

# Knox, Gruber & Hamilton 2016

FORT SILL (April 2017)--The U.S. Army Field Artillery School has announced the winners of the 2016 awards for excellence within the Field Artillery branch.

The **2016 Field Artillery Henry A. Knox Award** is awarded to: **Charlie Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment.**

This award recognizes the outstanding active duty Army Field Artillery Battery of the Year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence. Originally called the Knox Trophy and Medal, these awards were established in 1924 by the Chief of Field Artillery and presented annually. They recognized the best Artillery battery (Trophy) and best enlisted Artillery Soldier (Medal) based on performance, excellence, leadership and proficiency. The awards recognized hard work, talent and determination that resulted in performance at the highest of standards. The awards were halted during World War I and were not re-initiated until 2002. The Knox Medal is no longer presented, but was replaced in 2002 by the creation of the Gruber Award for recognition of the individual Artillery Soldier.

In preparation for their missions in Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), Charlie Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment flawlessly conducted pre deployment training and certification. C Battery completed a 30 day Battalion FTX "Operation Grapeshot," a Division Artillery Readiness Test (DART), Iron Focus FTX and FCX, a National Training Center Rotation, as well as the Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) fielding. Based on their superior performance, the battery was selected to spearhead the Battalion's mission in support of Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC-1) in Kuwait.

The battery transitioned from a 2x8 M109A6 unit to a 3x6 formation. By Sept. 30, the dispersed platoons fired over 1,200 rounds, across multiple provinces in Iraq, and were credited with significant enemy killed in action. The battery was critical to the fight and their timely and accurate fires demonstrate the devastating lethality of a well-trained Field Artillery unit. C Battery's relentless and inspiring dedication to support ground forces epitomizes the bravery of all Artillerymen as well as the relevance of the Field Artillery as a force multiplier.

They have continued their legacy of excellence setting new standards for the Battalion and the 1st Ar-

mored Division Artillery and clearly show why we are the King of Battle.

MOST RECENT KNOX AWARD WINNERS:

2015 Charlie Battery 2-319 AFAR, Fort Bragg, NC  
2014 Bravo Battery 4-27 FA Regiment, Fort Bliss, TX  
2013 Alpha Battery 2-15 FA Regiment, Fort Drum, NY  
2012 Bravo Battery 1-77 FA, Schweinfurt, Germany

The winner of the **2016 Field Artillery Alexander Hamilton Award** is awarded to: **Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment of the Utah Army National Guard.**

This award recognizes the outstanding U.S. Army National Guard Field Artillery Battery of the Year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence. The Alexander Hamilton Award was created in 2002 and is named after American Statesman and Continental Army Artilleryman Alexander Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton was an outstanding Artillery battery commander and a skilled cohort of General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Hamilton helped frame the U.S. Constitution and also served as the Nation's first Secretary of the Treasury.

B Battery 1-145 FA was tasked with two missions in TY2016; deliver Artillery Fires and support the Homeland Response Force (HRF). B Battery executed both missions flawlessly. The capstone event for the battery was a brigade Artillery live fire exercise at Camp Guernsey, Wyo., and a HRF simulation training exercise (STX) in Denver, Colo. In support of the HRF mission, B Battery trained Soldiers to assist and support security and decontamination efforts in a simulated Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Enhanced Conventional Weapons (CBRNE) environment in order to respond to a domestic disaster.

B Battery also had a very strong presence in the local area and supported the community that supports them. B Battery conducted over 26 community support activities in TY2016. These activities included funeral details, flag ceremonies, color guards, and assisting with local youth recreation programs. The unit members helped with the Santa Flight during Christmas, bringing toys and school supplies to needy children of the local community.

B Battery also deployed four Soldiers during



2016 Field Artillery Alexander Hamilton Award winner

flooding in southern Utah to help with search, rescue, and recovery of missing persons. Finally, the unit fired 460 observed rounds without incident and capped the year with a perfect safety record.

#### MOST RECENT HAMILTON AWARD WINNERS:

2015 Alpha Battery 3-197 FA Regiment, New Hampshire ARNG  
 2014 Alpha Battery 1-181 FA, Tennessee ARNG  
 2013 Bravo Battery 1-121 FA Wisconsin ARNG  
 2012 Bravo Battery 2-218 FA Oregon ARNG

The winner of the **2016 Field Artillery Edmund L. Gruber Award** is: **SFC Zachary S. Wilkerson, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.**

This award recognizes an outstanding Field Artillery Soldier for superb individual thought, innovation, and overall excellence resulting in significant contributions to or the enhancement of the Field Artillery's war fighting capabilities. This award is named after Brigadier General Edmund L. Gruber, a noted Field Artillery Officer, who as a First Lieutenant in 1908 composed the "Caisson Song," which the Army adopted as "The Army Song" (The Army Goes Rolling Along) in 1952. The Gruber Award was established in 2002.

SFC Wilkerson performed with distinction as the 2nd Fires Platoon Sergeant, Alpha Battery, 1-94th FAR, Al Asad Air Base-Iraq (AAAB), from Feb. 5, 2016 to Aug. 13, 2016 during Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). His expertise was instrumental in his battery's ability to provide timely and effective surface-to-surface High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) fires in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-OIR Mission. SFC Wilkerson's platoon successfully fired more than 500 rockets supporting hundreds of combat mis-



2016 Field Artillery Edmund L. Gruber Award winner

sions and all without incident. The platoon's timely and accurate fires resulted in the destruction and degradation of enemy fighters, infrastructure, and equipment through Anbar Province, Iraq.

SFC Wilkerson's contributions to the Field Artillery ensured overall mission success and built confidence in senior Army leaders when employing HIMARS. His leadership, tactical, and technical proficiency resulted in a highly-motivated and lethal force that significantly contributed to the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq (ISIL).

#### MOST RECENT GRUBER AWARD WINNERS:

2015 SFC Jorge A. Moraguzman, 2-15th FA  
 2014 SFC Daniel A. King, 1-320th FA  
 2013 1LT Nathaniel J. Holcomb 1-41 FA  
 2012 SFC Thomas Robinson 1-377 FA

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Knox, Hamilton and Gruber awards. The United States Army Field Artillery School would also like to thank the unit leaders who took the time and effort to highlight their Soldiers and units showing the awesome power and effectiveness of the King of Battle.

