



From the COMMANDANT'S desk

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for coming to, or virtually attending the 2013 Fires Seminar "*Fires 2020.*" A lot of exciting things are happening within the school and our branch. If you missed the seminar the Official Briefs and DCO recordings are available on FKN @

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/39566136>.

You must log on with a CAC card to view.

In this edition, I would like to highlight an article submitted by 3-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (AFAR) Gun Devils at Fort Bragg, N.C. They are the first to be fielded the new digitized M119A3.

With our last howitzer now digitized; we will soon provide responsive, accurate fires like never before in support of commanders in all brigade combat team formations. I am pleased the Gun Devils have taken the time to share their lessons learned. These lessons learned are already shaping doctrine and leader development. This indeed is a monumental fielding, as it greatly contributes to the overall modernization of our branch.

While the advancement of the materiel needs of the branch stand out, advancement requires a lot of change across the entire DOTMLPF construct. The good news, in nearly every instance, is that the material advancements are simplifying training over time for both the operational force and the institutional training bases.

The Field Artillery Modernization Strategy aims to build the operationally adaptable Field Artillery Force of the future. Critical to that aim is a comprehensive Field Artillery leader development strategy to grow Soldiers and leaders. Operational adaptability will only occur when we have leadership ready to execute it as demanded by future operational environments. The Field Artillery School is advancing that leader development strategy in step with the overall aims of the Modernization Strategy.

For example, for decades we have relied on manual, analog methods of training our troops, but we are moving away from that to a training strategy that reflects a ratio of 60-30-10. While not an exact percentage, 60 percent represents

the goal that the majority of our instruction will focus on using our tools, systems and digital communications. 30 percent represents a blend of teaching digital devices with manual communication, while 10 percent represents teaching all analog methods as back-up knowledge.

I'm confident we're not only developing the right materiel, such as the digitized M119A3, but the right training solutions to support the maneuver commander in all unified land operations.

For a complete synopsis of what was discussed during the 2013 Fires Seminar, I invite you to read the article "*The Field Artillery Force of 2020*" which is scheduled to run in the July-August 2013 edition of the *Fires Bulletin* @ <http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin/>.

We are achieving great things, and we truly are on the glide path to modernizing the Field Artillery.

Thanks for all you do.

*King of Battle!
Fires Strong!*

COL Martin C. Clausen

'Gun Devils' field new digitized M119A3

by MAJ Hugh Sollom Battalion S3, CPT William Wilson BN AS3 and LTC Phil Jenison BN CDR

The introduction of the new M119A3 105mm Towed Howitzer to light artillery battalions is changing the landscape of the Field Artillery Branch as 105mm battalions will now possess a digital capability that allows for increased responsiveness in support of maneuver forces and greater survivability rates. It can best be characterized as the weapon of choice for IBCTs in Decisive Action.

In April, 3-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (AFAR) - Gun Devils, became the first Table of Organization and Equipment (TO&E) 105mm battalion to field the M119A3, marking the beginning of a new era in which 105mm artillery battalions will have nearly the same digital capabilities as the previously fielded 155mm M109A6 and M777A2.

Fielding of new equipment is never easy and it can't be stressed enough that communication and a close relationship between the fielding agent and the receiving unit is a must. Rolling out the red carpet and establishing a unified team concept is critical. We conducted multiple conference calls and face-to-face meetings with the fielding team prior to execution and these paid huge dividends during the fielding as all parties knew exactly what needed to be done to complete the mission. If any friction points arose,

already established relationships made it easy to solve them. 3-319th AFAR conducted three conference calls and two face-to-face meetings with fielding team personnel prior to any of the equipment arriving at Fort Bragg.

New Equipment Fielding (NEF) and New Equipment Training (NET) of the M119A3 was conducted in coordination with the Program Manager Towed Artillery Systems (PM-TAS) out of Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. and consisted of three phases covering a total of 26 days. The three phases of the NEF/NET were: Total Package Fielding (16 Days), Maintenance and Fire Direction Center NET (5 Days), and Operators NET (5 Days).

Total Package Fielding: The most important part of the M119A3 fielding, Total Package Fielding, consisted of signing for additional Basic Issue Items (BII) and Components of the End Item (COEI) as well as modifications to 16 x howitzers and 32 x HMMWVs (Prime Mover and Ammo Truck). Leader involvement during this phase is very important as the PM-TAS personnel work very efficiently and may need units to be prepared for an accelerated timeline.

Assigning an individual to act as the unit point of contact for Total Package Fielding will ensure that

Purpose: Founded in 2011, the *Redleg Update* provides past and present Field Artillery leaders with a monthly update of informational highlights to assist in their individual, collective and professional training efforts, as well as report on activities occurring throughout the Field Artillery community.

Official Distribution: The *Redleg Update* is distributed by the Commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery to key members of the Field Artillery chain of command across the U.S. Army. Past and current editions are also archived on FKN @

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/34549741>

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Interim Commandant,

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RFIs, Notes, and Notices: To submit a Request for Information (RFI), please email the POC listed below. The FA Commandant's Office will acknowledge receipt of RFIs within 24 hours and will attempt to provide an answer within 72 hours.

Points of Contact: We appreciate those who have provided announcements, notices, articles and lessons learned.

Additionally, if you have a story of interest or wish to initiate a discussion on any topic or issue facing the Field Artillery community, contact Mr. John Folland, (580) 558-0831, or the editor of the *Redleg Update*, Ms. Sharon McBride, Field Artillery STRATCOM officer, (580) 558-0836.

Hot Link Legend:

Green = Open Source on WWW

Red = CAC Card enabled
on AKO/FKN



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M119A3

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any identified problems are solved in an efficient manner. Our TTP was to assign our battalion XO and Battalion Maintenance Tech as primary our POCs.

Maintenance and FDC NET:

The second week of the fielding consisted of U6 personnel and Gunnery Sergeants receiving maintenance training that was focused on the changes between the M119A2 and M119A3. The five day MNET was an absolutely phenomenal block of instruction that laid the foundation for upkeep of the new system. One issue was the number of

personnel allowed to attend the training. We were allowed to send 10 personnel (4 x U6 from each firing battery and 2 x 91F). Our unit would have preferred to send more personnel to the class, but the instructor to student ratio was a limiting factor.

Concurrently, FDC personnel from across the battalion received 2 ½ days of FDC NET that focused on the digital capability of the M119A3. This training was conducted in preparation for the following week's Operators NET. This was an essential part of the fielding because it allowed the FDCs to have digital communication structures and AFATDS databases set up prior to the addition of the howitzers in to the training.

Ensuring that there is senior

NCO oversight during the FDC NET allowed our unit to focus on the howitzers during the Operators NET.

In addition, Survey personnel will receive training on the capabilities of the howitzer. In hindsight, we would have placed more emphasis on the Survey aspect of



Photo courtesy of 3-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (AFAR) - Gun Devils

the fielding as your Surveyors must understand the capabilities of the M119A3 when helping to determine the best locations for a Survey Control Point that will allow the M119A3 to conduct navigation updates.

Operators NET: The culminating phase of the M119A3 fielding was the five day Operators NET that consisted of system orientation, RSOP, emplacement drills, and a validation live fire exercise. 3-319th AFAR utilized multiple training areas over the entire week. The instructors did a phenomenal job teaching our howitzer sections how to operate the M119A3. Due to the POI, instructors were required to teach with fully manned howitzer sections. Because of this, we were required to break down

some of our sections to fully man howitzer sections (7 personnel). This wasn't an impact on the overall fielding, as everyone received the same training.

The last event completed was a validation live fire exercise during which each howitzer is required to fire 10 rounds. The unit can de-

termine how to execute the live fire. 3-319th AFAR executed a battalion right by piece for the initial check round for each howitzer and followed that by two additional fire missions conducted at

platoon level. The battalion controlled the flow of the fire missions as we had all 16 howitzers on line at one firing point. Rehearsals, especially with a new digital system, are essential to the success of this portion of the Operators NET.

In closing the most important piece of the entire NET is the sustained working relationship that will continue for the many months after the completion of the entire NET process. The Gun Devils are now working on conducting additional howitzer certifications and refining M119A3 Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) that can be shared with sister 105mm artillery battalions, to include the institutional sharing of DOTMLPF concerns as the fielding continues throughout the force.

REGIMENTAL PRIDE

As Per AR 600-82 para 5-3a, Special Appointees, The Honorary Colonels, Honorary Warrant Officers, Honorary Sergeants Major, and Distinguished Members of the Regiment provide a link with history for today's Soldiers.

The primary mission of these special appointees is to perpetuate the history and traditions of the Regiment, thereby enhancing unit morale and esprit.

The Honorary Member of the Regiment position is designed to recognize non-regimental members for their service to the regiment.

The Point of Contact for this program and any questions regarding submission of packets should be directed to SFC Benjamin Schneider at 580-442-5025 (COMM); 639-502 (DSN); or benjamin.h.schneider2.mil. Information is also on FKN @ <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/34845563>

The following is a list of individuals that were recently approved for Honorary Colonel of the Regiment (HCOR), Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment (HSGMOR), Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR), or Honorary Member of the Regiment (HMOR):

319TH FA REGT.

All DMOR-May 2013

MG James McDonald
 MG John Uberti
 MG(R) Jay Hood
 MG(R) John Marcello
 MG(R) Rodney Anderson
 BG Victor Petrenko
 BG(R) Uri French
 COL(P) Joseph Harrington
 COL(P) Wilson Shoffner
 COL Barry Di Ruzza
 COL Charles Hardy
 COL Edward Reinfurt
 COL Jeffrey Sanborn
 COL Jose Thompson
 COL Mark Murray
 COL Stephen Maranian
 COL Steven Smith
 COL William McRae
 COL(R) Theodore Janosko
 LTC David Sink

LTC John Rafferty
 LTC Kelly Webster
 CSM Daniel Willey
 CSM Franklin Jacobs
 CSM Joey Love
 CSM Michael Williams
 CSM Roger Howard
 CSM Steven Payton
 CSM(R) Alex Thompson
 CSM(R) Jimmy Tomlinson
 CSM(R) Manuel Chaves
 CSM(R) Wolf Amacker
 SGM(R) Charles Baxter
 SGT(R) Mahlon Sebring

5TH FA REGT.

DMOR-COL Gary Hisle, May 2013

30TH FA REGT.

HSGMOR/DMOR- 1SG(R) Earl Crabtree, March 2013
 DMOR - LTC(R) Urey Alexander, March 2013

37TH FA REGT.

HSGMOR- CSM(R) James Steinthal, April 2013

Warfighting Forums

The Field Artillery Warfighting Forums offer an opportunity for communication, collaboration, and coordination of the Army's Fires Brigades, SBCT, ABCT and IBCT Fires Battalions, Div/Corps Chiefs of Fires and the CTCs.

IBCT WfF – 27JUN13 @ 08:00 - 9:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/ibctfabnwff>

ABCT WfF – 02JULY13 @ 09:30-11:00
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/hbctfabnwff>

ABCT WfF – (FA Breakout session) 16JUL13 10:00 – 11:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/hbctfabnwff>

FiB WfF –18JUL13 16:00-17:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/fibwff>

IBCT WfF – (FA Breakout session) – 31JUL13 10:00 – 11:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/ibctfabnwff>

DIV/CORPS Fires WfF – 06AUG13 10:00 – 11:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/divcorpsfireswff>

CTC Forum – TBD 11:00-12:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/ctcfires>

SBCT WfF - (FA Breakout session) - TBD 11:00 – 13:00
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/ssxviiigrp3>

Knox, Hamilton & Gruber



Recognizing the Best Within Our Branch

2013 KHG AWARD MOI NOW AVAILABLE!



THE 2013 MOI DESCRIBING NOMINATION PROCEDURES IS NOW ON THE FAPO TAB OF THE FIRES KNOWLEDGE NETWORK @ [HTTPS://WWW.US.ARMY.MIL/SUITE/DOC/33296541](https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/33296541). NOMINATION PACKETS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE FAPO OFFICE BY 1 NOVEMBER 2013.