

From the Commandant's desk

Hello from the 52nd Chief of the Field Artillery

Field Artillery Leaders,

I am humbled and honored to serve you as the Chief of the Field Artillery and Commandant of our Field Artillery School.

To open this edition of the Redleg Update, I'd like to highlight some early observations to stimulate dialogue on our way forward. The branch and school are doing well. There have been numerous and significant advances across the DOTMLPF-P domains enabling us to move the Field Artillery branch and Fires Warfighting function into the future.

Since arriving, I've had the opportunity to visit with a number of students and instructors in various classes on Fort Sill, and am encouraged by these engagements. These are bright and enthusiastic young women and men who have volunteered to serve their Nation; we are lucky to have them in our branch. Our commitment going forward is to present these Redlegs with opportunities for life-long learning, mentoring, and advocacy. While we are doing well in many of these areas, we still have significant challenges to overcome. Fourteen years of continuous conflict has changed the way we conduct our missions and training. Additionally, our young leaders absorb and retain information in different ways than past generations of Soldiers. As a result we need to continue to evolve and develop enhanced methods to effectively coach, teach and mentor Redlegs. They need to know what right looks like — on and off the battlefield. As we focus on Combined Arms Maneuver and Wide Area Security, we can't let garrison and training processes falter. As professionals, we must be masters of all aspects of our environment. It is critical that we ensure that we're developing competent, confident, agile and adaptable leaders who have the skills to navigate in any environment.

Our Division Artilleries (DIVARTYs), Field Artillery Brigades (FABs) and Battlefield Coordination Detachments (BCDs) are out front in this initiative and have empowered a lot of change. These formations led by our COLs and CSMs are quickly becoming experts again, addressing a number of concerns regarding the core competencies of our branch. This trend



COL Stephen J. Maramian

will continue, as will the recognition by our Division, Corps and ASCC leaders of the importance these of Headquarters as significant combat multipliers. They are indeed doing well, but we must continue to support and resource them so they are able to routinely do all that our Maneuver forces need them to do as well as serve as experts on standards and competencies. One successful endeavor in this area is the Joint Air Ground Integration Cell (JAGIC) construct. As the JAGIC concept within the Divisions continues to develop, it is imperative for those units going to the Maneuver Command Training Program (MCTP) to continue cross talk and to make sure they share their lessons learned with the force at large. One initiative we will soon bring back to aide in training gaps associated with JAGIC is the Joint Operational Fires and Effects Course (JOFEC) course. We are working to re-

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source and reestablish JOFEC with modernized Fires curriculum; more on that in the next edition.

In order to gain further competencies, we must continue to explore advanced opportunities for training in domains; live, virtual and constructive. The FCoE team is working with the Maneuver Center on the next generation of simulations with the Soldier Virtual Training (SVT) and helping to define the future Synthetic Training Environment (STE). As we do this, we must make sure Fires is accurately represented and integrated in Maneuver simulations and training. As resourcing and funds become more limited, and technologies become more advanced it is vital that we advance our understanding and usage of simulations systems.

In closing, I would like to formally welcome our new Field Artillery Command Sergeant Major, CSM Berk Parsons. CSM Parsons is a seasoned senior NCO who brings tremendous energy, stamina, and experience to the team. In the next few months, CSM Parsons and I will be out and about visiting various



COL Steve Maranian, incoming Field Artillery School Commandant and Chief of Field Artillery, receives the FA Branch flag from MG John Rossi, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill commanding general, while CSM Berk Parsons, the new Field Artillery Branch Command Sergeant Major looks on. COL Maranian was most recently Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Africa/Southern European Task Force. U.S. Army photo by the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill.

units. We have an aggressive schedule and as I have mentioned my intention is to regularly reach out and maintain open, candid and professional dialog. Your thoughts and opinions are important to the team here at Fort Sill and for the advancement of our branch in the coming years. Thank you for being part of the

King of Battle! 
Fires Strong!

COL Stephen J. Maranian



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