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Field Artillery: Looking Forward to 2019

It's been a fantastic 2018 for the King of Battle! Due to efforts of our Redlegs in war and training, our maneuver commanders and Army senior leaders have incredible confidence in our branch. To re-enforce the field's successes and prepare for large-scale ground combat operations (LSGCO), the United States Army Field Artillery School will accomplish the below in 2019:

- Initiate a Danger Close Walk and Shoot lane in the Basic Officer's Leaders Course (BOLC-B) culminating training event.
- Increase amount of degraded operations instruction in all courses (degraded call for fire, manual gunnery, aiming circle training, etc.)
- Conduct multiple, three-to-seven-day field training exercises (FTXs). In all 13CMF Advanced Individual Training (AIT) courses and in BOLC-B.
- Reduce the amount of common core and other tasks that are not focused on LSGCO fire support/field artillery tasks.
- Rewrite and publish Training Circular 3-09.8 Field Artillery Gunnery and Field Manual 3-09 Field Artillery to match Field Manual 3-0 Operations. Update and publish our basic handbooks, which include the Executive Officer's Handbook, Multiple Launch Rocket System/High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Platoon Leader Handbook, and the Company Fire Support Officer Handbook.
- Increase the physical requirements of our students (foot march to the field, Army Combat Fitness Test preparations).

- Increase our academic rigor through pre-assessment testing and tightening up our Academic Review Board process.
- Take personal weapons to the field for every FTX to reinforce discipline in handling weapons.
- Pull Joint Fires Observer out of 13F AIT and BOLC-B, maintain it as a functional course.
- Increase/demand two-way dialogue with the field in all efforts at USAFAS.
- We will focus on lethality, lethality training and remove all "non-lethal Fires" verbiage from our lexicon.

Finally, in 2019 we will continue to nurture a culture of reading. This does not mean creating lists and requiring Soldiers to read each book and then test them on it. It means encouraging reading a range of materials, and providing formal and informal venues for discussion. Passion and excitement for reading is contagious, and it should match our passion and excitement for being Redlegs – because leaders are readers!

There is no more exciting time to be the best branch in our Army! Our civilian and military leaders have made Fires a top priority, our artillery force structure is growing, and maneuver commanders have more confidence and appreciation of our warfighting function than ever before. As we go forward into 2019, we will continue to demonstrate the awesome lethality of joint surface-to-surface/air-to-surface Fires in combat and at our cornerstone training events. Thank you for all that you do!

Keep up the Fire!
King of Battle!