

2015 ALEXANDER HAMILTON AWARD

Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment
(HIMARS), New Hampshire Army National Guard



Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment (HIMARS), New Hampshire Army National Guard in action. U.S. Army photo released.

This award recognizes the outstanding U.S. Army National Guard Field Artillery Battery of the Year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Regiment is a storied combat unit that has been activated for federal service on numerous occasions throughout the Global War on Terror in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Spartan Shield. During 2015 the battery's achievements were numerous, but here are some highlights of their accomplishments.

Alpha Battery was activated on Feb. 21, 2015 for mobilization training at Fort Bliss, TX. Mobilization preceded deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Operation Spartan Shield). The unit conducted a contiguous mobilization, performing their Annual Training at Fort Bliss in the two weeks leading up to the date they were ordered to active duty.

Alpha Battery integrated into Operation Spartan Shield in an exceptional manner, assuming the responsibility for several contingency operations.

This included maintaining a Fires Response Element (FRE) in support of missions in the CENTCOM AOR. The unit worked tirelessly to prepare a platoon and all associated equipment that was capable of deploying within a very limited notice to any location in the CENTCOM AOR. Alpha Battery's high level of excellence in their Mission Essential Task List (METL) allowed them to maintain an increased readiness posture in the event they were called on to execute a FRE operation.

In 2015, Alpha Battery made several monumental achievements that led them to be one of the most successful HIMARS units in the United States Army. They were part of the first National Guard battalion to perform an artillery mission in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

They were also the first National Guard unit to participate in Operation Eager Lion, serving as the only reserve component element during the entire exercise. Alpha Battery trained coalition partners and performed in an outstanding manner during their deployment, increasing regional stability across the CENTCOM AOR.