

From the Commandant's desk

Honing our Core Competencies

In this edition of the *Redleg Update* we are highlighting how we are “Honing our Core Competencies,” and how Redlegs throughout the Army are making a significant impact on the Fires War Fighting Function. In order to keep this momentum going, it is incumbent on our senior leaders to continue consistent dialogue with our Fires and Maneuver operational leaders.

The Chief of Staff of the Army reinforced at AUSA that our number one priority is “Readiness,” and it is clear in my travels and engagements that the Field Artillery community clearly understands this and is engaged at every echelon.

Army leadership is taking a hard look at Fires trends at the Combat Training Centers (CTCs). Currently, the CTCs are reporting that our “ready to fire” times are meeting standards. I know this success is due to our branch’s tireless efforts in training, certifications, and the leader development our Soldiers and leaders are receiving. We have seen visible improvements across our gun lines and Fire Direction Centers due to the hard work of our force in getting back to core competencies.

Although our firing units have significantly improved, getting steel on target in a timely manner still remains a challenge. For the most part it is due the absence of integration and synchronization of Fires and Maneuver. We are clearing Fires that don’t need to be cleared, and not designing our battlefield geometry to facilitate rapid delivery of Fires. Many of today’s FSOs, due to deployments and years of performing non-Artillery duties, grew up outside of a conventional fire support pathway, so the burden is on senior Field Artillery leaders, to teach subordinates the art and science of integration and synchronization of Fires and Maneuver. It’s important to coach them on how responsive Fires may be obtained through the proper use of fire support coordination and airspace coordination measures.

The single most important block of instruction we teach during the Brigade Combat Team Pre-Command Course (BCT PCC) is the roles, functions,

and importance of Fires cell integration with the Air Defense Airspace Management/Brigade Aviation Element or most commonly known as the ADAM/BAE cell. The ADAM/BAE cell provides situational awareness that encompasses the entire aspect of military operations and nonmilitary activities such as those of the host nation or humanitarian organizations. In a round-the-clock tactical operations center (TOC), the Fires cell provides invaluable information to the BCT commander. Most BCT commanders are surprised to learn that this capability resides inside their TOCs and that most cells are not adequately trained to provide the commander the necessary situational awareness and capability to clear airspace in real time.

Our renewed focus on digital sustainment training and enhanced Institutional training on the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AF-ATDS) will enhance the Fires cell’s ability to leverage a real-time, three dimensional airspace clearance tool. Fort Sill currently runs an ADAM/BAE cell functional course and I strongly encourage everyone to attend so they can fully understand systems integration and the powerful enabler the FC/ADAM/BAE provides the BCT.

To further enhance understanding of how to clear Fires, there are some great articles we have previously published in the *Fires Bulletin*, and previous *Redleg Updates* on the topic. For ease of download and reading convenience they all can be found on FKN.

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<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/files/47525084>.

“Speaking Truth to Maneuver” by then LTC Pat Proctor, PhD., is geared toward helping Fire Support Coordinators, Brigade Fire Support Officers (BDE FSOs), and FA Battalion staffs understand the challenges with clearance of Fires, both air and ground. The other two articles, also penned by COL Proctor, ran in previous *Redleg Updates* and are entitled “Ground Clearance of Fires: Part I” and “Clearance

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of Fire Part II: Air Clearance of Fires.” These might be of interest to incoming BCT commanders. All are good reads, and discuss the majority of recurring fire support coordination issues commonly seen.

Additionally, to further this training effort, I want to draw your attention to some older documents produced by the National Training Center and published by the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL). The “Fighting with Fires” bulletins describe fire support trends, both positive and negative, which were observed during NTC training rotations, and although they were distributed in the mid-90s they still have significant relevance to our force today.

I am confident, that a renewed focus on training and coaching our Fire Support community will most certainly improve the lethality of our BCTs and, most importantly, impact the “Readiness” of our Army.

Lastly, I want to draw attention to the reading list

found at the end of this *Redleg Update*. Since our arrival, CSM Parsons and I have been asked by various audiences in several venues about what we recommend for professional reading. This list is manageable in size and by no means all-inclusive, and I’ve received several suggestions for additions, many of which will be added in the next version. It is intended to offer leaders at different levels some of what we believe are exceptional professional readings. Please feel free to circulate as you see fit. As always, your feedback is always welcome. 

King of Battle!
Redleg 6

COL Stephen J. Maranian

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY “NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

1 November 1946, the War Department redesignated the Field Artillery School as The Artillery School with the Antiaircraft Artillery School at Fort Bliss, Texas, and Sea Coast Artillery School, at Fort Winfield Scott, California, as branches of The Artillery School. The merger did not mean physical collocation. Each school stayed at its existing location.

5 November 1899, SGT Clarence M. Condon, Battery G, 3rd U.S. Artillery, received a Medal of Honor for action on this date. While in command of a detachment of 4 men, he charged and routed 40 entrenched insurgents, inflicting on them heavy loss near Calulut, Luzon, Philippines.

14-17 November 1965, at the Battle of the Ia Drang in Vietnam, American field artillery demonstrated airmobile artillery’s and aerial rocket artillery’s ability to furnish effective fire support and played a key role in defeating more than 3,000 North Vietnamese Army/People’s Army of Republic of Vietnam regular forces.

7 December 2006, The Field Artillery School’s 30th Field Artillery Regiment became the 428th Field Artillery Brigade. The 30th Field Artillery Regiment had served the school since 1 February 1989.

8 December 1987, President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty to reduce nuclear arms. The treaty led to the elimination of the Army’s Pershing II missile and the Soviet SS-20 missile and the inactivation of Field Artillery Pershing units.

10 December 1930, Secretary of War Patrick J. Hurley designated Fort Sill as the permanent home of the Field Artillery School after years of debate over the best location.

17 December 1944, During the Battle of the Bulge, the Americans employed the VT fuse for the first time against ground targets. The fuse increased the effectiveness of Field Artillery fires.