

2015 HENRY A. KNOX AWARD

Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, Fort Bragg, N.C.

This award recognizes the outstanding active duty Army Field Artillery Battery of the Year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

Battery C "STRIKE", 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment is a M777A2 equipped, 155 mm, Airborne Battery with the mission of providing close supporting fires to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery. During 2015 the battery's achievements were numerous, here are some highlights of their accomplishments.

STRIKE Battery conducted twelve separate live-fire training exercises, firing over 1,600 rounds in order to maintain readiness. In October 2015, the battery placed second in DIVARTY's 'Best of the Best' section competition. Both firing platoons conducted table XII qualification, immediately followed by a Battalion Gunnery exercise, and a Fires Coordination Exercise, providing fire support to the Brigade's Calvary Squadron early in the year. The battery has mastered the delivery of all types of munitions; to include live-firing eighteen rounds of M107, high-explosive munitions fitted with Precision Guidance Kits (PGKs).

Paratroopers from STRIKE also participated in several interoperability training exercises such as: Pegasus Cypher, Steel Saber, and a Combined Joint Operation Access Exercise (CJOAX). These events partnered the battery's Paratroopers with members of the 7th Parachute Royal Horse Artillery, 16th Air Assault Brigade, from Colchester, England, and culminated in two joint live-fire exercises.

A platoon from STRIKE provided two M777A2s and a Q-49 radar to participate in 1st Ranger Battalion's multi-lateral training exercise at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., after receiving a request from 1/75 RGR for 155mm support. 2nd Platoon demonstrated their ability to conduct rapid air-land infiltration from a C-17 Globemaster III, emplaced howitzers, and received digital counter-fire missions from a Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) during this training event.

Additionally, the battery maintained an average of 271 points on the APFT. One Paratrooper earned the title of 'Brigade Trooper of the Year,' and one NCO was recognized as the Brigade and Division



Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, Fort Bragg, N.C. in action. U.S. Army photo released.

NCO of the year. He went on to compete in the XVIII Airborne Corps NCO of the Year competition and placed second overall. The battery's most junior Section Chief graduated ALC as the class distinguished honor graduate, and six leaders in the battery graduated from the United States Army Advanced Airborne School as Jumpmasters during the last twelve months as well. The 82nd Airborne Division Commander also recognized one of the battery's spouses for outstanding support to the Family Readiness Group and the FT Barrage Community.

During the last twelve months Charlie Battery has maintained a platoon's worth of men, weapons, and equipment on an eight hour recall; ready to jump fight and win, tonight.