



From the COMMANDANT'S desk

Recently, the Secretary of the Army announced a policy change that expanded assignment opportunities for our female Field Artillery officers. As we move ahead with implementation of this policy, I want everyone to know that the Field Artillery branch is committed to ensuring that all of our Soldiers and leaders have the opportunity to achieve their highest potential.

The Field Artillery was one of the first combat arms branches to open commissioned officer opportunities to women. Since the early 70's, the FA branch has had women in its officer ranks. I see this policy change as a logical extension of a good news story, one that we have been committed to for over four decades. Our female officers and leaders have performed significant roles in our ranks and in the future these roles will be dramatically increased.

As we posture ourselves for

the future, the Field Artillery will continue to have a critical role in the Prevent, Shape and Win strategy articulated by the Chief of Staff of the Army. We will continue to recruit and acquire the very best talent to perform critical missions in support of unified land operations and in support of our Nation. I invite everyone to read an article about the assignment options for our female Field Artillery officers on [Page 4](#).

Also in this edition of the Redleg Update are updates on the Digitized M119A3 Program [{Page 2}](#) and the AN/TPQ-53 and AN/TPQ-50 radars [{Page 3}](#). As we continue to modernize the Field Artillery, these programs remain on track.

I'm sure you will find the information in these articles to be both exciting and informative. I'm confident we're developing the right materiel solutions to respond appropriately to the evolving capa-

bilities of our potential adversaries and in continuous support of unified land operations.

For additional updates on all the Field Artillery branch's modernization efforts and future materiel solutions, I invite you to read my Mud to Space article in the March/April 2013 Fires Bulletin <http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin> which is scheduled to be published soon. I am proud to report we are on time and on target in delivering the required operational capabilities for the Army of 2020.

Once again thanks for all that you do.

*King of Battle!
Fires Strong!*

BG Brian J. McKiernan

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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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.

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Update on the Digitized M119A3 Program

The Digitized M119A3 Program involves the development of a common Digital Fire Control System (DFCS) for our towed artillery systems. The M777A2 was the first towed howitzer with a DFCS. A program to integrate a DFCS capability onto the M119A2 towed howitzer was approved in 2008.

The Digitized M119A3 Program will leverage the software for the M777A2 howitzer and will maximize commonality in operations and training while minimizing cost. The application of a DFCS capability to our 105mm towed systems will enable faster emplacement, more responsive Fires and improve accuracy.

The M119A3 is currently scheduled to be fielded to three

units in FY13. The First Unit Equipped (FUE) will be 3-319 FAR, Fort Bragg, NC. The unit will receive 16 new production howitzers this month (March 2013).

The second unit will be 1-320 FA, Fort Campbell, KY in May 2013. They will receive 16 legacy M119A2 howitzers assembled from sister artillery units on Fort Campbell. Those legacy howitzers will then have the digital kits installed on them.

The third unit will be Fort Sill's own 1-78 FA. They will receive 14 digital kits that will be installed on the unit's existing M119A2 howitzers in the summer of 2013.



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Update on AN/TPQ-53, AN/TPQ-50

The HMMWV-mounted AN/TPQ-50 Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar and the truck-mounted AN/TPQ-53 Quick Reaction Capability Radar will soon become the primary target acquisition radars within the Field Artillery. These radars are designed to provide 360-degree detection coverage for counterfire and enable warning against incoming enemy rocket, artillery and mortar fire.

AN/TPQ-53. The An/TPQ-53 Radar system will be the new, long-range Field Artillery Target Acquisition sensor. The Q-53 is currently fielded as a Limited User Test in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). The initial production of the system was on an unarmored platform, but subsequent releases will be configured on an armored Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) vehicle platform.

The system has an increased range capability over the Q-37 systems, and has the capability to perform continuous 360 degree coverage. In the 90 degree mode, the Q-53 has demonstrated a TLE of 0.3 percent of range. The new system produces reduced clutter mitigation, increased encrypted wireless remote operational capability, and solid state technology components. Solid state technology reduces the maintenance requirements due to the elimination of alignments when electronic parts are replaced.

The repair parts for the Q-53 have been reduced to seven major components, a greatly reduced number over the previous Essential Repair Part Stockage List (ERPSL) requirements for the Q-36 and Q-37. This system will replace existing Q-36s and Q-37s in the Active force. The Q-53 will be manned by five personal as

stated in a recently approved Force Design Update (FDU). Reduced manning requirements for the Q-53 will allow for movement of 13Rs to Q-50 sections.

AN/TPQ-50. The AN/TPQ-50 is the Army's Program of Record for short to medium-range Target Acquisition. The AN/TPQ-50 in conjunction with the AN/TPQ-53 will be the cornerstone of Field Artillery Target Acquisition for the future. The Q-50 is a much improved system over the Q-49. The Inertial Navigation Unit, improved tripod and better computer processing has incorporated a greater accuracy by reducing both the Circular Error Probability (CEP) and the minimum range.

The Q-50 can still operate from a tripod configuration, but is designed to operate from a vehicle configuration which will facilitate flexibility and mobility to the tactical commander. The Q-50 is now fully capable to track Artillery and Rockets, and track Friendly Fire and Hostile Fire without having to switch modes. The Q-50 still maintains the remote capability so Soldiers can move away from the vehicle for increased force protection, and can process multiple targets simultaneously.

This system is designated to be operated by 13Rs. Military Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE)s are now starting to reflect this change. The Army's Acquisition Objective is to field 400 systems throughout the force.

Fielding for the Q53 is currently planned for the first quarter of FY 14 and for the Q50, fielding is currently planned for third quarter of FY13. This plan remains contingent on the successful completion of testing and obtaining full material release for each system.

War Fighting Forums

The Field Artillery WfFs 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.

I encourage all commanders to participate in these critical forums in order to enhance the cross-talk between the generating and operating forces.

SBCT WfF - (FA Breakout Session)
- 07MAR13 @ 11:00 -13:00
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/ssxviiigrp3>

SBCT WfF - 14MAR13 @ 11:00-12:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/ssxviiigrp3>

FiB WfF - 04APR13 @ 16:00 - 17:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/fibwff>

IBCT WfF - (FA Breakout session)
- 09APR13 @ 10:00 - 11:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/ibctfabnwff>

ABCT WfF - (FA Breakout session)
- 19APR13 @10:00-11:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/hbctfabnwff>

DIV/CORPS Fires WfF - 30APR13 @ 09:00 - 10:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/divcorpsfireswff>

IBCT WfF - 07MAR13 @ 08:00-09:30
<https://connect.dco.dod.mil/ibctfabnwff>

Assignment Options for Female Field Artillery Officers

The evolving landscape of gender integration often challenges our understanding of the spectrum of options presently available to our female officers. Recent announcements by the Secretary of Defense are welcomed but will take a few years for full implementation by the Force. Given this backdrop, it's important to share the current environment and shed some light on future efforts.

The soon to be published version of DA Pam 600-3 describes the unique functions performed by Field Artillery officers. It states, "Field Artillery officers are multi-functional professionals who are the Army's experts in the coordination, synchronization and integration of Joint Fires and Army Fires, and they're leaders of Soldiers committed to providing precision, near precision and area fire effects. To ensure synchronized, integrated and effective fires that enable the Maneuver Commander to seize, retain, and exploit the initiative, Field Artillery officers are proficient in the Army's two core competencies – Combined Arms Maneuver (CAM) and Wide Area Security (WAS)."

To achieve the development of this multi-functional expert, 600-3 also describes the skills unique to Field Artillery officers, namely that they are experts in the employment of all indirect fire systems and the coordination, synchronization and integration of Army and Joint Fires. In order to develop these skills, DA Pam 600-3 provides an overview of the key and developmental assignments an officer should progress through over the course of their

careers. With nearly 100 female officers presently serving in the branch, we owe them the same developmental opportunities that every other Field Artillery officer has, thus enabling their success in accomplishing their mission.

As most are aware, on 14 May 2012, the Secretary of the Army announced a policy change that expanded assignment opportunities for our female Field Artillery of-

"Today, greater than 90% of our female officer population is a First or Second Lieutenant and serves as a platoon leader in a MLRS or a HIMARS unit...."

ficers. With the implementation of this policy change, we are now able to officially assign our female officers to all duties within MLRS and HIMARS battalions (for all grades and all positions). The good news is many of these young officers are presently serving as platoon leaders in MLRS and HIMARS platoons.

Since all MLRS and HIMARS duty assignments are presently open to females, they now have the opportunity to grow and develop into senior Field Artillery leaders with assignment options that enable a firm understanding of gunnery and the delivery of Fires. Today, greater than 90% of our female officer population is a First or Second Lieutenant and serves as a platoon leader in a MLRS or a HIMARS unit. Given this fact, it's only a matter of time until we grow a larger group of Captains and Majors to serve as Firing Battery Commanders, Battalion Executive Officers and Battalion Operations Officers. This is also the first

group of female leaders who will be eligible to compete for tactical battalion and brigade command in the Field Artillery.

While the opening of the Fires Brigades represents a good news story, many across the branch are less aware of other developmental opportunities that are presently open and provide the range of experiences in accordance with DA Pam 600-3. For example, many are not aware that the Battalion FSO positions in Combat Aviation Battalions are open to females. Similarly, Ground Liaison Officers with the Battlefield Coordination

Detachments are also open. Where possible, we should look to employ these assignments to provide fire support experiences to female company grade officers.

As we look to the future, the Field Artillery is continuing to examine opportunities that provide female officers growth and development through assignment experience. The branch is presently studying multiple courses of action that could further expand assignment options. As we do this, we'll continue to focus on the development of an officer corps that achieves the objectives of DA Pam 600-3.

If you have questions about the policy changes, assignment policies, or the professional development opportunities for female officers and Soldiers, do not hesitate to contact the **Field Artillery Proponent Office at 580-442-3820/4948**, or the respective Human Resources Command (OPMD) assignment officer for assistance.