

Issue 53: March/April 2016

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REDLEG Update

The United States Army Field Artillery Branch's Newsletter

From the FA CMDT:

2016 Fires Conference, OPAT,
1st Woman Cannoneer & JOFEC

Army's first woman Cannoneer
finishes top of class

Return of the BART and
the DART

REHEARSALS... A LOST ART

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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. The current edition can be found @

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William A. Turner
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commandant,
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William A. Turner

RFIs, Notes, and Notices: To submit a Request for Information (RFI), please email the POC listed below.

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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FIRESCON 2016 DCS CONNECT PROCEDURES

TO ATTEND THE MAIN CONFERENCE ON 3 MAY
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<https://conference.apps.mil/webconf/FiresConference2016>

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FA COMMANDANT BREAKOUT:

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- (1) Close ALL browser windows.
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session you want.

From the Commandant's desk

2016 Fires Conference, OPAT, 1st Woman Cannoneer & JOFEC

I would like to start off this edition by inviting everyone not able to be present at Fort Sill for the 2016 Fires Conference to attend virtually. This year's theme is "Integrating and Delivering Fires to enable Maneuver." This is a broad subject, but the plan is to focus 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.

By tuning in, this is your chance to learn not only where we are headed in the future as a Fires Force, but it is a chance to ask questions and take part in discussions regarding the future of Fires. This year's conference is scheduled for 2-4 May 2016 at Snow Hall at Fort Sill, Okla., and instructions for attending virtually are located on [{Page 2}](#) and on the web @ <http://sill-www.army.mil/fires-conference/doc/dcs-login-instructions.pdf> I look forward to "virtually seeing" you there.

Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT)

Another topic that has garnered a lot of attention throughout the force is the Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT). Most are curious to know what it is, how does it relate to the current Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), and how will it affect the Field Artillery as a branch?

A brief history on OPAT. In 2012, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) initiated a Physical Demands Study (PDS) with the support from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM) and U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM).

The PDS validated occupation-specific physical performance requirements in the most physically demanding Army occupations – our MOSs were a part of this study. The PDS led to establishing a valid, reliable and accurate assessment of physical aptitude for recruits being accessed into the Army known as the OPAT.

The purpose of PDS was not to develop a replacement APFT. The OPAT will predict a recruit's ability to perform the most physically demanding

tasks in the Army, and will improve the Army's ability to put the right Soldier in the right job. The OPAT was designed to ensure recruits are better matched to occupations in which they may succeed. OPAT will prevent

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Farewell, but not Goodbye

FA CMDT's Eulogy for Redleg Taylor Force

Headlines across the world read, "U.S. tourist killed, 10 others wounded in Israel," but what we didn't read was the U.S. citizen was a former brother in arms, Redleg Taylor Force.

Taylor, by all accounts, was truly an extraordinary young man and an exemplary officer. While serving, Taylor was a platoon leader in Alpha Battery in 5-82 FA, and he deployed with the unit to Afghanistan in 2013. Upon re-deployment he served as the Squadron FSO in 2-7 CAV. After completion of his service he attended Vanderbilt University in pursuit of his Master's Degree.

He was visiting Israel on an exchange program when he tragically lost his life. Our heartfelt condolences go out to this former Redleg's family and friends. No words can ease the pain of losing a beloved son, brother, friend, and neighbor, but I do know this -- Taylor will be missed -- not only by his friends and family, but by his military family. We appreciate his service and we honor him as a Redleg Soldier.

Our democracy continues to depend on the willingness of fine young men, like Taylor, and women to step forward and to serve, to dedicate themselves to a greater cause, the cause of protecting our democracy. This has not changed and will not change.

Thank you Taylor Force, and we look forward to meeting you at St. Barbara's table. May you rest in peace.

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volunteers from entering occupations where they will not be able to perform, or where they will struggle to meet the minimum requirements.

It is important to note, that the Army did not change any occupational performance standards prior to conducting this study.

Contrary to popular belief, the OPAT is not a part of integrating women into combat specialties. The Army started the scientific study of the demands in our most physically demanding occupations in 2012, which was well before the policy decision to open combat occupations to women. Recruits and officer candidates entering the Army after the OPAT is in place will be able to serve in occupations for which they meet the standards. OPAT levels the field based on objective standards; not the gender of the Soldier.

To date, the Army has validated four components of the OPAT, but must establish predictive, minimum component scores needed to meet each occupation's task standards. The four tests to measure lower-body strength, lower and upper body power, and aerobic fitness will be the standing long jump, the seated power throw, strength dead lift, and aerobic interval run. The Army will use the OPAT to screen recruits and officer candidates starting in mid-2016. The Army started pilot tests in January to establish the minimum qualifying scores for our most physically demanding occupations. The Army expects the pilot program to take five-to-six-months to gather occupational data, collate and analyze the data and develop entry-level standards.

The expected end result is that our recruits will be able to meet the standards in the Army's most physically-demanding occupations and will contribute positively to our combat strength.

1st Woman Cannoneer

Please join me in congratulating PFC Katherine

Beatty, as she is the first woman to graduate from 13B cannon crewmember Advance Individual Training (AIT), here at Fort Sill, Okla.

She is a very impressive Soldier who performed exceedingly well in AIT thus earning the title of Distinguished Honor Graduate and has blazed the trail for 13Bs who follow.

Beatty credits powerlifting with her Army infantryman husband, Charles, for her success in meeting the physical demands of her job. As a part of her requirement for graduation, Beatty was tested using the high physical demand test (HPDT) which included loading and unloading 15, 155mm ammunition shells weighing nearly 100 pounds a piece in a 15 minute time period. The next group of women scheduled for 13B training this summer. To read more about Beatty's accomplishments [{Go to Page 5}](#).

Joint Operational Effects Course (JOFEC)

Lastly, I want to let everyone in the branch know we are working to resource and re-establish the Joint Operational Fires and Effects Course (JOFEC) with a modernized Fires curriculum to address a known gap in our Joint Fires force education.

Fires Leaders must have a working knowledge of Joint Fires and fully understand the Joint Targeting Cycle. JOFEC, revamped and updated to reflect the latest doctrine and TTPs, will narrow this gap. The intended audience includes senior Leaders serving in fires/effects and targeting billets from Division through Combatant Command to include Battlefield Coordination Detachments. I will give updates on the status of this course in a future Redleg Update.

In closing, I want to say I see only great things in the future for all Redlegs ...past, present and future. If you haven't done so already, please connect with me on our USAFAS and branch Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/fieldartilleryredleglive/>.



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Army's first woman Cannoneer finishes top of class

Article and photos by Cindy McIntyre,
Fort Sill Tribune

Sometimes a person is just in the right place at the right time.

And so it was for Pfc. Katherine Beatty when she learned her chosen military occupational specialty (MOS) in signal intelligence wasn't going to work out. Then came an offer too good to pass up.

Why not be the Army's first female cannoneer?

"They said I could pick a different MOS," she said of her nine-week holdover after basic combat training. The combat specialty of 13B cannon crewmember was on the list. "They said there was a lot of heavy lifting, and it's a pretty high speed job, and I would be the first female. I was pretty excited about it. I called my husband (in Inverness, Fla.) He's infantry and works side by side with 13 Bravos. He told me what to expect and I just went for it."

Not only did she pass, she excelled, earning the title of distinguished honor graduate for Class No. 12-16. She was assistant platoon guide (APG) and helped teach her peers. She also earned the top scores in several exams and passed her Go/No go events, including the high physical demand test, the first time.

She said none of it was easy, especially the first week.

The Army's new High Physical Demand Test (HPDT) was in place for the first time, and men and women both need to pass it to graduate from 13B school.

She said the most difficult task was loading and unloading 15 155mm ammunition shells weighing nearly 100 pounds apiece.

"That was pretty tough," she said. "We had 15 minutes to do it." That means moving 3,000 pounds a feat even some men couldn't do.



Pfc. Katherine Beatty *U.S. Army photo released.*

"I did power lifting and trained with my husband, Charles (before enlisting)," she said of her ability to pass the test. She also went to the gym in her spare time while at Fort Sill. She said Charles is her hero because of all the support he's given her.

Beatty earned high praise from her primary AIT instructor, Staff Sgt. Michael Prater, as well as her battle buddies.

"She's held her own as an APG, as far as leading the Soldiers where they need to be, keeping up with who's on sick call, who's in formation, and

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Pfc. Katherine Beatty *U.S. Army photo released.*

13B ...Continued from Page 5

who's not," said Prater after her platoon's live-fire training, March 1. "She took good notes and kept up with the training. Pfc. Beatty was an excellent Soldier."

Pvt. Marc Etinne, one of her battle buddies, said initially he wasn't sure how things were going to work out with a female in a combat MOS.

"At first I was like, 'oh, this is going to be interesting,'" he said. "But then the sergeant talked to us and said anybody in Army green, we have to treat them with respect. She really surprises me with all the physical stuff she can do. She's been treated just like everybody else. She's a great Soldier."

Her other battle buddy, Pvt. Jesse Hurtado, agreed.

He said having a female in his 13B class was "awesome."

"She worked a lot harder than the males did at some point," he said. "She proved herself. She

made her battle buddies push harder because she was there pushing with them. She's an inspiration, seeing her going through what we're doing. We all love her. She's an awesome battle buddy. We all want her to do great in her career."

Beatty's platoon specialized in the 105mm lightweight towed M119A3 howitzer.

Even though those shells weigh around 30 pounds, all 13B Soldiers need to be able to meet the physical standard with the 155mm shells used in the M777 and the Paladin howitzers. They also need to be able to drag a casualty in combat, so part of the HPDT is to drag a 270-pound skid 20 meters out and back.

Although the physical part of training was grueling, Beatty said she loved it. She and her husband have taken their 2-year-old daughter hiking and lead an active life, she said. Being the first woman wasn't as much of an obstacle as she thought.

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13B ...Continued from Page 6

“Everyone treats me like a Soldier, like part of the team,” she said. “There was a lot of positivity from my platoon, the instructors, the NCOs. It’s been really awesome.”

Week 4 of training was hands-on dry fire with the M119A3. March 1, her class fired on the equipment they were trained on. Booms from the M777 and the Paladin interspersed with shots fired from Beatty’s team. Finally it was her turn.

She fired three rounds, then caught the next gunner’s smoking cartridge when it was ejected, and spent time on the radio and recording firing data. When the last round was called, Prater took out a marker and began writing on the shell. Pens materialized and everyone squeezed in to leave their message on it. Beatty’s read “Miss 13B.”

Then she returned to the radio and called, “last round!” The excited cannoneers echoed her, and rushed the round into the chamber. Prater checked

the round, held up his hand, and yelled, “stand by,” for the umpteenth time that day. Then he dropped his arm and yelled, “fire!” The round sped off to into the distant hillside, and everyone cheered. Then they started tearing down and had a late lunch of meals, ready to eat.

“Everyone was excited in our platoon. I can definitely say that we had a lot of fun today. This is what we’ve been waiting for,” said Beatty.

Although she hoped to go to Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., Beatty has been assigned to Fort Carson, Colo., following her graduation March 11.

Although she “jumped the gun” so to speak in being trained as a cannoneer, there are more than a dozen women coming behind her. Her advice to them: “Go for it. It’s an awesome job.

You’ve got to be strong, both physically and mentally, but there’s definitely a lot of support here.



Pfc. Katherine Beatty *U.S. Army photo released.*

Moving Out on Women-in-Service

How and why the U.S. military is now opening up the last combat positions to women

By The United States Secretary of Defense Ash Carter

Three months ago, I announced that the Department of Defense would be opening all remaining combat positions to women. As I said at the time, to succeed in our mission of national defense, we cannot afford to cut ourselves off from half the country's talents and skills. We have to take full advantage of every individual who can meet our standards.

At every stage in this process, I have emphasized that the implementation of this change must be handled the right way, because the combat effectiveness of the world's finest fighting force is paramount. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dunford and I agree that implementation should be done in a combined manner, by all the military services working together. And to make sure we did this right, I asked the military services to incorporate seven guiding principles—transparent standards, population size, talent management, physical demands and physiological differences, operating abroad, conduct and culture, and assessment and adjustment—into their implementation plans.

Over the last three months, each of the military services and U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) have put a great deal of thought and effort into their plans to incorporate these guidelines. Having reviewed and approved their exceptionally thorough work, today I'm pleased to announce that each of them will be moving forward by the end of this month. While I encourage our men and women serving in uniform to read the implementation plans, which are publicly available from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and SOCOM, I'd like to provide a few key examples that illustrate how we will proceed in a deliberate and methodical manner that will make our force stronger.

Transparent Standards: My first and foremost guiding principle was that the services would need to continue to apply transparent and objective standards for all career fields to ensure leaders assign tasks, jobs, and career fields throughout the force based on ability, not gender. In this respect, the services have been able to leverage the great amounts of data they gathered over

three years' worth of studies to make their standards up to date and operationally relevant. We found over the last few years that in some cases we were doing things because that's the way we've always done them. For example, previously one of the tasks to earn the Army's Expert Infantry Badge required soldiers to move 12 miles in three hours with a 35-pound rucksack, but it turns out that the rucksack weight was based on a World War II-era airborne study. It was the minimum weight required to prevent the ruck sack from getting tangled in a jumper's static line, and had nothing to do with the equipment required for paratroopers to fight with once they landed—let alone the modern equipment that infantry soldiers need to carry today. This process drove us to take a closer look at our training, too, and going forward, we will be using standards informed by today's real-world operational requirements, informed by experiences gained over the last decade and a half of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, our military will be even better at finding and training not only the most qualified women, but also the most qualified men, for all military specialties.

Population Size: Second, the fact that we're holding everyone to the same high standards may mean that in some cases, equal opportunity may not always equate to equal participation. Here, we'll incorporate lessons we've learned in the past, like how the Navy has integrated women onto surface ships and more recently, submarines. The Army and the Marine Corps will integrate women officers and senior enlisted into previously-closed units before integrating junior enlisted women, and where they can, they'll assign more than just one woman into a unit at a time. This will help ensure that women officers play a key leadership role, set the right example, and enhance teamwork wherever possible.

Talent Management: Third is talent management—integration provides equal opportunity for men and women who can perform the tasks required; it does

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Women-in-Service ... Continued from Page 8

not guarantee women will be promoted at any specific number or at any set rate, as adherence to a merit-based system must continue to be paramount. This has been a particular focus area for all the military services, and they'll be paying extra attention to it as they pursue implementation, mindful that it will require sustained effort at all levels of leadership to ensure that when someone gets ahead or moves up a rank, they earned it. We have to remember that it takes decades to grow a general or flag officer, so it will take time to see these results.

Physical Demands and Physiological

Differences: Fourth is the fact that, on average, there tend to be physical and other physiological differences between men and women. Accordingly, all the services have looked closely at ways to mitigate the potential for

tion—we also know that not all nations share this perspective. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have long dealt with this reality, notably over the last 15 years in Iraq and Afghanistan, and because of this, the military services have many lessons to draw on when it comes to operating in areas where there is cultural resistance to working with women. This is an area where we will always have to be vigilant, and the services are prepared to do so going forward across the force.

Conduct and Culture: Sixth, we must address attitudes toward team performance through education and training, including making clear that sexual assault or harassment, hazing, and unprofessional behaviors are never acceptable, and that everyone must be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Our core beliefs in

“At the same time, we should also remember that the military has long prided itself on being a meritocracy, where those who serve are judged not based on who they are or where they come from, but rather what they have to offer to help defend this country.”

higher injury rates among women, and they've come up with creative methods to address this. For example, the Army intends to give all new recruits what they call an occupational physical assessment test, the results of which will help better match the recruits with jobs they either are, or with training could be, physically capable of doing. Likewise, the Marine Corps plans to use the extra time provided by their delayed entry program so that women who are interested in enlisting in ground combat arms can better prepare themselves for the physical demands of the job they want to serve in. And as we gain new insights as more women integrate into previously-closed positions, all the services will leverage that information to develop new approaches to reduce the potential for higher injury rates. All of this will help maximize effectiveness in the fight and increase readiness.

Operating Abroad: Fifth, while we know the United States is a nation committed to using our entire population to the fullest—as are some of our closest friends and allies who have already achieved full gender integra-

good order, discipline, leadership, and accountability are foundational to our success in integration. The services will be using new educational resources to train everyone up and down the ranks to prepare for the integration of women, from the newest recruits to four-star admirals and generals. While each service is different and will do this in their own way, I know that all of them will continue to hold our people to the highest standards of honor and trust we associate with the profession of arms.

Assessment and Adjustment: Seventh, it is absolutely critical—and a core tenet of DoD's character as a learning organization—that we embark on integration with a commitment to the monitoring, assessment, and in-stride adjustment that enables sustainable success. Every service is deeply committed to this. One example I want to highlight is U.S. Special Operations Command,

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Women-in-Service...Continued from Page 8

which will continually measure and track a variety of categories for its personnel—including physical performance, injury rates, health, promotion, qualifications, and retention—to assess how integrating women into special operations forces can be further improved over time.

As I said in December, it's important to keep all of this in perspective. Since then, we've already seen some changes—women service members have started to volunteer for ground combat roles, and the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps are all beginning to step up their recruitment efforts. But even as we proceed with implementation going forward, it won't all happen

overnight, and while at the end of the day this will make us a better and stronger force, there will still be problems to fix and challenges to overcome. We shouldn't diminish that. At the same time, we should also remember that the military has long prided itself on being a meritocracy, where those who serve are judged not based on who they are or where they come from, but rather what they have to offer to help defend this country. That's why we have the finest fighting force the world has ever known. And it's one other way we will strive to ensure that the force of the future remains so, long into the future. Today, we take yet another step toward that continued excellence.

What is a Traumatic Brain Injury?



Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a disruption of brain function, resulting from a blow or jolt to the head, or penetrating head injury. The severity of the TBI is determined at the time of the injury and may be classified as: mild, moderate or severe.

TBI Facts

- TBIs can occur on the battlefield, the football field, the playground, in a car accident, and even at home.
- A mild TBI/concussion is treatable; early detection is extremely important.
- Common causes of an TBI/concussion on the battlefield include blasts, vehicle collisions, or blows to the head.

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

- **Headaches**
- **Changes in sleep**
- **Dizziness**
- **Nausea/vomiting**
- **Fatigue**
- **Balancing Problems**
- **Sensory changes**
- **Slowed thinking**
- **Difficulty concentrating**
- **Memory problems**
- **Depression or anxiety**
- **Mood swings**

Not in My Squad



U.S. Army photo released.

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. — Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey, on the job for just over a month, has created a new grassroots campaign he hopes will empower NCOs to fight sexual assault in the ranks.

The campaign is called "Not in my squad," said Dailey, a career infantryman.

It was inspired by discussions during the Army's recent Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention summit, which brought together top leaders and command teams from across the Army. Featured in the discussion was a campaign launched by cadets at West Point called Cadets Against Sexual Harassment and Assault, Dailey said.

"They've done this on their own. They've said, 'This is our problem. We need to fix it at our level, and it'll no longer be a problem,'" he said. "What better than to bring that into our NCO corps?"

"Not in my squad" puts "first-line leaders" directly into the fight against sexual assault and sexual harassment, an issue that is among the top priorities for senior Army leaders.

"It's the ownership of more than SHARP, too," Dailey said. "A soldier says, 'These are my soldiers. Nobody messes with my soldiers. I take that personally. It's my responsibility to ensure every facet of their

lives is taken care of."

Dailey discussed the campaign during his visit this week to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. It was his first troop visit since being sworn in as the Army's top enlisted soldier.

One of his first stops on the two-day visit was the installation's SHARP Resource Center, a first of its kind in the Army. The center consolidates all of the services available to victims of sexual assault, giving them a one-stop shop for resources and services. The center brings together personnel from the SHARP program, behavioral health, Criminal Investigation Command and the Staff Judge Advocate.

"From the Army perspective, this is the model of what right looks like," Dailey told the staff at the center. "Your hard work is being noticed. But we are by no means anywhere close to completing the mission. It's not a sprint. It's not a marathon. It's a marathon without a finish line. But the good news is we're not alone in this."

When Dailey shared his vision for "Not in my squad," he said he wanted a "bottom-up approach."

"We've got to empower young NCOs," he said. "We rely on them in combat ... [and] we've got to trust them with this. Our NCOs can do this. We just need to empower them."

Return of the B

Division Artillery Readiness Tests (DART) and Battalion Artillery Readiness Tests (BART) are designed to primarily practice and validate the gunnery team's ability to meet the Five Requirements for Accurate Fire.

1-37 FA conducts the Battalion Artillery Readiness Test

By Sgt. Deja Bordem, 20th Public Affairs Detachment

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. - The thunderous roar of 155 millimeter rounds fired from M777 howitzers could be heard echoing through the woodland near Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, on Feb. 17-18, 2016.

More than 160 Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, participated in the Battalion Artillery Readiness Test. For two days Alpha and Bravo Battery, 1-37 FA conducted the live-fire exercises to perfect their accuracy and loading skills.

“It’s a way to certify the battery- as well as battalion- at all of their [Mission Essential Task List] and ensure that they can deliver fires for the brigades

we support,” said 1st Lt. Ty Gambill, Alpha Battery, 1-37th FA platoon leader.

The readiness test is an important way to verify the unit meets the standards set by the Army’s artillery community, Gambill said. It also helped the Soldiers and leaders determine what improvements the unit needed to make and how well the unit did as a whole.

The BART was the last major training event 1-37 will participate in before heading to the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, this summer.

“This is kind of our last look before we go,” Gambill said.

First Lt. Matthew Travieso, Delta Battery, 1-37 FA platoon leader assisted in facilitating the certification of Alpha and Bravo Batteries.

Travieso and his Soldiers checked for target accuracy and safety during the live-fire exercises.

The observers made sure the rounds landed safely to be certain there was no issue of fratricide or endangering the surrounding animal population, said Travieso.

Alpha and Bravo Battery performed well during their two days of live-fire and successfully completed the readiness test.

“We just did a battalion time on target and 75 percent of the rounds were in 75 meters of the target area,” Travieso said.



U.S. Army photo released.

BART & DART

*82nd Airborne Division
319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment
State of the DIVARTY*

“Mass the Fire”

For the first time in more than a decade the 82nd Airborne Division saw the recommencement of the Division Artillery Readiness Test (DART) and the Battalion Artillery Readiness Test (BART) Programs. These programs are critical to ensuring the overall readiness of the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery’s batteries and battalions.

Over the summer, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie 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 Tables XII and XV. Incorporated into the table were numerous unit movements, emplacements, and fire missions. The DART culminated with the DIVARTY Commander making a determination on the unit’s ability to assume the Global Response Force mission.

In July 2015, 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment 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, as well as their ability to conduct any contingency operations that the Global Response Force may be asked to perform. BARTs normally occur prior to a Mission Readiness

Exercise at Joint Readiness Training Center rotation before the supported BCT’s assumptions of GRF. The BART qualified all three firing batteries through Field Artillery Table XV and the battalion qualified through Field Artillery Table XVII. The event culminated with the battalion successfully massing fires during a time on target mission at 0630 on the morning of 31 July.

DARTs and BARTs have proven to be extremely important as the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery seeks to hone their skills as the Army moves towards standard conventional warfare operations. Training and standards are being applied evenly across the DIVARTY with these programs acting as the driving force. As the Division and the Army move into the future we will see surface to surface fires become more responsive, lethal, and accurate; thanks in large part to the realistic and stressful training our batteries receive during Darts and Barts.



U.S Army photo released.

REHEARSALS - A LOST ART

“After conducting their infiltration and movement to the objective, the operational detachment alpha (ODA) finds itself trying to acquire a target with its organic stand-off optics (M22 binoculars, a spotting scope, and the telephoto lens of the KS-99). Problems begin to mount when they realize they cannot positively identify their target from



U.S. Army photo released.

their position 1,500 meters away. The detachment commander has no contact with the security team that is covering the avenue of approach to their flank. The security team has only one AN/PRC-126 radio. With his mind now racing, the detachment commander is trying to re-develop his plan “on the fly.” The communication sergeant reports

that the aircraft are on station. The ODA did not arrive to the laze site on schedule since they miscalculated the time needed to conduct movement. During movement, one member went down due to heat and the weight of his rucksack with mission load. No time is available to reposition. Does the detachment continue with the laze and call in

the aircraft on what it thinks is the target? What are the implications if it is not the actual target? It would be nice to get closer and have an extra radio now! As actions on the objective start to unravel, the commander

wishes now that he had paid closer attention to his rehearsal. If only he would have anticipated the problems he is now facing. He calls in the aircraft anyway, needlessly exposing the aircrew and the detachment to risk.”

- LTC Metzgar (Retired)

Not me, you say! However, it happens more often than not at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) as detachments conduct mission analysis and execute the mission profile with few or no rehearsals. The actions described above are the experiences of retired LTC Metzgar when he was assigned as an observer/controller at JRTC.

Rehearsals are an integral part of the planning process. An effective rehearsal both practices and tests the plan. Time availability is the critical element in conducting rehearsals. Warning orders provide subordinates enough lead time and details to synchronize their rehearsal schedules with battalion and higher rehearsals. A direct support field artillery (FA) battalion integrates its rehearsals into the maneuver force’s rehearsal plan. An FA battalion with a reinforcing mission must coordinate rehearsals with the reinforced

unit, while a general support battalion coordinates with its higher FA headquarters. All rehearsals should complement higher rehearsal plans.

The principles for an effective rehearsal program include:

- Clearly identify rehearsal objectives (review commander guidance on type, scope, focus, and commander’s intent for the rehearsal).
- Prioritize tasks and events focusing on fire support tasks and field artillery tasks.
- Establish high standards: What constitutes successful completion of a rehearsal event? Will the unit limit repetitious training to correct substandard tasks or to reinforce successful training?
- Conduct multi-echelon, synchronized rehearsals.
- Determine all rehearsal participants.