

# From the Command Sergeant Major's desk

I would like to extend a heart-felt and sincere happy Memorial Day to all of our service members both past and present; especially to those who have given their lives in defense of this great nation. As we remember our comrades in arms, it is appropriate to share a moment of silence. Take a moment to honor all those who have come before us and to those who continue to forge the path ahead. It is a small tribute in honor and recognition of a debt that can never be repaid.

As we fully embrace the significance of what this day truly means and holds for us, not only as Soldiers but as an Army and a Nation, we must continue to remain poised and vigilant. We must be Soldiers who can and will become the Army of 2020.

We must be diversified. Merriam Webster's defines diversification as, "to produce or sell more kinds of products: to increase the variety of goods or services produced or offered by (someone or something)." As the Army transitions from the Global War on Terror, it is an absolute must that our Officer and Enlisted forces become more diversified.

When we think of diversity, we need to understand that our Soldiers must be adaptable. They must be battle focused and have the mental stamina that is necessary for us to win on any battlefield, on any continent and in any type of conflict. Diversity in itself is directly linked to broadening. I often speak on broadening assignments on my visits to the field. I know that you cannot become a diverse leader if you have not had those jobs that allow you to become a more knowledgeable, experienced and well-rounded leader.

Soldiers at all levels must seek out a plethora of assignments which will not only broaden their careers, but their skill sets.

Diverse skill sets must not only be developed, but trained and executed time after time. A true leader will have served in a broad range of assignments. This inherently develops their leader attributes and becomes a solid foundation of what I envision a well-rounded leader encompasses.

Diversification and broadening must equal promotion. As we migrate through our Army careers, we must understand that it is an absolute necessity to have the tools. knowledge and experience that will make us the Army and Soldiers of 2020. Only through the diversification and broadening process will this be possible. The chosen few, and by that I mean those that will be promoted, will have met these two basic requirements. As the Army continues its reduction in forces. Soldiers who are grounded in these basic principles will excel beyond their peers.



**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

### Daniel Moriarty

CSM Daniel Moriarty

Command Sergeant Major of the Field Artillery

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

#### From the CSM's Desk ... continued

Change is never easy, but we must be adaptable, not predictable. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The best thing you can do is the right thing; the next best thing you can do is the wrong thing; the worst thing you can do is nothing." Stay focused on the mission at hand, embrace change, and train as if your life depended on it – because it does.

Thanks for all you do for the Army and the Field Artillery!

KING OF BATTLE!!!

Find me on FaceBook

CSM of the Field Artillery Face Book Page

https://www.facebook.com/fieldartilleryredleglive #!/pages/CSM-of-the-Field-Artillery/418766494912364



The **Redleg Update** is archived on FKN. Log on with

AKO credentials at

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

to read or print past editions today.



"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."

By CSM David Carr CSM of the 428th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Sill, Okla.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." This quote comes from Emma Lazarus' sonnet, "New Colossus," which adorns the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. I want to borrow these words and modify them slightly in an effort to send a message to our seasoned Redleg NCO's serving in FORSCOM. "Give me your best, your brightest, your most experienced NCO's, who yearn to make a difference!"

Over the last two years, my team has attempted to recruit exceptional NCO's to serve as Instructors and AIT Platoon Sergeants. This effort has been, at a minimum, an uphill battle. Surprisingly, most of the friction has come from Senior NCO's in FORSCOM who should be pushing these exceptional NCO's to TRADOC.

I was a CSM of a FORSCOM battalion and am empathetic in keeping the best and brightest NCO's at the tip of the spear, manning howitzers, rocket launchers, and radars and prosecuting our Nation's wars. However, my experience in TRADOC has taught me the need to put our most exceptional NCO's in front of tomorrow's generation of leaders as Instructors and AIT Platoon Sergeants.

Additionally, today, we have an enormous pool of battle-hardened NCO's fresh off the battlefield. We need to have a sense of urgency to get these same NCO's and their lessons learned in combat in front of our young Soldiers and officers in TRADOC.

The relevance they bring to the table puts them head and shoulders above their peers who did not serve in combat. Unfortunately, rather than sending NCO's from the enormous pool mentioned above, the Senior NCO's from FORSCOM would quite frequently send NCO's who were broken, couldn't pass an

APFT, meet minimum body fat requirements, or were unable to maintain a security clearance.

Quite frankly, not only were these individuals not suitable to teach, coach, and mentor tomorrow's generation of leaders in TRADOC, but they should have been selected for separation from our Army. As we rapidly reduce the size of our Army, I ask you, "Why would we keep any individuals who can't meet minimum standards?"

A more direct question, "are these the type of NCO's we want to develop tomorrow's generation of leaders in TRADOC?"

The irony in all of this is that an assignment as an Instructor or an AIT Platoon Sergeant is extremely rewarding to these individuals. In other words, I shouldn't have to beat the drum to get these exceptional NCO's in TRADOC.

All these NCO's need to do is look at the FY14 SFC Promotion board selection rates to understand how rewarding a TDA assignment to TRADOC can be. The selection rate for 13 Series SSG's to SFC for the entire Army was 14 percent. The selection rate for 13 Series SSG's to SFC for the 428th Field Artillery Brigade was 25percent. Our promotion rate is almost double that of the Army rate. That is because the majority of the eligible SSG populations within my brigade are serving successfully as Instructors or AIT Platoon Sergeants.

Promotion potential is just one of the rewards of serving in this broadening assignment. Another very tangible reward is the ability to provide motivation, direction, and purpose to our Nation's sons and daughters who have chosen to serve their country. Growing our great Army and providing the operational Army with a proficient Artilleryman with whom to fight



#### TOP Line ... continued

the Nation's wars is the noblest of professions. In my opinion there are few, if any assignments that are as rewarding.

It is also important to understand that an assignment in TRADOC as an Instructor or AIT Platoon Sergeant is extremely demanding and challenging. I mention this because there are still Senior NCO's who believe that to serve in TRADOC is the equivalent of taking a knee. I can assure you, nothing could be further from the truth.

The only time you will take a knee in TRADOC while serving as an Instructor or AIT Platoon Sergeant is when you are on patrol at 0230 hrs and providing a SITREP to your elements. Only our best and brightest NCO's should consider an assignment as an Instructor and AIT Platoon Sergeant. These NCO's have to be in exceptional physical shape in order to lead their Soldiers in PRT.

These NCO's must have exceptional character and morality in order to instill the values and work ethic we expect in our next generation of leaders.

These NCO's must be articulate and be experts at communication. Finally, these NCO's must be motivated. As Instructors and AIT Platoon Sergeants these NCO's must have the passion and the energy to persevere the rigors and challenges that await. Quite simply, only the best and brightest NCO's with the potential to serve at the highest levels in our Army should consider this broadening assignment in TRADOC as an Instructor or AIT Platoon Sergeant.

So, just as the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty proclaims at Ellis Island, "Give me our tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." I now stand atop Blockhouse Signal Mountain and shout across the impact zone, "Give me your best, your brightest, your most experienced NCO's, who yearn to make a difference!"

If you are one of these exceptional NCO's, fresh from the fight, and looking for a rewarding broadening assignment then I will tell you that an assignment in TRADOC as an Instructor or AIT Platoon Sergeant is waiting for you. Only the best need apply.

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

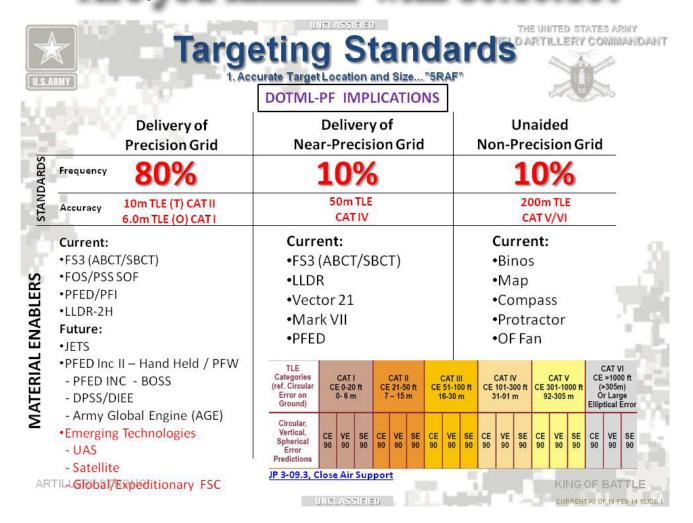
- **4 May 1955,** Fort Sill's The Artillery Officer Candidate School was renamed the Artillery and Guided Missile Officer Candidate School.
- **9 May 1916**, The War Department closed the School of Fire for Field Artillery and sent instructors and students to the Mexican border for duty with the Pershing Expedition into Mexico. The school did not open again until July1917 to begin preparations for training officers for duty in France during World War I.
- **19 May 1916**, the War Department closed the School of Fire and sent the officers to the Mexican border for duty with General Pershing who had the mission of tracking down Pancho Villa.
- **20 May 1918**, General Peyton C. March, an artilleryman, became the 9th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.
- **25 May 1953**, Troops from Fort Sill fired the world's first atomic artillery round at Frenchman's Flat, Nevada, from a

280-mm. gun. The 280-mm. gun, known as Atomic Annie, was moved to Fort Sill for permanent display.

27 May 1827, The famous mystery writer, Edgar Allen Poe, enlisted in the Army as a private. He was soon promoted to "artificer," an enlisted tradesman who prepared shells for the artillery. After serving for two years and attaining the rank of Sergeant Major for Artillery (the highest rank a noncommissioned officer can achieve), Poe was discharged then entered West Point as a cadet. He was later court marshaled and removed from West Point for gross neglect of duty and disobedience of orders for refusing to attend formations, classes, or church.

**30 May 1941**, Brigadier General Edmund L. Gruber died on this day. He wrote the song, "The Caissons Go Rolling Along" while assigned to the 5th Field Artillery in 1908.

## Are you familiar with 80:10:10?



In order to remain relevant, we must modernize FA Fires. For us as a branch, this means focusing on precision and accuracy across all domains as well as embracing a change within our FA culture... i.e., our philosophy, values, behavior, and thought processes. Rest assured this is not change for change sake...but necessary in order to create even greater dominance on the battlefield of 2016 and beyond. 80:10:10 is a precision "Grid Getter Standard."

80:10:10 is a ratio based on a precision mindset that makes it necessary for Forward Observers and Fire Support Teams to achieve Joint TLE categories while on the battlefield

Specifically, achieving a CAT I (6.0M TLE) and

CAT II (15M TLE) "precision grid" 80 percent of the time; achieve a CAT IV (50M TLE) "near precision grid" 10 percent of the time; achieve a CAT V/VI (200M or greater TLE) as a degraded operation, the final 10 percent of the time. This 80:10:10 ratio defines for us as professional Artillerymen the term Accurate in the First Requirement for Accurate Fires. It also defines for us, as a profession of arms, how we train, certify and deliver accurate target locations in support of Strategic, Operational and Tactical Fires.

For more information on 80:10:10 and the Modernization of Field Artillery Fires read BG Christopher F. Bentley's "*The Future of Field Artillery*" article in the March-April 2014 *Fires Bulletin* (Page 8).