calls Officer support to its surrounding communities.

2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Peacemaker

The 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment provided general support rocket Fires to the total force. Maximizing its proximity and relationships with sister-service hosts, the battalion habitually conducts joint training with local Army units in order to build relationship and procedures for integration in a joint environment. One of the battalion's primary focuses in 2015 was on the planning, integration and exercising of the unit's High Frequency (HF) assets, with digital fire mission process-

ing as a proof of concept via the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS). The battalion's training priority remains HF voice proficiency, followed by the refinement of HF digital mission processing via the AFATDS. Difficult in and of itself with units geographically dispersed throughout the United States (Oklahoma City, Okla.; Huntsville, Ala.; El Paso, Texas; and Grand Prairie, Texas), the focus on long-range command and control (C2) and distributed operations requiring independent



Marines from the D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, launch a rocket from their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). Photo courtesy of 2-14th Marines.

dent, dispersed, annual training exercises was both practical in a fiscally constrained environment, but also essential to the development of tactics, techniques, and procedures for the future of HIMARS employment in a GPS denied and degraded operating environment.

Upon further development of its longrange capabilities, the battalion was able to command and control its geographically dispersed subordinate units during support of various training exercises, to include receipt of a fire mission from U.S. European Command Stuttgart, Germany, via the 3rd Infantry Division, Division Artillery, Fort Stewart, Ga. This concept was further developed with 1st Armored Division Artillery, located in Fort Bliss, Texas, over a distance in excess of 600 miles, as 2nd Battalion became the first unit to send and receive digital fire missions through the narrow-band, tactical satellite Demand Assigned Multiple Access networks. The battalion also focused on re-deployment of equipment to each individual training site and equipment maintenance following its annual training exercises.

3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Liberty

During the past year, the 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment remained primarily focused on the planning and coordination for support of multiple exercises, both in the continental United States and overseas. The entirety of its training throughout the year focused on the development of the staff's ability to command and control its batteries, as well as battery-level training focused on its integration with active component battalions. The battalion was tasked to provide support for Integrated Training Exercise (ITX) 4-15 at the Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Third Battalion, 14th Marines

provided direct support Fires to 25th Marine Regiment, who served as higher head-quarters during this training evolution. ITX 4-15 represented the largest share of the battalion's planning efforts. Approximately 600 personnel from the various batteries within the battalion participated in this event. As the cornerstone of this training, all of the key leadership participated in this exercise, to include battalion and battery staffs. Due to the geographical dispersed nature of the battalion, the support provided to ITX 4-14 provided a superb opportunity to exercise the embarkation and logistical proficiency of 3-14th Ma-

Marines from M Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, pose in front of a historical marker in honor of M Battery's accomplishments. Photo courtesy of 3-14th Marines.



rines as they coordinated the movement of personnel and equipment from their home training centers to the training site. The battalion was able to hone its skills in its core mission essential tasks, providing fire support for the numerous maneuver units involved in the exercise.

The battalion also provided support for the annually scheduled combined U.S. – Morocco joint military exercise, African Lion 15. Battery I, 3/14th Marines supported this joint exercise, conducting bilateral artillery training with the 4e Batterie, 6e Groupe d'Artillerie Royale of the Forces Armees Royales. In the upcoming year, the battalion will plan to integrate with 10th Marine Regiment during their regimental fire exercise, as well as to continue their support to 4th Marine Division units.

5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, Hoplite

In 2015, 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment continued to build upon its relationship with 11th Marine Regiment, located approximately 70 miles south of the battalion headquarters. Due to the proximity of their locations, 5th Battalion has established

a habitual relationship with 11th Marines and their battalions, producing a beneficial alternate training opportunity. Early in the year, the battalion successfully participated in Desert Firing Exercise 115 with 11th Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Air Ground

Marines from P Battery, 5th Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, fire the M777 during a live-fire exercise at Yakima Training Center, Wash. Photo courtesy of 5-14th Marines.



Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., with all subordinate firing batteries present. The battalion gained great experience, integrating seamlessly with its active component counterparts. In order to realize the battalion's full participation in the 11th Marines firing exercise, 5-14th Marines coordinated the transportation of personnel and equipment of their two distant batteries (Battery P in Spokane, Wash., and

Battery Q in Aurora, Colo.). This complex coordination between multiple units and funding agencies was vital to the overall success of the battalion's participation. In addition to this major exercise, the battalion conducted six battery-level FIREXs, one battalion (-) FIREX, and participated in one regimental FIREX. Additionally, the battalion conducted numerous command post exercises.

Communications Company, 14th Marine Regiment

Assigned to the 14th Marine Regiment, Communication Company provides general communications support to the entire 4th Marine Division. Throughout the year, leadership from the company focused on, and supported numerous planning conferences for the United States Africa Command sponsored bilateral training exercise, African Lion 15, held in Morocco.

During the execution of this exercise, the company provided teams to support 25th Marine Regiment and their personnel. It would also provide teams to support 25th Marines during Integrated Training Exercise 4-15, in Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Communications Company also provided support to the Marine Forces Reserve Com-

Marines from Communications Company, 14th Marine Regiment, conduct a road march exercise. Photo courtesy of Communication Company, 14th Marines.



munications Exercise, providing planning guidance to participating units, as well as building data servers used to support the exercise. The unit also augmented the Georgia Deployment Program, a U.S. Marine Forces Europe initiative to train members of the Georgian military to better support International Security Assistance Force operations in the country of Afghanistan.

The company continues to support 14th Marines and the 4th Marine Division as a whole with Very High Frequency Adaptive Networking Wideband Waveform training to requesting and utilizing mobile training teams from Marine Corps Network Operation Support Center and the Communications Training Center -2 in preparation for upcoming exercises.

Battery A, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Gladiators

The *Gladiators* of Battery A, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment with assistance from the Missile Defense Agency and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Project Office deployed to Wake Island Oct. 30 and successfully completed the THAAD Flight Test Operational-02 Event 2. The event was a complex operational flight test of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) that demonstrated a layered defense architecture in the vicinity of Wake Island.

The test stressed the ability of Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) and THAAD weapon systems to negate two ballistic missile threats while Aegis BMD simultaneously conducted an anti-air warfare operation. This operational test required all elements (THAAD battery, Forward-Based Mode AN/TPY-2 and Aegis BMD-configured ship with AN/SPY-1 radar) to work together in an integrated layered defense design to detect, track, discriminate, engage, and negate the ballistic missile threats.

At approximately 11:05 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time Oct. 31, a short range air

launch target (SRALT) was launched by an Air Force C-17 aircraft southeast of Wake Island. The THAAD AN/TPY-2 radar in terminal mode detected the target and relayed track information to other defending BMDS assets. The THAAD weapon system developed a fire control solution, launched a THAAD interceptor missile, and successfully intercepted the SRALT target.

As a demonstration of layered defense capabilities, both Aegis BMD and THAAD launched interceptors to engage the extended medium range ballistic missile. The USS John Paul Jones successfully launched a Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IB Threat Upgrade guided missile, but an anomaly early in its flight prevented a midcourse intercept.

However, the THAAD interceptor, in its terminal defense role, acquired and successfully intercepted the target. Concurrently, Aegis BMD successfully engaged the BQM-74E air-breathing target with a Standard Missile-2 Block IIIA guided missile. A failure review is currently underway to investigate the SM-3 anomaly.

Utah U.S. Army National Guard 65th Field Artillery Brigade, *America's Thunder*

The 65th Field Artillery Brigade headquarters, along with 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, conducted a brigade-level live-fire exercise in May at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.

More than 2,200 projectiles were fired on target during the multi-echelon annual training event. Successful execution set conditions for the 2016 annual training event at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., where the brigade will additionally control a rocket battalion, a support battalion, a signal company and a radar platoon during the planned full-scale, complex operation.

The brigade hosted two Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Boss Lift events during the May annual training where employers were able to observe live-fire exercises with crew-served weapons and the M109A6 Paladin Howitzer. The events helped employers understand

Maj. Brett Anderson (center), Headquarters and Headquarters Battery commander, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, stands with the Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Ray Odierno (left), and retired Col. William J. Davis (right) following his receipt of the General Douglas Macarthur award at the Pentagon, May 29. Photo by Staff Sgt. Darron Salzer.



the demands of their Soldier-employees and observe their leadership qualities in action.

Maj. Brett Anderson, Headquarter Battery commander, was celebrated as one of the nation's top company-grade leaders in 2015. He received the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award at the Pentagon May 29 from former Army Chief of Staff, General Raymond T. Odierno. Anderson was one of the seven recipients from the Army National Guard's more than

350,000-member formation to be awarded this coveted leadership recognition.

The brigade also continues to actively participate in joint and warfighter exercises to maintain and increase its war-fighting skills. The brigade headquarters participated in Fleet Synthetic Training–Joint in April and June; a 40th Infantry Division command post exercise in June; Ulchi Focus Guardian in August and Yama Sakura in December.



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, recon their firing position in preparation for a live-fire exercise May 2, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Photo by Senior Airman Benjamin Landon.

1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, Big Red

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, Big Red, assumed the lead role for the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) enhanced response force package and CBRNE assistance support element within the FEMA Region VIII Homeland Response Force (HRF).

The battalion participated in a two-week external evaluation (EXEVAL) in November where they demonstrated near-perfect proficiency and received high praise from the evaluators. After completion of the EXEVAL, the focus for the battalion was balanced between its federal artillery mission and its assigned mission under the HRF.

Since January, the battalion aggressively trained to strengthen its proficiencies culminating in conducting live-fire exercises (LFXs). Soldiers from each battery trained on the transportation process which included drivers training from 116th Engineer Battalion on heavy equipment transportation. They improved their proficiency to relocate equipment safely and efficiently.

Ramping up operations, LFXs were conducted in April, and again in May, during annual training at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah as part of a combined operation with 65th Field Artillery Brigade and 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery.

During annual training, the battalion conducted all firing tables to fulfill platoon certification. The brigade functioned in its role as higher command during the May event and provided the battalion with worth-while staff training. With years since the last brigade-level field training event, this annual training facilitated completion of all training objectives and a safe and effective execution of all Fires.

The battalion is moving forward with its federal artillery mission and assignment with the HRF, understanding that both are "no fail" missions. The battalion's aggressive and innovative training plan will facilitate accomplishment of both missions and *Big Red* is proud to be entrusted with these important responsibilities.

2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Triple Deuce

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery executed an annual training plan which incorporated two training sites in May at Dugway Proving Ground and Camp Williams, both in Utah. The battalion effectively coordinated missions with the 65th Field Artillery Brigade and 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery. The live-fire phase at Dugway allowed the battalion

two of the five requirements for accurate fire and sustainment operations.

The second phase of the battalion's annual training occurred at Camp Williams, Utah, and focused on individual weapons qualification, crew-level drills, and defense support to civil authorities training with civilian emergency agencies. This training allowed



A M109A6 Paladin howitzer driver with the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, stops for fuel May 7 at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, during annual training while moving to the next firing location. Photo by Senior Airman Benjamin Landon.

the battalion to exercise domestic operations force packages to assess its state mission(s) and enhance readiness to support any type of natural disaster or civil disturbance. In addition to receiving training on mass decontamination, search and extraction, and firefighting, all officers and senior noncommissioned officers attended a full day of liaison and incident command training at Salt Lake County Emergency Operations Center.

Members of the battalion were called upon in September by the governor of Utah to utilize some of these domestic response skills. A 27-member team from the battalion responded to a flash-flooding incident and assisted with emergency operations to search for and recover flood victims in Hildale, Utah.

The mission was extremely difficult and the Soldiers worked tirelessly to recover the final missing victim. The element also worked in a true interagency environment with Utah Task Force 1, Search and Rescue, and other volunteers giving them crucial experience for future missions. Triple Deuce prides itself on being involved in the community and prepared to serve the nation.

Virginia U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, Stonewall Thunder



Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, perform a combined arms rehearsal for a command post exercise in June. Photo courtesy of 1-111th FA.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, Stonewall Thunder, deployed to Fort Drum, N.Y., for annual training to participate in the first multi-echelon integrated brigade training (MIBT) event.

The First Army exercise replicated a combat training center rotation, with Soldiers from the New York U.S. Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters and the Virginia Army National Guard's 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Participation in the MIBT consisted of a 96-hour brigade command post exercise (CPX), 72-hour battery-level squad tactical exercises (STX), and a Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise (CALFEX) which fully integrated fire support personnel within maneuver units.

The battalion conducted full deployment and redeployment operations from Hampton, Va., to Fort Drum, N.Y., by commercial line haul and convoy operations. The tactical convoy consisted of 50 vehicles and rolling stock traveling accident-free over 1,200 miles. The battalion effectively employed a separate tactical command post (TAC) and tactical operations center (TOC) throughout the MIBT. The TAC provided operational control and battle tracking for the CALFEX and STX scenarios, to include battalion fire direction center operations, while the TOC supported the brigade CPX.

The battalion safely conducted 77 fire missions, expending 1,264 field artillery rounds, provided TOC system operators received mission command system survivability training, built a scenario driven common operating picture and refined battle drills which were exercised extensively during a 96-hour CPX. Leadership and staff sections continued the military decision-making process initiated earlier in the training year from course of action development through production of a field artillery support plan.

Immediately following annual training, the battalion prepared a firing battery to augment 1st Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment as the field artillery opposing force (OPFOR) in a decisive action training environment against 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division during Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 16-02.

The battery provided a near-peer artillery adversary with the intent to stress capabilities and enable combat readiness for the rotational training unit. The battalion is in preparations to send another firing



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery splash up water while helping on state active-duty in October. The Soldiers provided high water transportation, debris removal, and damage assessment capabilities in support of state and local authorities. Photo courtesy of 1-111th FA.

battery to support JRTC Rotation 16-04 at Fort Polk, La. as the FA OPFOR in 2016.

The headquarters continues to work with key federal and state partners to set

the conditions for a successful transformation and growth to the composite field artillery force structure in 2017.

29th Infantry Division

The 29th Infantry Division completed a full year of training in preparation for Warfighter Exercise (WFX) 16-02. The division's training spanned several states to include stakeholder units.

The division partners with units from Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia, Puerto Rico and North Carolina. Building relationships across the warfighting functions and into each stakeholder unit allows the division to conduct realistic training. This year, the division's focus was on unified land operations using a Caspian Sea scenario specific to WFX 16-02.

To prepare, 29th ID reached out to its aligned 142nd Field Artillery Brigade and the 169th Field Artillery Brigade. The 169th FAB was paired with the 29th ID for WFX 16-02 due to the 142nd FAB already completing a WFX. Working together, the three units were able to create multi-eche-

lon training in a digital environment across multiple states. Soldiers in 29th ID operating at Fort Belvoir, Va. conducted digital training via Joint Network Node (JNN), to include fire mission processing, with the 142nd FAB located at Fort Chaffee, Ark. The digital communications allowed 142nd FAB Soldiers to conduct a live-fire exercise with organic field artillery units.

Soldiers in 142nd FAB received call for Fires from two groups of observers: the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Combat Observation Lasing Teams, and Air Force and Naval Special Warfare Group joint tactical air controllers. These real-time fire missions were processed and cleared by the 29th ID fires section, located over 1,000 miles away in Virginia, while the 142nd FAB provided safety oversight and local control. Concurrently, 29th ID Fires and 169thFAB, located at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., conducted a communications exercise via a secure battle net link, a distance of over 1,500 miles.

This exercise demonstrated the ability of guard units to execute multi-echelon training using both JNN and guard-net communications links while located hundreds of miles apart.

As the Fires community searches for cost effective ways to meet future training requirements, 29th ID, 142nd FAB and 169th FAB refined and validated a method that is attainable with current resources.

The division's next step in preparation was to conduct command post exercises (CPX), to replicate the warfighter scenario locally. They involved stakeholder units in these CPX's, as well as Air Force partners from the 165th Air Support Operations Squadron in Georgia. The CPX's incorporated lessoned learned and modified tactical standard operating procedures to include the Joint Air Ground Integration Center. During WFX 16-02, the division validated the JAGIC concept. This center allowed the division to rapidly clear Fires by merging the air and ground workstations into one central location.

On the Fires planning side, the division worked with XVIII Airborne Corps and the 101st Airborne Division. The division conducted Fires rehearsals, targeting working groups, and targeting boards to synchronize Fires from corps to battalion levels. They conducted a tactical Fires rehearsal on a small scale map to walk each brigade fire support officer (FSO) through the plan and their responsibilities. This paid dividends once the exercise began. They were also successful using targeting working groups, via command post of the future, to synchronize the operation with brigade FSOs.

In training year 2016, 29th ID will expand the digital environment to integrate the 682nd Air Support Operations Center and the 165th Air Support Operations Squadron and execute joint training scenarios.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

17th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunderbolt

In January, 17th Field Artillery Brigade headquarters redeployed from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, after a successful completion of its duties as the Force Field Artillery (FFA) Headquarters for U.S. Army Central Command. The unique mission and experiences gained during Operation Spartan Shield greatly enhanced the brigade's ability to give accurate and predictive Fires in support of joint operations.

Upon redeployment, the brigade headquarters prepared to support three joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational U.S. Pacific Command exercises as the I Corps FFA and Counterfire (CF) Headquarters. In preparation, the Thunderbolt Soldiers were able to integrate deployment lessons learned into Corps Warfighter 15-04, preparing the brigade for upcoming international exercises.

Pfc. Aidian Monzeglio, Task Force First Round, out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., watches a fire whirl engulf a tree Aug. 26 in the Colville National Forrest. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Porch.

In July the brigade supported Talisman Saber 15, the bi-annual PACOM exercise conducted with the Australian Defense Force, and was the first time the brigade served as the FFA/CF Headquarters for I Corps. This was vital to the establishment of standard operating procedures that focused on brigade integration within the Corps staff and Fires support element.

In August, the *Thunderbolt Brigade* participated in Ulchi Freedom Guardian 15. The exercise enabled strategic planning with the Republic of Korea, while validating the brigade's mission command systems as the FFA/CF Headquarters. In December, the brigade supported Operation Yama Sakura with the Japanese Self-Defense Force to certify the brigade staff. During this ex-

The 17th Field Artillery Brigade held a change of command ceremony June 19 for Col. Tim Kehoe, (outgoing commander) and Col. Andrew Gainey (incoming commander). During the ceremony, the unit colors were passed symbolizing the change in leadership. Photo by Sgt. Quanesha Deloach.



ercise, the Thunderbolt Brigade integrated the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, into its role in support of I Corps to enhance the relationship between the two FA brigades.

The integration of the brigade in all three PACOM exercises led to a drastic increase

in situational understanding of the targeting process and enabled integrated, joint proactive counterfire analysis.

The 17th Field Artillery Brigade will remain active, adaptive, agile, and always ready. *Thunderbolt!*

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

The First Round Battalion has been exceptionally busy supporting operations with international and interagency partners worldwide. The first part of 2015 was spent in United Arab Emirates (UAE), assigned to the U.S. Central Command Force Field Artillery Headquarters in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. During the nine-month deployment, the battalion partnered with the UAE Army and the Jordanian Royal Army providing instruction in the use and tactical employment of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

Soldiers with A Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, prepare to fire High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems during training at Yakima Training Center, Oct. 23. Photo by Capt. Tania Donovan.

The battalion conducted cross training and shared base security operations with Australian, British, New Zealand, and Dutch forces and stood ready for short notice deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Additionally, the battalion participated in fire support conferences with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Kazakhstan, assisting with the U.S. Army Forces, U.S. Central Command Regional Partnership mission. Achievements garnered during this deployment were the first combined HIMARS U.S./UAE live-fire

Soldiers with 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, return home from a ninemonth deployment, May 15. Photo by Sgt. Quanesha Deloach.



and the first air-load and flight of a Jordanian HIMARS.

In May, the battalion returned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. and immediately prepared for a battalion-level change of command in June. In August, *First Round* was alerted for a short-notice deployment on a Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) mission to fight wild fires. For the first time since 2005, an active-duty Army battalion was engaged in a DSCA firefighting mission. For three weeks, the battalion

was spread hundreds of miles across Eastern Washington fighting three separate fires; the Baldy, Grease Creek and Tower fires. Upon returning to JBLM, *First Round* immediately moved into a month-long training phase, culminating in a live-fire at the Yakima Training Center.

The successful execution of multiple and diverse missions demonstrated the ability of the *First Round Battalion* to stand ready to deploy and serve the nation regardless of the mission requirements.

308th Brigade Support Battalion, Red Lions

In 2015, the 308th Brigade Support Battalion supported three exercises at the Yakima Training Center, at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash.

Fifth Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment's deployment and redeployment from Kuwait, deployed a team in support of the domestic wildland firefighting efforts in the Pacific Northwest, and participated in three major Pacific Command exercises that included Talisman Sabre, Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Yama Sakura.

In the spring, 308th BSB deployed to YTC for battery and battalion-level qualifications of 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) crews. In the summer, the battalion participated in Talisman Sabre, a multi-national joint exercise, which took place in Australia, JBLM, and Hawaii. The support operations office tracked ammunition and readiness for all Corps field artillery units. Following this exercise, the battalion validated its systems by operat-

ing within the Force Field Artillery Headquarters in support of Ulchi Freedom Guardian 15, a multinational exercise with the Republic of Korea army.

In October, the battalion deployed a Forward Logistics Element to YTC in support of 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment and 1-94th FAR battery-level HIMARS qualification. Both 256th Signal Company and Headquarters Support Company used the event as an opportunity to train on convoy operations, battle drills, night vision training, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training, and land navigation. The battalion concluded the year with its support during Yama Sakura in conjunction with the Japanese Defense Forces. The battalion also sent a liaison officer package forward to Japan to coordinate sustainment operations with the 10th Regional Support Group, based-out of Okinawa, and the forward elements of the 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

Finally, the 308th BSB finished the year by providing outload support to deploying elements from 1-94th FAR and 5-3rd FAR as they prepared to participate in operations in Kuwait and training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., for 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. The Red Lions continue to work hard to maintain the high standards the unit lives by – *Pride in Performance!*

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

In February, the Flexible Battalion began its training process by certifying and qualifying all crews and platoons. Home station training culminated in May with Operation Rising Spear, a complex and comprehensive battery external evaluation at Yakima Training Center (YTC), Wash.

At the height of the summer, the Flexible Battalion staff and Headquarters Battery deployed in support of 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, for National Training Center Rotation 15-08.5. The battalion staff trained on operating live command and control of two virtual batteries. It was a successful rotation that validated the battalion mission essential task list (METL) and provided insightful learning lessons about the deep fight ap-

plication of the targeting process and the overall mission of the battalion's liaison officers.

While at NTC, the battalion successfully synchronized A Battery, 1-94th FAR (HI-MARS Rapid Infiltration Mission or HI-MARS Table III) with 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment into China Lake Naval Weapon Station. In August, A Battery conducted its second mission at NTC, a joint Fires exercise for the chief of staff of the Army (CSA) in partnership with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, for which efforts were lauded by the CSA. September saw the entire A Battery return to NTC Rotation 15-10 with 1 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division to validate their assigned mission.



A High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is ground-guided off of an aircraft. Photo courtesy of 1-94th FA.



A High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) fires a rocket druing a live-fire exercise. Photo courtesy of 1-94th FA.

In the fall, the battalion completed preparations for its deployment in early 2016 to the Central Command area of responsibility. B Battery also conducted section qualifications, two HIRAIN missions and joint training with 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces. The year concluded with a highly trained and deployable battalion, living up to its vision: "Professional, Ready and Flexible!"

2nd Infantry Division Artillery, Warrior Strike

Soldiers of 2nd Infantry Division Artillery established initial operating capability in October 2014. Six months later, DI-VARTY Force Fires Headquarters achieved full operating capability with the attachment of 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, TRA 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment and 2-377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment and the successful execution of Exercise Key Resolve in support of Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division (RUCD).

During the headquarters deployment to the Republic of Korea (RoK) in support of Exercise Key Resolve, the DIVARTY seamlessly integrated its Army Mission

The 2nd Infantry Division Artillery chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear noncommisioned officer in charge gives mission-oriented protective postures level and annual mask confidence training in preparation for Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division theater specific threat. Photo courtesy of 2nd ID DIVARTY.



Command Systems into the 2nd ID RUCD strategic network, facilitating fire support coordination and intelligence filtering.

The DIVARTY sent a team of observer-controller-trainers to the Yakima Training Center where they certified three firing batteries on Table XV in preparation for National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. Concurrent with integration, DI-VARTY published 19 standardization letters outlining certification programs and safety standards, which codified tactics, techniques and procedures refining the unit's ability to provide fast, accurate and lethal Fires in support of maneuver operations on the battlefield.

DIVARTY again deployed to the RoK, this time for Ulchi Freedom Guardian 15 where targeteers aligned 2nd ID RUCD and Eighth Army targeting processes with the joint targeting standard. This allowed for the production of electronic target folders and STAR packets, increasing the efficiency of targeting across the Korean peninsula.

The year concluded with the headquarters' preparation for a third deployment to the peninsula in support of warfighter where DIVARTY stands ready to synchronize fire support, target and deliver Army, joint, and multinational Fires as the 2nd ID RUCD Force Fires Headquarters. *Warrior Strike!*

2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Steel

'In time of peace, prepare for war' – the 17th Field Artillery Regimental motto, is befitting of the *Steel Battalion* – the regiment's lone active battalion.

Beginning in March, the battalion commenced its operations as part of 2nd Infantry Division Artillery. Fundamental to this effort was the consolidation of all fire support teams (FiST) into D Battery, one of the Army's first FiST-centric formations.

The summer saw the battalion engage in multiple, significant training events. In May, the battalion increased its lethality when it fielded capability set 15 (CS-15), providing rapid, tactical SIPR connectivity through satellite based platforms down to the battery level. In June, the battalion executed a two-week field problem where it became the first M777 battalion to successfully validate the effectiveness of the CS-15 systems. In so doing, the battalion fired more than 1,800 rounds in its execution of sustained readiness. Finally, during August and September, the battalion sent

Observer-controller-trainers from the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery evaluate C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, during their division artillery readiness test at Yakima Training Center, Wash., in October. Photo courtesy of 2-17th FA.



FiST teams to Yakima Training Center to forge relationships with elements from the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force during the annual bilateral training exercise Rising Thunder.

Building on the successes of summer training and the battalion's qualification through Table XV, *Steel* deployed with 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division to YTC in October. They executed multi-echeloned training along

Soldiers from 1st Platton, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, emplace a M777A2 howitzer during the unit's top gun and fire direction center competition at Yakima Training Center, Wash., in October. Army photo.



Fire supporters from D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, observe Fires in support of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Photo courtesy of 2-17th FA.



three primary lines of operation: battery training, 2-2nd SBCT company Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise (CALFEX) support and Division Artillery Readiness Testing (DART). Over the course of 35 days, the battalion managed battery training and successful DART execution for three firing batteries. They provided Fires for 16 iterative company CALFEX lanes, exercised ground and air clearance through the brigade fire support element for every round fired, massed the battalion (field artillery

Table XVII), and culminated with synchronization and coordination of cannon, rocket and rotary and fixed-wing Fires in support of a brigade-level coordinated attack. In total, *Steel* fired more than 4,600 rounds at YTC.

Steel is trained and ready to provide Fires in support of Task Force Lancer, 2-2nd SBCT, during National Training Center Rotation 16-03 and participation in Pacific Pathways 16-02 in the coming year.

1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, Red Lion

Through the past year, the Red Lion Battalion shot over 5,000 rounds on the minute, without delay through multiple training events, demonstrations, and exercises. First Battalion, 37th Field Artillery began the year conducting Table XII platoon live-fire qualifications at the Yakima Training Center. The exercise tested the platoon leadership's ability to shoot, move and communicate across large distances.

After security force deployment, C Battery demonstrated the lethality of the M777A2 in a capability exercise demon-

Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, do a Dual-Point Sling Configuration live-fire air raid at Yakima Training Center, Wash. Photo courtesy of 1-37th FA.



stration for distinguished visitors and advisors from the Indian army in March on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. This exercise encompassed the lethal and agile maneuverability of the Red Lions. In April, the battalion returned to YTC in order to evaluate battery command teams' tactical proficiency through the Division Artillery Readiness Test and Table XV certifications. The month-long exercise provided an opportunity to challenge the battalion's sustainment tactics, techniques and procedures prior to the upcoming National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. rotation. In addition, the exercise showcased the proficiency of fires support teams (FiST) since the introduction of D Battery, consolidating all fire supporters into the Army's first FiST battery.

In June, the *Red Lions* deployed to the NTC, where they provided timely and accurate Fires and integration of all fire support assets for 1-2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team's combined arms maneuver operations. Shortly after redeploying from NTC, C Battery deployed back to YTC in

support of Operation Rising Thunder, a multinational exercise with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force. C Battery also conducted a capabilities exercise for the Pacific Command (PACOM) commander, demonstrating the multinational training capabilities of YTC.

In October, A Battery deployed to Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif. in support of 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment during a combined arms live fire exercise. The training enabled A Battery the unique opportunity to fully integrate Fires with aerial assets and ground forces assaulting an objective simultaneously. In November and December, 2-3 IN fire supporters prepared for a four month deployment to Pacific Pathway; a multinational training event occurring in multiple Asian countries as part of PACOM Commander's Theater Security Cooperation plan. The upcoming deployment will see members of C, D and F Batteries operating side-by-side with international partners.

5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, **Dragonslayers**

Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Dragonslayers redeployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., following their mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. They were responsible for counter-rocket, artillery, and mortar (C-RAM) operations in Afghanistan and the unit was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation for the comprehensive protection they provided during their deployment.

Over the course of 2015, the battalion became the first regiment to complete the conversion validation exercise in both indirect fire protection capability and reorganization to an indirect Fires protection capability (IFPC)-Avenger battalion. This conversion was achieved by getting Soldiers qualified with Table VIII and Table XII gunnery certification which allows the Soldiers to proficiently operate the surface-to-air defense systems and be ready

Soldiers of the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, participate in a deployment ceremony as the unit colors were cased at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash., in preparation for their upcoming combat deployment. Photo courtesy 5-5thADA.



to rapidly deploy for ongoing missions. Immediately following the redeployment of the battalion, Headquarters and two batteries from Afghanistan, were designated by 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command as the Global Response Force (GRF) for C-RAM/IFPC operations. The unit is currently focused on maintaining their capabilities as well as learning from individuals to collective training for all recently deployed personnel.

While the battalion is focused on the GRF mission and upcoming deployments the Soldiers continue to build relationships with the local community by partnering with Cherrydale Elementary School in Steilacoom, Wash. for the second year. The battalion recently completed the reset phase of the Army Force Generation cycle and is training for future operations.

Washington U.S. Army National Guard

2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment

In July, the 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment of the Washington U.S. Army National Guard participated in a fire support coordination exercise (FSCX). The FSCX incorporated assets from the Washington ARNG, Air Force, and active

Staff Sgt. Richard VanVolkinburg cross-trains Sgt Brendan Beckley on the duties of section chief during Operation Soaring Hippo on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Photo by Sgt. Lisa Laughlin.





An M109A6 Paladin fires in support of Operation Soaring Hippo on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Photo by Sgt. Lisa Laughlin.

Army components. The experience was immensely beneficial for all Soldiers involved, and paved the way for an ongoing partnership with active component units on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Sgt. Lisa Laughlin with the Washington ARNG Public Affairs Office published the article below:

Story by Sgt. Lisa Laughlin

Soldiers with the Washington National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, provided fire support for 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment July 17-24 during a training mission (Operation Soaring Hippo) on Joint Base Lewis-Mc-Chord, Wash.

Capt. Lance Cromwell, commander of C Battery, 2-146th FA, said his unit was tasked to provide indirect Fires for a dismounted element from 2-75th Ranger Regiment during several training lanes, a mission that provided both units an opportunity to train and integrate Fires at all echelons.

"Second-146th Field Artillery's task is to provide indirect Fires, in support of a fire support coordination exercise (FSCX). What we are doing is enabling them to better coordinate and integrate all available Fires assets, which includes fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, and multiple indirect weapons systems to mass effects on the battlefield," said Cromwell.



Staff Sgt. Richard VanVolkinburg closes the breech on the M109A6 Paladin, during Operation Soaring Hippo on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Photo by Sgt.Lisa Laughlin.

Cromwell said the mission was a great training opportunity for his Soldiers.

"This was actually the first time the 2-146th Field Artillery has been able to partner with an active-duty unit, and fully support the Army's total force policy. What makes this even more unique is that it's not just a conventional unit we are supporting, it is an Army special operations command unit," said Cromwell.

Staff Sgt. Shane Carney, a section chief with C Battery, 2-146 FA, has the job of verifying and assuring that all shots down range are safe for our Soldiers and assets. Carney said one of the services his team provided was smoke rounds with electronic time fuses for ground cover.

"We use electronic time fuses for smoke rounds. The round will go over the target and the timer will allow it to explode in the air and the white phosphorous will come out of the bottom, base-ejecting, and provide smoke cover for the Rangers," said Carney.

Pvt. 1st Class Brandon Ousley, a driver for C Battery, 2-146th FA, drove and maintained the Paladin that is nicknamed Carnage during the training mission and was tasked with keeping inventory of the fired rounds. Ousley said the mission was a rewarding and educational experience for him.

"As a field artilleryman, any time you get to shoot a round is a good day, and to-day we got to fire off a good few. We have done fire missions that are usually outside of our scope of training because we are working with multiple units in concert, so we are getting to do some pretty exciting things outside of our usual training regimen," said Ousley.

Wisconsin U.S. Army National Guard

1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery

A-Battery, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), stationed at Sussex, Wis., completed its deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They provided rocket and missile support for operations throughout Afghanistan. The 79 Soldiers that deployed completed reintegration and reconstituted with their original units.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and 108th Forward Support Company completed annual training in June. During the training period, B Battery certified and qualified eight HIMARS crews.

Additionally, the battalion conducted HI-MARS live-fire operations at night for the first time since 2009.

Following the separate deployments of the battalion's batteries over the past two years, the battalion focused on fundamentals of shoot, move and communicate.

August was the first time in three years the battalion had all of its Soldiers together to train due to deployments. Although in reset, the battalion is focused on certifying 16 HIMARS crews and building on the knowledge developed during the deployments.

1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Red Fox

The 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, *Red Fox*, entered its reset year of the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle and conducted a reorganization to a composite FA battalion.

Soldiers from the *Red Fox Battalion* successfully fielded M119A3 and M777A2 howitzers with new equipment training in June at Fort McCoy, Wis. The battalion then conducted a subsequent live-fire exercise in August on both weapon systems.

The composite battalion organization included the standing up of a third firing battery, C Battery, and the return of 32nd

Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Red Arrow* fire supporters to the battalion's Head-quarters and Headquarters Battery.

Soldiers from 1-120th FA, also conducted training on other tasks, including U6 ASI, combat lifesaving, leader validation and the military decision-making process.

As the Soldiers of the *Red Fox Battalion* progress through the ARFORGEN cycle, they continue to develop proficiency in composite FA battalion operations for any state or federal mission.

The Soldiers of 1-120th FA remain dedicated to their motto of *Eager to Assist*.

Wyoming U.S. Army National Guard 115th Field Artillery Brigade, *Cowboy Brigade*

Soldiers in 115th Fires Brigade and 148th Brigade Signal Company completed their available year by supporting the execution of a high operating tempo training calendar with the brigade's organic battalions. The brigade came into fiscal year 2015 ready to deploy and quickly received mobilization orders for one of its FA battalions.

A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) was notified to support Operation Freedom's Sentinel 15-17 in Afghanistan with one HIMARS platoon.

The unit is conducting fire missions and will transition out with B Battery, 2-300th FA in 2016.

Second Battalion-300th FA also supported two National Training Center rotations in Fort Irwin, Calif. along with one battery from the 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and 148th BSC supported three warfighter exercises: Yama Sakura, Talisman
Saber and an internal Entity Resolution
Federation Support Team. These exercises increased efficiencies on Army Battle
Command System and mission command
capabilities.

Soldiers in 115th's support battalion, 960th Brigade Support Battalion, ended the year with a battalion collective event. The

960th BSB supported units participating in exercise Golden Coyote, covering South Dakota and Wyoming. The battalion validated their mission essential task list tasks by providing support for over 3,300 Soldiers and Airmen.

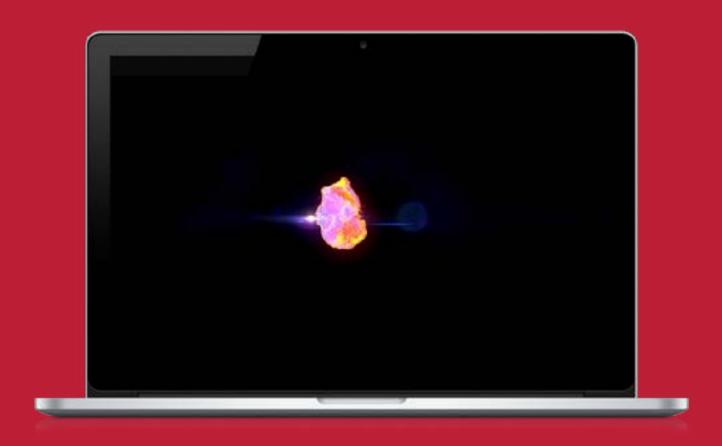
Their training became a real world response, when called out by Wyoming's governor to help a community after a devastating flood. Their quick response eased the uncertainty of events and proved again the agility and adaptability of the citizen-Soldiers.

The brigade's aligned for training FA battalions conducted available year requirements with annual training events, warfighter exercise and NTC support. The 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery; 1st Battalion, 151st Field Artillery and the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment conducted live-fire exercises at multiple locations, increasing efficiencies in their core competencies.

The brigade's AFT relationship continues to flourish with the battalions and the 34th Infantry Division.

Going forward, the *Cowboy Brigade* is ready for a new Army Force Generation cycle and its continued presence on the field as *The King of Battle. Cowboy Thunder!*

The Fires Knowledge Network



The Knowledge Management (KM) Staff at the Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE) works diligently to ensure that the best tool you have at your disposal for Artillery Information is the Fires Knowledge Network (FKN).

Yet, many of our Soldiers in the Fires Force have no idea of what FKN is, so when they have a question Google, Bing or Yahoo is usually where they look for an answer. But the KM Staff at the FCoE would like for you, the Fires Soldier, to think of the FKN as your go-to place when you have a question on any and everything artillery related, Field Artillery, Air Defense Artillery, Electronic Fires, etc.

You have a treasure chest of knowledge available on the FKN, but if for some reason you can't find it, there's a team of KM personnel available to help you get the official FCoE answer you need quickly. Click on the computer above to see and hear how this works.

KM professionals use the phrase, "One learns and everyone knows" and FKN wants to be your one-stop shop where everyone learns and knows. Visit FKN and look on the tool bar on the left side of the screen and you'll find links that will take you to a specific MOS or specialty page.

Using a Common Access Card (CAC) enabled device and go to http://sill-www.army.mil/fkn or type FKN into your Army Knowledge Online (AKO) search bar and you'll be on your way to a wealth of artillery knowledge! One learns, everyone knows!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:



Integration and Delivery of Fires to Enable Maneuver.

This issue serves as a gateway to the annual Fires Conference and generates interest in attendance through stories covering topics highlighted at the conference. The conference will facilitate discussions on "how to" conduct effective targeting, "how to" deliver fires to defeat the enemy and preserve freedom of action, and "how to" train our future leaders to best integrate fires with maneuver.

PIN: 105272-000