First Army East, 188th Infantry Brigade
2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment

The 188th Infantry Brigade’s, 2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment advises, assists, and trains Reserve Component units within the First Army East Southern Region of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Florida. They conduct unified land operations during pre-mobilization training in order to provide ready forces to geographical combatant commanders.

Noncommissioned officers and officers of the 2-306th FAR from Fort Stewart, Ga., spent a week being instructed by the professionals of the 428th Field Artillery Brigade’s Master Gunner Division. Field Artillery Automated Tactical Data Systems specialist-13Ds and the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) operations/fire direction specialists-13Ps received training designed to further their skills toward the merging of their military occupational specialties (MOS). In addition to refreshing their artillery skills in manual gunnery, the cannon crewmembers-13Bs received training on how to establish a battalion certification program, a maintenance block on all howitzer platforms, firing battery operations, and Gun Laying Positioning System or aiming circle hands-on training. The Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember-13M shadowed the master gunner instructors and covered how to establish a battalion certification program, firing battery operations, and the future of the MLRS platform. All MOSs received Digital Sustainment Training and were able to add topics to the training agenda as they identified a requirement due to atrophy of skills or lack of experience.

Personnel in 2-306th FAR kept busy supporting multiple individual drill training events, as well as annual training (AT) exercises, brigade warfighter exercises, and supported additional training events at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., by providing observer coach/trainers (OC/T). Some of the major training events supported were the ATs with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery during training at Camp Blanding, Fla., April 29 to May 13 where they conducted a live-fire exercise. The 3-116th FA is one of three HIMARS units that the 2-306th FAR provides general support training to. At the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team warfighter exercise July 22 to Aug. 2 at Fort Bragg, N.C., the 2-306th FAR not only supported 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery during the warfighter but also observed, coached and trained all fire support officers and NCOs throughout a planned 188th Infantry Brigade’s maneuver battalions lanes operations.

Personnel from the 2nd Field Artillery Battalion, 306th Regiment, recently traveled to Fort Sill, Okla., to conduct a week-long training at the Master Gunnery Course as part of the recertification process. The training ensured that all OC/T’s were up to date on the latest tactics, techniques and procedures of core artillery skills with a sister active component (AC) unit, and to share knowledge gained from multiple trips observing our National Guard brethren. Upon returning from Fort Sill the OC/T recertification was further enhanced by conducting classroom training that covered after action reviews, lane building procedures, and safety operations which will be utilized during the upcoming December 2017 field exercises.

The Red Dragon Battalion will continue to remain relevant during the Fiscal Year 18 cycle by supporting all 12 assigned partner artillery battalions, nine of them being cannon battalions and three being HIMARS battalions. The Red Dragon Battalion is postured to maintain individual, collective training, equipment, and systems readiness. All members of the Red Dragon Battalion are trained and certified for their duties. The Red Dragon Battalion is postured in anticipation of a Fort Stewart Mobilization Force Generation Installation. Soldiers, civilians, and family members all enjoy a predictable and supportive battalion calendar.

1st Armored Division Artillery, Iron Steel

The 2017 year was an exceptionally busy one for 1st Armored Division Artillery, Iron Steel. Redlegs from the headquarters and all battalions executing Fires tasks during both training and contingency operations. In January the majority of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, Gunner Battalion, deployed to Afghanistan with 1st Brigade, 1st AD, Ready First Brigade, to provide direct support Fires and assume military advisory duties as a part of Train, Advise and Assist Command–East.

In February the DIVARTY staff participated in Warfighter Exercise 17-02 in preparation to assume Combined Joint Force Land Component Command Fires responsibilities in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). The Defenders from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery redeployed from U.S. Central Command in March, and completed individual and collective training through Table XI in preparation for their home station gated training, National Training Center (NTC) rotation, and U.S. Pacific Command deployment next year.

ducted a change of command and change of responsibility with Col. Andrew Rendon and Command Sgt. Maj. John Condliffe June 13, 2017. Immediately following the change of command, the DIVARTY headquarters deployed to Iraq as part of CJFLCC-OIR and provided Iraqi security forces joint Fires during their fight against Da’esh. The DIVARTY assumed modification table of organization and equipment responsibility for the division Sentinel platoon, and following a rapid certification process, the element deployed to conduct defense support to civil authorities operations in support of U.S. Northern Command from September to November.

Fourth Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, Thunder Battalion, completed a rigorous training strategy at Fort Bliss, Texas, in their first year back in U.S. Forces Command. Major training events included externally evaluated Table XVIs for each battery, division artillery readiness tests, a Table XVIII, and brigade fire control exercise. Following NTC Rotation 17-08, the battalion deployed to Kuwait to provide joint Fires capability in support of CENTCOM.

1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, Hamilton’s Own

The 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, Hamilton’s Own, aggressively and professionally built readiness throughout 2017. Throughout 2016 and 2017, Team Destroyer proudly served in both the 1st Infantry Division and the 2nd Infantry Division/Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division. Both divisions are in their 100th year of service to our nation. In October 2016 through June of 2017, the battalion sustained professional readiness during operations within the ROK/U.S. alliance and deterrence mission on the Korean Peninsula.

In January 2017, 1-5th FA along with the rest of the Devil Brigade Combat Team served as the first brigade-size element of the 1st Infantry Division to forward deploy and support operations in the Republic of Korea. The mission was to provide lethal, timely and accurate cannon Fires to deter aggression, and if deterrence failed, to Fight and Win Tonight. On the Peninsula, the Soldiers had many unique professional opportunities to develop and train with the skilled ROK partners. This allowed 1-5th FA to focus on the fundamentals of Fires. The mission under the Counterfire Task Force of 210th Field Artillery Brigade provided unmatched training and leader development opportunities that shall last in the formation and Army for years to come.

While in Korea, 1-5th FA was commended for the target acquisition platoon’s performance which set records for geographic reach across the Peninsula. Under 210th FAB, Hamilton’s Own conducted three loading exercises (to include one no-notice exercise on New Year’s Eve) and brigade-level rehearsals in which the unit was alerted and ordered to stand-to at their battle positions in the event of hostilities. First-5th FA stood ready to fight and win at a moment’s notice had deterrence failed in the Republic of Korea.

During Operation Louisiana in March, 1-5th FA conducted Artillery Table XII certification, a first for rotational units in the Peninsula. This allowed the team to professionally develop in the toughest, most realistic training environment. Additionally Battery B conducted a partnership shoot with elements of a Republic of Korea field artillery battalion. In April, elements of the battalion participated in Operation Key Resolve, a multilateral exercise in which allied nations rehearsed a potential response to enemy aggression. Also, 1-5th FA supported the brigade’s combined arms live-fire exercise in the vicinity of Pocheon, located just south of the demilitarized zone.

Providing timely and accurate Fires for over 240 years, Hamilton’s Own continues to serve honorably as the longest serving active-duty battalion in the U.S. Army.

1st Cavalry Division Artillery, Red Team

Soldiers in 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, Red Team, successfully accomplished a broad range of operations in support of deploying brigades as well as joint and combined exercises in 2017. Collectively, these events provided excellent opportunities to build readiness across the force. With the division headquarters deployed

A Romanian LAROM multiple rocket launcher fires in support of Saber Guardian 17 in Cincu, Romania, July, 2017. (Staff Sgt. Rachel M. Korzeniewski/South Dakota Army National Guard)
in support of Operation Resolute Support, the Red Team focused its efforts directly on preparing brigades for global employment. At the start of the year, DIVARTY conducted Artillery Tables XV and XVIII and supported National Training Center Rotation 17-04 to prepare 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, Black Jack, to assume of the Korea regionally aligned forces (RAF) mission. Shortly thereafter, DIVARTY shifted its focus to preparing the Fires team within the Air Cavalry Brigade for employment in support of the European RAF mission, conducting simultaneous evaluations in Fort Riley, Kan., Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Hood, Texas.

In the late summer through fall, DIVARTY again shifted its support to 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, Iron Horse, as they qualified the battalion and supported NTC 18-02 in anticipation of the brigade’s European RAF deployment next year. The DIVARTY also deployed a fire support team to Fort Sill, in September to support 75th Field Artillery Brigade as they executed Artillery Table XVIII for their organic battalions. In October and November, DIVARTY supported 3rd Section, Field Artillery Squadron, Steel Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment during Artillery Table XV with observer coach/trainers and tailored training to the squadron in preparation for their anticipated Operation Inherent Resolve mission.

While DIVARTY was an instrumental driver for the division’s readiness, it also maintained an aggressive collective training strategy. The Soldiers participated in several joint and combined exercises to include multiple iterations at both Exercise Virtual Flag in support of United States Air Force air-ground integration at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., and Fleet Synthetic Training - Joint in partnership with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps out of San Diego, Calif., which focused on Fires integration in support of the maritime domain. These exercises provided an unparalleled opportunity to train and synchronize joint Fires, exercise mission command, and integrate targeting assets into joint operations in a constructive environment. They also prepared DIVARTY in advance of Exercise Saber Guardian 17, where the brigade deployed to Hungary and Romania as part of a 22-nation training exercise conducted across the Black Sea region. DIVARTY served as a force field artillery headquarters, massing combined elements from six separate artillery battalions. Working closely with the 8th LAROM Brigade (Romanian Army), they successfully integrated Romanian counterparts into a combined tactical operations center. Over the course of the fire control exercise and combined arms live-fire exercise, over 600 rockets and 1,100 155 mm rounds were fired and there were live engagements from both U.S. and Romanian fixed and rotary wing assets.

Overall, 2017 was a productive year for the DIVARTY, qualifying both the Fort Hood-based artillery battalions while participating in multiple CONUS and OCONUS combined exercises. In the year to come, Red Team’s twofold focus will be on preparing for Warfighter Exercise 18-05 and a follow-on deployment.

1st Cavalry Division Artillery Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/1stCavalryDivisionArtillery

1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, Dragons

Upon returning from the Republic of Korea in fall 2016, the 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, Dragons, initiated an accelerated training plan in order to meet key support gates for 1st
2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 
Steel Dragons

Soldiers in 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, Steel Dragons, deployed into Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) combat operations in February 2017 in support of the anti-ISIS coalition offensive within Iraq. The Steel Dragons exercised distributed mission command with each battery deployed in separate firing locations throughout Iraq (seven Paladin sections, three fire direction centers, two Q53 Radar sections and one targeting cell) in support of Combined Joint Task Force-OIR. The battalion played an integral role in the success of the anti-ISIS coalition. They participated in Operation Nineva Falcon to liberate the cities of Mosul and Tall Afar from ISIS; Operation Valley Patriot which eliminated ISIS from the city of Hawija and surrounding villages; and Operation Desert Lion to provide Fires in support of Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Marines as they advanced along the Middle Euphrates River Valley. The battalion fired over 3,000 155 mm rounds in 923 fire missions in combat operations. These missions included approximately 200 Excalibur rounds and 300 Precision Guided Kit rounds. The battalion’s Q-53 Radar section and counter-fire section processed over 2,100 enemy projectiles and enabled over 150 counter-fire missions.

The Steel Dragons’ gated training strategy included Artillery Table V-VI certification exercises from March 26-30 in Kuwait, April 12-19 in Iraq, Aug. 5-6 in Kuwait, and Aug. 27 in Iraq. The battalion master gunner team validated OIR Paladin sections during combat operations in addition to Kuwait-based Paladin sections. The Soldiers executed over 15 separate live-fire events to support the maneuver battalions throughout the brigade combat team. They fired 3,000 rounds, which is more than twice what any previous Operation Spartan Shield direct support field artillery battalion previously fired. Platoons qualified prior to rotating to OIR and supported combat operations with realistic training to include chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive, small arms training and resiliency.

Second-82nd FA expertly conducted theater security cooperation focused on partnership with the Kuwaiti Land Field Artillery and the Kuwaiti Land Force Institute. The Steel Dragons demonstrated excellence with the deployment of the battalion commander and key FA leaders to Saudi Arabia during the KSA Fires Exercise. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, execute a terrain-denial fire mission from their firing point in support of Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq). (Courtesy photo)

3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, Rolling Thunder

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, Rolling Thunder, completed Artillery Table XVIII and a brigade fire support coordination exercise in January 2017 and deployed with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, to the National Training Center.

Following NTC, Rolling Thunder conducted Artillery Table VI and pre-deployment training in preparation for deployment to the Republic of Korea (ROK). In May and June, Rolling Thunder deployed to ROK with the Black Jack Brigade and joined 210th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunder, as part of the Counter Fire Task Force to support the armistice and deter North Korean aggression.

Following the relief in place/transfer of authority, Rolling Thunder continued to master the CFTF operational plan (OPLAN) and conducted leader reconnaissance of the terrain. Throughout the summer, 3-16th FA conducted small arms ranges and trained for Artillery Table I and the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test. The Soldiers also executed battalion and brigade-level load-out exercises to deploy howitzers, run fire direction centers and mission command nodes to go-to-war positions to simulate real-world deployment. In August, Rolling Thunder executed Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2017, a simulated execution of the CFTF OPLAN.

Rolling Thunder stayed busy in the fall, conducting battery-level Artillery Table VII-XI training, War Fighter Exercise 18-02 with Black Jack Brigade, a spur ride, and finished the fiscal year with Artillery Table XII. Soldiers in 3-16th FA executed a rigorous two-day evaluation lane for all six firing platoons, the medical platoon, the radar platoon and the distribution platoon from Forward Support Company.

While deployed, the Rolling Thunder Home Station Mission Command element continued to support the Fort Hood, Texas, Adopt-a-School program, ensured equipment readiness through the unit-maintained equipment program, processed individual replacements for deployment to ROK and worked with the battalion family readiness group to support Rolling Thunder families.

2nd Infantry Division Artillery

Soldiers from 2nd Infantry Division Artillery, stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., tested their preparedness to rapidly deploy by executing an emergency deployment readiness exercise on JBLM, Oct. 16-18.

In the early hours of Oct. 16, Capt. Matthew Wagner, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DIVARTY commander, received an alert from his higher headquarters to prepare his unit to deploy. The unit mustered, conducted pre-deployment tasks and prepared key personnel and equipment for a deployment to a forward location.

The 2nd ID DIVARTY Soldiers were able to rapidly posture key personnel and equipment at McChord Airfield, with coordination

http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin • 45
Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, take part in the Joint Air Ground Integration Center training event Bold Quest, at Evans Air Field, Fort Stewart, Ga. (1st Lt Kelsey Cochran/HHB 3rd DIVARTY)

and assistance from 7th Infantry Division Headquarters, and McChord Installation components. The JBLM Installation Transportation Division, Central Issuing Facility and Troop Holding Area, played an integral part, ensuring personnel and equipment were inspected and processed in a timely manner, which contributed to the success of the deployment exercise.

With assistance from the 62nd Airlift Wing, the 2nd ID DIVARTY team deployed to the Moses Lake Airfield located in Grant County, Wash. Once on ground, the DIVARTY team established its mission command systems and executed critical force field artillery tasks.

Col. Stephen Snelson, the 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander emphasized the importance of this joint training because it allows crews to conduct loading inspections and aerial maneuvers with a real combat load of personnel and their equipment.

This exercise marks the second time the DIVARTY conducted a no-notice deployment readiness exercise in the last 12 months and is a critical part of the unit’s preparations to support operations in Korea as part of 2nd Infantry Division.

3rd Infantry Division Artillery, Marne Thunder

Over the past year, the Redlegs from 3rd Infantry Division Artillery continued to refine the Fires warfighting function within the division. In April, the DIVARTY dominated the battlespace of Warfighter Exercise 17-04 with a successful Fires effort.

Through October, DIVARTY facilitated Bold Quest, a joint/multinational digital demonstration with over 20 partner nations. DIVARTY interacted with the French, Norwegians, Australians, Canadians and British forces, connecting their digital systems with U.S. systems. The DIVARTY team built a joint air ground integration center with multinational partners and successfully improved air and ground clearance of fire.

Reprioritizing focus in the third and fourth quarters of 2017, DIVARTY certified/qualified 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery through Artillery Table XVIII in preparation for National Training Center rotations 17-05 and 18-01. DIVARTY leaders also assisted in the certification/qualification of Task Force 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Artillery battery through Artillery Tables XII and XV while simultaneously assisting 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Georgia Army National Guard, and 1st Battalion, 112th Field Artillery during their eXploitable Combat Training Center rotation at Fort Stewart, Ga.

1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, Battlekings

This year, Redlegs from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, Battlekings, marked the start of their conversion from a composite 105 mm/155 mm artillery battalion to a M109A6 155 mm self-propelled battalion in support of 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division conversion. Prior to the transfer of howitzers to 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, the batteries maintained section and platoon readiness by completing their final composite Table VI and XII’s in March and April of 2017.

In April, the Battlekings Battalion supported National Training Center Rotation 17-05 (in support of 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and sister battalion 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery) with observer controller/trainer augmentees. B Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery and battalion fire support personnel served as the artillery and fire support team opposing force (OPFOR) for 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, allowing unique insight to the world of OPFOR in a decisive action training environment. Simultaneously, the Battlekings executed Warfighter Exercise 17-04 at Fort Hood, Texas, with over 50 personnel in support of 3rd ID and 3rd ID DIVARTY.

The Battlekings participated in eXploitable Combat Training Capability 17-04 at Fort Stewart, Ga., with 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery, of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Georgia Army National Guard, in order to prepare their organization for an upcoming Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in the summer of 2018. This marked the first successful execution of the Associated Unit Program with 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team participating in brigade-level training led by an active-duty division.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BattlekingsFA

1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, Glory’s Guns

Sounds of Glory continue to boom throughout the coastal empire of Georgia. The artillerymen and women of 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, consistently demonstrated their effectiveness in executing and maneuvering fire support elements for the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team in Fort Stewart, Ga. In February, the Glory’s Guns Battalion certified crews and weapon system in preparation for a National Training Center rotation in April. During Rotation 17-05, 1-41st FA shot approximately 850 rounds in three days of live-fire training. Upon return, the Soldiers’ summer vacation included maintenance, small arm ranges and forward observer certification. Momentum was the motivator; in August the battalion began Artillery Table certification. Artillery Table XVIII tested the battalion systems in mobilizing and directing batteries, executing fire missions, and communicating as a unified battalion.

In late August, combined arms live-fire exercises did not slow down the fight. During NTC Rotation 18-01, 1-41st FA exceeded the standard by shooting over 1,000 rounds during live-fire training. The Glory’s Guns Battalion is retraining on skills tested at the NTC and building stronger relationships within 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team and preparing for the Pacific Command regionally aligned forces next year.

Glory’s Guns, Mission Accomplished!
1-41st FA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Glorys-GunsBN/
Top: Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, fire an M119A2 during a unit field training exercise night live-fire. (1st Lt. Cristian Andrades, HHB 1-9th FA)

Bottom: Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery participate in Operation Glory Vulcan Inferno at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. (Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Goldstein/HHB, 1-41st FA)
17th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunderbolt

In 2017, the 17th Field Artillery Brigade continued to build sustainable readiness at echelon to deploy, fight and win decisively in any environment. With a “ready now” attitude, the Thunderbolt Brigade successfully accomplished many significant objectives. The brigade transitioned from the 7th Infantry Division and established a new mission command relationship attached to America’s I Corps. This was a time of transition as the brigade commander and two battalion commanders changed, as well as all the primary staff. Even so, Thunderbolt executed successful combined, joint training exercises while serving as both the I Corps’ Force Field Artillery Headquarters and Multi-Domain Task Force–Pilot Program Headquarters.

The brigade was focused in the beginning of the year on qualifying 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment in preparation for their deployment to the Central Command Region. Soldiers in 5-3rd FAR executed orders in April and redeployed at the end of December. While in the CENTCOM region, the firing batteries of 5-3rd FAR fired over 1,400 rounds in support of the fight against the Islamic State.

In June, the Thunderbolt Brigade said farewell to Col. Andrew Gainey and welcomed Col. Christopher Wendland as the new brigade commander. With the change of command, the brigade gained a new objective and received orders to serve as the lead Pilot Program Headquarters to develop the Army’s futuristic multi-domain task force concept.

The 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment returned in July from Iraq and Afghanistan after completion of their mission to protect U.S. and allied forces from rocket and mortar attacks. In August, they casied their colors and finished their time on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. They moved to Fort Sill, Okla., in December and completed reintegration with their parent brigade.

Talisman Saber, a combined, joint exercise between the Australian Defense Forces and U.S. Forces across six locations throughout the Pacific, was conducted in July. The brigade sent a team to Hawaii to serve as the counter-fire headquarters in conjunction with 25th Infantry Division, who served as the force field artillery headquarters. During this time, the brigade started the validation process of the initial requirements for the multi domain task force-PP alongside Australian counterparts of Task Force Hamel.

In August, the brigade served as I Corps’ Force Field Artillery Headquarters (FFAH) during Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, a large-scale command post exercise led by U.S. Pacific Command. In addition to a brigade element that would participate remotely from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, a contingent of Thunderbolt Soldiers traveled to South Korea and worked directly with their partners in the Republic of Korean Army to enhance multi-domain capabilities and improve mission command systems.

During Warfighter Exercise 18-2, a routine exercise to enhance the interoperability between U.S. and ROK forces in October, the
brigade tested its ability to deploy as a headquarters. The brigade had not deployed as a whole since a 2011 deployment to Iraq. Over 180 personnel from the brigade supported the exercise in South Korea. The brigade met all training objectives and validated its ability to serve as a FFAH for I Corps.

The brigade closed the year supporting Yama Sakura 73, a U.S. Army Pacific joint, bilateral command-post exercise with partners in the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force. The brigade supported the exercise from both Japan and JBLM serving as both the I Corps Force FFAH and MDTF-PP headquarters. Yama Sakura 73 provided an opportunity for the brigade to integrate lethal and nonlethal enablers and served as a rehearsal for the planned live-fire exercise at Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2018 in Hawaii.

1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, Deep Steel

The Deep Steel Battalion became the standard bearer of High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) rapid infiltration (HIRAIN) excellence by conducting a myriad of exercises with 62nd Airlift Wing, based out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. This validated the battalion as well as 17th Field Artillery Brigade’s ability to extend its operational reach with minimum signature in a dynamic and complex operational environment. This included a HIRAIN into Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif., with live M28 Reduced Range Practice Rockets loaded on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft during 62nd Airlift Wing’s Rainier War Rapid Mobility Exercise. Launchers tactically unloaded the aircraft, moved to their firing points and delivered responsive Fires within minutes, testing several mission-critical systems interoperability, to include the Joint Precision Airdrop System and high frequency radio systems.

The Deep Steel Redlegs also conducted the HIMARS Leaders Course in May. This course was designed to inform the field artillery community and joint partners on HIMARS operations. The curriculum consists of battery/platoon operations, section certifications/qualifications, safety, as well as a division- and corps-level shaping operations overview. Field artillery Marines from 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, participated in this course and shared best practices and lessons learned from HIMARS operations. The battalion continued to train with 5-11th Marines by exercising long-range fire mission processing capabilities by transmitting high frequency fire missions from fire detection centers (FDCs) in Camp Pendleton, Calif., to FDCs deployed at Yakima Training Center, Wash.

Immediately following the HIMARS Leaders Course, the Deep Steel Battalion participated in 353rd Combat Training Squadron’s Red Flag Alaska at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. This joint-level exercise provided realistic mission sets and promoted multi-service understanding of HIRAIN operations. Furthermore, the event…
allowed 1-94th FAR to articulate unique capabilities and provide expertise to 353rd CTS’ scenario design and development.

Keeping in line with the Army’s sustainable readiness model, the Deep Steel team introduced a battalion-level training initiative referred to as the tactical readiness exercise (TRX). The TRX tested small unit leaders on hasty tactical leadership procedures, exercised their equipment use on short notice and enabled an expeditionary mindset across the force. A battery commander would receive a mission brief that required a small detachment of the formation to execute a short-notice mission. The detachment could be a light HIMARS package from a firing battery, the battalion fire direction center, or a radio retransmission team from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. Observer, coach-trainer coverage throughout facilitated a back brief/hot wash to the battalion commander at the end of the day, increasing the unit’s mission essential task list proficiency.

Lastly, 1-94th FAR deployed to Camp Casey, Korea, in support of 17th Field Artillery Brigade as it served as I Corps Force Field Artillery Headquarters during Warfighter Exercise 18-02 in November. The exercise validated 1-94th FAR’s mission command capability and prepared the battalion as a combat-ready organization, able to provide ready and lethal fire support in response to global contingencies.

1-94th FAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/1stBattalion94thFieldArtilleryRegiment/

5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, First Round

In April 2017, the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, First Round Battalion, deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom-Spartan Shield (OEF-SS) and Combined Joint Task Force–Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR).

Once deployed, the battalion assumed responsibility for four light High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) firing platoon firing unit locations in Syria and Iraq, and eight liaison team locations to facilitate sustainment operations. Additionally, First Round assumed theater security cooperation (TSC) responsibilities with Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. The battalion’s overall area of operations spanned five countries and over 2,927 kilometers (1,818 miles) from the 5-3rd FA tactical operation center to the most distant position area for artillery. In total, the First Round Battalion managed these complex distributed operations with 344 Soldiers deployed throughout five countries.

As the HIMARS artillery unit responsible for shaping the CJTF-OIR deep fight, the battalion coordinated and processed HIMARS Fires with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force and Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command strike cells. Likewise, the battalion conducted fire planning, provided weaponizing solution support and assisted in planning future light HIMARS package moves to support numerous transitions in operations against ISIS. Fifth-3rd FA elements supported CJTF-OIR from eight firing unit locations throughout the Syrian and Iraqi theaters of operation, collectively providing over 1,500 precision-guided munitions.

In support of OEF-SS, the battalion seamlessly integrated HIMARS and nested operations with multiple TSC major training events. Throughout this process, the First Round Battalion planned and participated in six multinational and bilateral TSC training exercises with their Emirati and Jordanian partners, exploring all facets of interoperability. Multi-national exercises included: Eager Lion (May 2017), Air and Missile Defense Exercise (June 2017), Desert Thunder (July 2017), Spartan Thunder (August 2017), Saif Strike (September 2017), Black Oryx (October 2017), and Golden Falcon (November 2017). The First Round Battalion also participated in multiple readiness exercises.

Fifth-3rd FA will redeploy from OIR/OEF-SS to Joint-Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., reintegrate and prepare for eventual transition to the Pacific Theater of Operations. The First Round Battalion will provide lethal strike Fires in support of 17th Field Artillery Brigade and I Corps.

5-3rd FA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/5thBN3rdFA/

308th Brigade Support Battalion, Steel

In 2017 the 308th Brigade Support Battalion continued to plan, coordinate, synchronize and facilitate sustainment to enable 17th Field Artillery Brigade to execute operations across the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility. The unit conducted numerous missions across two states, three countries and is ready now to fight and win in a complex environment.

In April, 308th BSB conducted a 96-hour platoon evaluation against a dynamic and complex hybrid threat that ended with the familiarization of Combat Escort Team Gunnery at the Yakima Training Center, Wash. The battalion then held their Sixth Annual Gunga-Din Challenge where Soldiers competed in physically demanding obstacles over the course of six hours.

In September, the battalion conducted a week-long tactical combat casualty care training event to certify teams on complex convoy

Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, fire High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during a time on target exercise. (Courtesy photo)

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scenario lanes against an opposing threat. Finally in October, the battalion staff conducted a two-week long tactical operation center exercise at the Mission Command Training Center that evaluated the staff’s ability to conduct the military decision making process, develop brigade logistics synchronization and operations, and track operations across the battlespace.

In addition to routine training and operations, the Steel Battalion played a significant role in numerous operations across the brigade. The Soldiers supported 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery’s redeployment from Operation Inherent Resolve and their property movement to Fort Sill, Okla. The unit also supported 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery’s mission at Bayonet Focus in Yakima Training Center, Wash., and National Training Center Rotation 17-09 in Fort Irwin, Calif.

In December, The Steel supported 5-3rd FA’s redeployment from Operation Inherent Resolve. Finally, the Steel supported the deployment and sustainment of personnel and equipment during combined joint training exercises Talisman Saber 17 in Hawaii, Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Warfighter Exercise 18-02 in South Korea, and Yama Sakura 73 in Japan.

Pride in Performance!
308th BSB Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/308bsb/

18th Field Artillery Brigade, Steel

The 18th Field Artillery Brigade continued to provide lethal Fires in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve while improving mission readiness levels as XVIII Airborne Corps’ Force Field Artillery Headquarters and as an element of the global response force. This year marked significant changes in leadership at the brigade and battalion level. However, organizational, joint and coalition training continued without fail.

The Steel Brigade started the year with the Thunderbolts of 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment deployed in support of OSS and OIR. The battalion fired over 2,500 rockets in support of coalition forces setting conditions for the defeat of ISIS in both Mosul and Raqqah. Additionally, the battalion conducted theater security cooperation missions with Jordan and United Arab Emirates. In April, Soldiers of 3-321st FAR returned home from the unit’s first deployment as a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion and quickly integrated into the brigade training glide-path.

While the Thunderbolts were deployed, the remainder of the brigade tackled an aggressive training strategy designed to increase overall readiness. In January, Steel Eagles of 188th Brigade Support Battalion conducted a defensive live-fire exercise, and Red Lions Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment challenged their Soldiers with a battalion-level Best of the Best Competition. Subsequently in March, 3-27th FAR completed their Table XVIII qualification. Following their post-deployment reintegration, 3-321st FAR’s officers joined the rest of Steel leadership in Operation Omega Gold, a challenging leader professional development
field training exercise (FTX) that involved Chinook insertion for platoon-level tactics, waterborne zodiac operations and culminated with a 10 kilometer road march. In July, both HIMARS battalions conducted battalion FTXs and Table XII live-fire qualifications with the support of 188th BSB. In August 188th BSB conducted convoy and defensive live-fire exercises and the brigade conducted a Best of the Best Competition identifying the top launcher, fire direction center, and ammunition and radar sections. The brigade returned to the field in October for battery external evaluations and Table XV qualifications.

Alongside numerous local training exercises throughout the year, 18th FA Brigade provided support across the globe to joint and coalition partners. In January, Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery participated as the FFAHQ for U.S. Army Europe during the Austere Challenge in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Third-27th FAR deployed a platoon (-) twice to Fort Polk, La., to support 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division for Joint Readiness Training Center rotations 17-03 and 18-01. Additionally, Soldiers of 3-27th FAR provided HIMARS rapid infiltration capabilities in support of Weapons School Integration at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Soldiers from HHB supported numerous warfighter exercises in Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and South Korea fulfilling various FFAHQ roles. In September, 3-27th FAR conducted an emergency deployment readiness exercise of one GRF platoon (-) to Daecheon, South Korea, in 96 hours, validating HIMARS moving base alignments capability with guided Multiple Launch Rocket System. Steel Soldiers traveled to Savannah, Ga., in October to participate in Operation Bold Quest, a joint staff-led exercise focused on Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System interoperability.

Regardless of personnel changes or new training venues, the Soldiers of the Steel Brigade remain tough, proud and disciplined; ready to answer our nation’s call.

18th Field Artillery Brigade Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/18thfires

3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Lions Rain

The Red Lions Battalion spent the past year honing their field artillery skills, focusing on their core competency mission, and supporting multiple off-post training events. The battalion maintained a corps prepare to deploy order and global response force (GRF) mission sets. Headquarters, Headquarters Battery executed six off-post training exercises and supported multiple Joint Readiness Training Center rotations with liaison officers. Throughout the rigorous training schedule, the battalion maintained deployment readiness with a GRF platoon on 96-hour deployment notice.

In January, A Battery supported JRTC Rotation 17-03 by sending a platoon (-) to support 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. This provided the battery opportunities to integrate with maneuver brigades and operate in a general support role task organized under a division artillery headquarters. Throughout the
remainsder of second quarter, the battalion focused on individual warrior tasks and section level collective tasks to set the foundations for success with trained and disciplined Soldiers.

In March, the battalion completed Table XVIII qualifications with a battalion external evaluation to validate battalion mission essential tasks.

Throughout the summer, the battalion supported several off-post training events. B Battery supported Weapons School Integration 17A at Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nev. by integrating High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Fires with Air Force undergraduate joint terminal attack controller (JTACs) qualifications vulnerability exercises. A Battery participated in Operation Mobility Guardian, a joint multi-national exercise to rapidly deploy assets from across the globe in support of a joint forcible entry and airfield seizure by the 82nd Airborne. A Battery again deployed a platoon (-) to Fort Polk, La., to support 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division for JRTC Rotation 18-01, providing long-range rocket Fires in support of a maneuver brigade.

In September, B Battery displayed its readiness capabilities as it was alerted for a GRF mission. Within 96 hours, B Battery was alerted and conducted a no-notice deployment of one platoon (-) to Daechon, South Korea, providing South Korean and U.S. forces the ability to launch M31 GMLRS rockets and conduct successful moving base alignments.

October ended with another brigade field training exercise, focusing on Table XII qualifications and battery external evaluations. This training event showed the battalion’s ability to control multi-echelon independent field artillery operations while providing seamless Fires capability.

In December, A Battery again supported the Weapons School Integration 17B, by conducting a moving base alignment and live-fire in support of Air Force JTAC undergraduates. This culminated a busy year of operations across the globe for the Red Lions Battalion.

3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, Thunderbolts

The 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment remained deployed to start 2017 and returned to immediately begin preparations to assume the global response force (GRF) mission. While deployed, the Thunderbolts provided over 2,500 precision Fires for Operation Inherent Resolve in Syria and Iraq in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR). Additionally, the battalion supported Operation Spartan Shield in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Jordan through Theater Security Cooperation and multiple joint live-fire exercises with host nations. After conducting a relief in place and transfer of authority in April, the Thunderbolts redeployed to Fort Bragg, N.C. Since their return they focused efforts on reestablishing capabilities to rapidly deploy and sustain scalable High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) packages to support any contingency with precision Fires.

Third-321st FAR’s headquarters; 583rd Forward Support Company; and B Battery, 3-321st FAR were postured at Camp Redleg, United Arab Emirates, supporting Operation Spartan Shield through theater security cooperation execution with Emirati forces. With the establishment of the Subject Matter Exchange Program in January, Emirati liaisons were embedded with B/3-321st FAR to exchange HIMARS tactics, techniques and procedures. In February a HIMARS crew from B/3-321st represented 18th Field Artillery Brigade at the International Defense Exposition, the largest military exhibition in the Middle East, in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The HIMARS section was one of only two U.S. Army units on display. B/3-321st FA also executed Operation Saif Strike in March, which included a joint live-fire exercise with the Emirates. Soldiers in 583rd FSC maintained a liaison team at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to facilitate and coordinate movement of all equipment and personnel through the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR).

A Battery, 3-321st was headquartered at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, Jordan, supporting Operation Spartan Shield through theater security cooperation events with the Jordanian Army. During the deployment, A/3-321st executed Operation Desert Thunder II, an Artillery Table XII joint live-fire exercise with the Jordanian Field Artillery in March, and a joint marksmanship range.

The battalion also built and positioned multiple Light HIMARS Packages (LHPs) and liaison teams throughout the CENTCOM AOR to provide precision strike Fires for CJTF-OIR in Iraq and Syria. After demonstrating the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System M30A1 Alternative Warhead Rocket capabilities in the first U.S. and Emirati Soldiers conduct a joint M2 .50cal zero and qualification range in United Arab Emirates. This was the first M2 range that the U.S. and Emiratis conducted together as part of theater security cooperation efforts. (1st Lt. Jana Watson/U.S. Army)
OCONUS live-fire exercise in December 2016, the Thunderbolt Battalion was one of the first units to employ the round extensively in combat. By the end of the deployment, Thunderbolt LHPs were responsible for firing over 2,500 rockets against ISIS.

Upon return from deployment, the battalion immediately began to balance reset operations with preparations for its next mission. The battalion reestablished readiness through section then platoon certifications and live-fire exercises within 120 days after redeployment. Both launcher batteries qualified through Artillery Table XV in October. The battalion also sent a HIMARS section to represent the field artillery at the United States Military Academy’s Branch Week in order to recruit future Redlegs. The Thunderbolts of the 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment stand ready for GRF assumption and future missions in 2018. Thunderbolts!

3-321 FAR Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ThunderboltBN/

25th Division Artillery, Tropic Thunder

Over the last year, Redlegs from the Tropic Thunder 25th Division Artillery refined their gunnery skills while simultaneously training with partner nations to increase unit readiness and advance theatre security cooperation initiatives across the Pacific. The Tropic Thunder community began the year with a division fire support (FIST) certification that prepared Soldiers and leaders for upcoming rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center and training exercises abroad. Following a successful FiST certification, the 25th DIVARTY quickly focused efforts toward 25th Infantry Division Warfighter. This afforded the Tropic Thunder an opportunity to attain the highest levels of training readiness, while also serving as a vehicle for junior leader development. The 25th DIVARTY’s success at Warfighter 17-04 resulted from an aggressive training glide path that witnessed seamless integration of the 25th Combat Aviation, the DIVARTY Lethal Fires section, the Division Joint Air-Ground Integration Cell, and multiple sensor and collection assets in support of the division deep fight.

The 25th DIVARTY introduced the Precision Guidance Kit to its C batteries through a new equipment fielding which greatly increased the level of precision and effects afforded to the 25th Infantry Division. After a successful fielding, the 25th DIVARTY executed an emergency deployment readiness exercise (EDRE) in support of Operation Talisman Saber 17. Talisman Saber, a bilateral training exercise in Australia, saw the 25th DIVARTY serve as a force Fires headquarters (FFHQ) in support of the combined joint task force commander. This opportunity allowed the Tropic Thunder team to successfully alert, marshal and deploy aboard a C-17, exercising the integration of Fires into the Australian Defense
The 25th DIVARTY quickly transitioned to Table XV battery and Table XVIII battalion external evaluations for the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery. The Never Broken Battalion deployed to the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Island of Hawaii, both exercising its own EDRE programs and certifying its leaders from the section to battalion level.

The 25th DIVARTY served as the 25th Infantry Division’s FFHQ during Ulchi Freedom Guardian 17 by deploying its tactical command post to the Republic of Korea (ROK). During UFG 17, the Tropic Thunder team integrated joint Fires in combined operations with U.S. and ROK forces, enhancing interoperability and building relationships. The 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery received gunners from the New Zealand Defense Forces in September to conduct a bilateral field artillery exercise. Operation Lightning Whaitiri allowed U.S. and Kiwi artillerists to conduct Table VI section and Table XII platoon gunnery qualifications. The On Time Battalion capitalized on this opportunity by extending its readiness and advancing partnerships. The Tropic Thunder team closed out a successful year of exercises and combined arms live Fires by establishing the Fires Control Element for 3rd Brigade Combat Team’s home station culminating training exercise. Operation Lightning Forge allowed the 25th DIVARTY to control and mentor the Fires enterprise in preparation for JRTC Rotation 18-04.

The Tropic Thunder team reflects on the year having exercised expeditionary deployment at all levels, while refining its ability to shape for the Tropic Lightning Division. The 25th DIVARTY remains the “force of choice” to execute regional engagement in the Pacific and project Fires combat power anywhere in the world.

75th Field Artillery Brigade, Tough as Diamonds

Seventy-fifth Field Artillery Brigade, Tough as Diamonds, is operational on three continents and 11 countries around the world. The Soldiers are III Corps’ all-weather, surface-to-surface, destruction weapon of choice between 30 and 330 kilometers. This cohesive team is highly skilled at providing accurate and timely strike, counter-fire and suppression of enemy air defense Fires in support of America's Hammer and various combatant commands. In August, approximately 65 percent of the brigade headquarters deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to provide Fires and enhance theater security cooperation in support of operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield.

75th FAB Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/75FABrigade/
75th FAB Twitter: https://twitter.com/75firesbrigade

2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, Deep Attack

Morale remains high in 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery as Deep Attack continues to conduct missions in support of 210th Field Artillery Brigade at Camp Casey, in the Republic of Korea (ROK). Deep Attack hails from Fort Sill, Okla., where they are organic to 75th Field Artillery Brigade, and III Corps. Starting in March 2017, 2-4th FA executed an operational deployment to the ROK.

To prepare for the rotation, 2-4th FA certified on Artillery Tables I-XII at Fort Sill. Deep Attack was given two weeks to prepare for the external evaluation which included conducting recovery operations, receipt of the brigade operation order, completing the military decision making process and staging equipment for deployment.

Deep Attack began its evaluation April 24 by establishing a firing platoon 17 kilometers from the battalion command post, and conducting tactical fire direction utilizing high frequency radio communication. This replicated a combined, flexible firepower mission.

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Currently ongoing in South Korea. After completing a full alert and deployment process, Deep Attack proceeded to maneuver all 278 Soldiers over 40 kilometers for the next 12 days. They conducted 24-hour operations which included deliberate Fires plans, hasty Fires plans, counter-fire operations, refuel on move operations, and field maintenance in mission oriented protective posture (MOPP) ready, MOPP 2 and MOPP 4. The battalion was graded utilizing the Department of the Army approved objective mission essential task list. They deployed with a T rating.

In September, the Deep Attack Battalion deployed to the field in support of the ground component commander’s (GCC) Counter-Fire Task Force (CFTF) for two weeks. During this time the Soldiers simultaneously completed Artillery Table VI. The Deep Attack Battalion also qualified 16 M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System crews in less than five hours.

During the field exercise, Deep Attack conducted decontamination lanes, and convoy react to improvised explosive device lanes. Second-4th FA also trained with ROK Army counterparts on forward passage of lines with support from Blackhawk Troop, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment.

During the GCC CFTF Exercise, Deep Attack was the first to operate the Raven unmanned aircraft system (UAS) in “Rocket Valley.” The training simulated conditions consistent with the confined terrain the battalion would face in the event of North Korean hostilities. Deep Attack’s UAS operators refined tactics, techniques and procedures for operations and aircraft recovery for employment in the valleys that dominate much of the Korean Peninsula. This enabled the unit’s only organic intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform to exercise its force protection and early warning role in the same terrain and conditions the battalion conducts its mission.

The Deep Attack Battalion participated in numerous high profile missions and training events while assigned to 210th Field Artillery Brigade. The most grueling was the Flexible Deterrent Option Mission. Each of the firing batteries, with enablers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and 696th Forward Support Company, deployed to Combat Outpost Thunder for a total of four and a half months of an eight-month deployment. The battalion’s mission was to work closely with ROK forces as a deterrent option to North Korean aggression.

Although the conditions proved austere, the Deep Attack Battalion endured and excelled raising the bar for the rest of the brigade. While on the assignment, the battalion maintained an operational readiness rate of above 95 percent, established a fire mission data collection system, which enabled informed decision making, and hardened the COP Thunder site against enemy exploitation.

Deep Attack, also won the 2nd Infantry Division, 8th Army, and U.S. Army Pacific Army Award for Maintenance Excellence in Fiscal Year 2017.

The Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, Deep Attack take pride in maintaining one of the highest operational temps and being ready to excel at any challenge. The Soldiers of Deep Attack have proven they are capable of overcoming the challenges of time and terrain, and stand ready to take on whatever mission comes next.

3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, Red Dragons

Pending the 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery’s return from its latest deployment to the Republic of Korea, 3-13th FA entered 2017, the battalion’s centennial year, with preparations for a live-fire exercise (LFX) in February at Fort Riley, Kan., at Operation Danger Focus. To ensure a successful division-level live-fire, the unit conducted a battalion-level LFX at Fort Sill, Okla., in January. This exercise trained all subordinate units, and recertified the firing batteries prior to the division-level exercise. B Battery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and 66th Forward Support Company
participated in Operation Danger Focus, which supported 1st Infantry Division and 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division with reinforcing Fires to strengthen unit cohesion before a National Training Center rotation. Upon completion of the mission, 3-13th FA trained personnel and deployed HHB, 66th FSC and elements of its firing batteries to NTC Rotation 17-06 to offer reinforcing Fires in support of 2-1st ABCT. These training opportunities also fostered the relationship with 2-1st ABCT as a corps-level asset that provides general support as well as reinforcing support. In September, the battalion performed an LFX to recertify launcher crews, ammo platoons and field feeding systems within its support company.

**1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, Steel Warriors**

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, Steel Warriors, conducted a year of intensive mission-focused training with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colo. The training began with a visit by Col. Curtis Taylor, commander of the 1/4th SBCT. Taylor oriented the command teams and staff with the purpose of the reconnaissance and security (R & S) excursion which consisted of three Stryker battalions, a mobile strike force with heavy armor attachments, an airborne cavalry attachment, engineer and military police support, and a large attachment of dedicated unmanned aerial surveillance assets. The mission aimed to test the effectiveness of an over strength brigade and manned-unmanned teaming. This utilized the sensors on the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) and Apache UH-64s to spot and engage targets with the organic 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery 155 mm M777s howitzers as well as the 1-14th FA High Mobility Artillery Rocket System battalion. This increased the brigade’s light armored vehicles maneuver speed, while maintaining the ability to identify targets and engage with lethal Fires from a safe distance. This concept proved effective in not only maneuvering to find the enemy, but effectively engaging those targets. The Steel Warriors HIMARS battalion led the brigade in suppression of enemy air defense and the engagement of enemy long-range rocket/missile fire; often before the enemy entered the battle space. The culmination of a year of command post exercise training, a warfighter exercise, a Pinyon Canyon field training exercise, and a National Training Center rotation led to the Steel Warrior Battalion becoming a close knit part of the high tech, lethal, and maneuverable brigade. The R & S excursion proved to be a successful test of a military concept that paves the way forward in the age of UAS and long range firepower integration.

The Steel Warrior Battalion is assigned to the Central Command’s area of responsibility in order to support Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). The unit is task organized into HIMARS packages (LHP) across four countries, supported by the remainder of the battalion through Soldier attachments, liaisons and the headquarters battery. OSS involves partnered exercises with the 29th Royal Jordanian HIMARS Battalion and the Emirates 79th Heavy Rocket Regiment in order to build force interoperability through HIMARS live Fires, medical training, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense training, communications training and more. Additionally, 1-14th FA’s LHPs stand ready to provide lethal rocket/missile Fires in support of OIR and the campaign to defeat ISIS.

1-14th FA website: http://sill-www.army.mil/75th_Field_Artillery_Brigade/units/1_14th.html
1-14th FA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/114steelwarriors/

**2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, Mission Ready**

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, Mission Ready, redeployed to Fort Sill, Okla., in July 2017, following a nine-month rotational mission to the Republic of Korea. While deployed, 2-18th FA helped establish the flexible response option with 2nd Infantry Division and Eighth Army to offer national command authorities an additional option toward deterrence of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. The overall experience of serving as a rotational unit in the Republic of Korea greatly enhanced the organization’s warfighting capabilities in a combat-focused environment. In addition to the professional development, the Soldiers of the Mission Ready Battalion benefited from the culturally broadening experience with the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army counterparts, partnered ROK Army units and the local community through volunteer programs. Following redeployment, Mission Ready immediately sprang back into action providing Soldiers and equipment to assist with defense support of civil authorities operations in Texas after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. To date, the battalion continues training and developing combat-ready platoons and resilient families ready to support missions world-wide in support of III Corps, Phantom Warriors.

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2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, Deep Strike

The 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery, Deep Strike, conducted numerous simulated and live-fire training exercises over 2017 to prepare Deep Strike Soldiers for its upcoming rotational unit deployment to the Republic of Korea. This training has taken the battalion to Fort Bliss, Texas, where the Soldiers provided timely, accurate and lethal rocket and missile Fires in support of 1st Armored Division during Iron Focus 17. Second-20th FA also provided a robust Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion response cell in support of Warfighter 17-04 at Fort Hood, Texas. The battalion executed two National Training Center rotations at Fort Irwin, Calif. While there, they provided reinforcing Fires in support of 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, at NTC 17-04 and to 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, during NTC 17-08. Upon completion of NTC 17-08, 2-20th FA trained up for its rotation to the Republic of Korea, scheduled for early 2018, with a battalion-internal field training exercise (FTX). The battalion qualified its fire direction, launcher and ammunition crews through Artillery Table XII. This FTX enabled 2-20th FA to successfully execute a battalion-level external evaluation, facilitated by 75th Field Artillery Brigade. The battalion qualified up to Table XVIII during the two-week FTX at Fort Sill, Okla. The training operations tempo was high over the course of 2017, but the battalion remained committed to fostering positive relationships with the local Lawton/Fort Sill community. This was evidenced by its commitment to the Lawton Veterans Center where the battalion executed several Wall of Heroes ceremonies, honoring the contributions of local veterans. Second-20th FA also remained committed to establishing positive role models to Cache Elementary and Middle School children by volunteering in their reading programs, serving and sharing lunch with the children and participating in and facilitating local sporting events. The battalion stands ready to deliver overwhelming surface-to-surface rocket and missile Fires in support of any contingency.

100th Brigade Support Battalion, Century

The Century Battalion provides continuous multi-functional sustainment support to the 75th Field Artillery Brigade and its ongoing missions around the world. The Soldiers of 100th Brigade Support Battalion stand ready to deploy and support contingency operations anywhere. Within 72 hours of returning from an off-post training exercise at Fort Riley, Kan., 100th BSB provided a sustainment package in support of Hurricane Harvey disaster relief efforts. The support element travelled over 1,500 miles in two weeks. It consisted of 165 personnel and 83 pieces of rolling stock; most notably 46 palletized load systems used to move supplies to affected areas. Recently, the Century Battalion focused on leveraging identified shortfalls in capabilities in conjunction with fellow field artillery brigade support battalions to develop a force design update (FDU). The FDU ensures all BSBs have the correct capabilities to fully support field artillery brigades when not supported by garrison resources, as our modification table of organization and equipment is unique across the Army.

100th BSB Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Century-Battalion-100th-BSB-125854177476895/
100th BSB Twitter: https://twitter.com/100thBSB

82nd Airborne Division Artillery, Mass the Fire

During 2017, the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery Brigades remained poised to support the 82nd Airborne Division as the nation’s global response force (GRF). The DIVARTY began the year by deploying the entire tactical operations center (TOC) package in support of Operation Dynamic Front in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The DIVARTY deployed their TOC package twice more, supporting two warfighter exercises, the first at Fort Bragg, N.C., in June and the next at Fort Drum, N.Y. in September. Both exercises challenged the DIVARTY leaders and staff to integrate Fires assets in support of maneuvers in dynamic operational scenarios, and were major successes for the DIVARTY as a whole. Throughout the year the tempo remained high as the DIVARTY supported four division artillery readiness training exercises and a battalion artillery readiness training exercise (BART), while also sending personnel to provide observer controller trainer support for a BART in the 101st Airborne Division as well as a BART for the 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment in Grafenwoehr.

The 82nd Airborne Division Artillery spent the year of 2017 operating out of multiple countries, supporting multiple strategically vital missions, all while maintaining its core capabilities as the fire support element of the nation’s global response force. The brigade will train to provide Fires in 2018 as it continues to maintain a high level of focused readiness and is prepared to deploy to support national requirements.

82nd DIVARTY Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/82ndABNDIVARTY/

1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, Loyalty

During 2017, the Loyalty Battalion remained poised to support 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and the nation’s global response force (GRF). After assuming responsibility for the GRF in December 2016, Paratroopers continued an intensive training cycle that included progression from individual certification through a Battalion Artillery Readiness Test Table XVIII qualification, all while maintaining airborne proficiency and conducting multiple deployment readiness exercises.

Of note this year, 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment conducted the first tactical drop zone mission with an AN/TPQ-50 on Salerno Drop Zone, Fort Bragg, N.C. This was a day time, combat equipment, tactical airborne operation and a drop zone live-fire exercise. A Battery fired 20 high explosive rounds as a Paratrooper from 1st Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, prepares to de-rig an AN/TPQ-50 Counterfire Radar System following the first tactical heavy drop of the radar system on March 27, 2017. (Courtesy photo)
the AN/TPQ-50 successfully tracked all 20 rounds fired with an average target location error of 9 m.

First-319th AFAR also supported numerous training events in 2017, both internal and external to 3rd BCT and 82nd Airborne Division. In March, C Battery, 1-319th AFAR supported Operation Jaded Thunder in Salina, Kan., which demonstrated the battalion’s ability to provide Fires in support of the joint force. In July, the battalion conducted a joint forcible entry airborne assault with 3rd BCT during a joint operational access exercise and provided Fires for the subsequent field training exercise. Additionally, the battalion supported 3rd BCT’s maneuver companies and troops during a combined arms live-fire exercise in May, and all three of the brigade’s maneuver battalions during a brigade live-fire exercise in October.

Loyalty finished out the year by conducting Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-01 at Fort Polk, La. The battalion utilized its’ second combat training center rotation in as many years to continue to improve the unit’s lethality and ability to provide timely, accurate, and continuous Fires. The battalion will train to provide Fires in 2018 as it continues to maintain a high level of focused readiness and is prepared to deploy to support national requirements.

1-319th AFAR Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/1st319th/

2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, Black Falcons

In December of 2016, Task Force Black Falcon, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (-) deployed to northern Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve as part of Task Force Falcon, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division. TF Black Falcon, consists of the battalion tactical command post, target acquisition platoon, C Battery, and portions of F Battery, Forward Support Company. They provided field artillery Fires enabling the Iraqi Security Forces’ (ISF) liberation of the cities of Mosul and Tal Afar from the ISIS. TF Black Falcon fired over 6,900 rounds, including Precision Guided Kits and Excalibur, as part of combined joint operations enabling its’ Iraqi partners. The TF’s employment of integrated Fires, on behalf of TF Falcon, decimated ISIS’s indirect fire capability in the battle for Mosul. TF Black Falcon fire supporters operated as part of strike cells providing the ISF critical overmatch through employment of joint Fires. TF Black Falcon was reinforced by M109A6 Paladin platoons from B Battery, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery and C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery as well as French Caesar batteries from the French 11th Marine Artillery Regiment and the 93rd Mountain Artillery Regiment.

Simultaneously, B Battery, 2-319th AFAR deployed to northeast Afghanistan, in Jalalabad. There they supported Operation Freedom’s Sentinel’s C-RAM battery providing counter indirect fire protection to a coalition base.

The remainder of the 2-319th AFAR at Fort Bragg, N.C., including Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, A Battery, and F/FSC, continued to maintain airborne proficiency and build readiness in support of 82nd Airborne Division. A Battery served as the opposing force battery for Joint Readiness Training Exercise Rotation 18-01. This challenged their skills in field craft and executing in an austere environment in Fort Polk, La. The fire supporters from HHB participated in Operation Allied Torch, successfully sending an over-the-horizon digital call for fire from Fort Bragg to Fort Campbell, Ky. Meanwhile, F/FSC continued to build the battalion’s readiness through focused maintenance support.

The Black Falcons concluded the year by conducting redeployment operations and reset in preparation to support the division’s focused readiness efforts to rebuild the battalion.

3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, Gun Devils

The Paratroopers of 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, Gun Devils, continued support of 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, through both field artillery core competencies and non-standard mission requirements in 2017. The battalion focused on the enhancement of readiness posture by executing Artillery Qualification Tables up to Table XV, as well as numerous drop zone fire missions to hone field artillery proficiencies. Of note, A Battery provided incredible fire support to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment during Operation Jade Helm at Fort Bliss, Texas, and C Battery completed a division artillery readiness test at Fort Bragg, N.C., during this time period.

Following an intensive training cycle, the battalion transitioned to support various mission requirements in both the U.S Central Command and U.S. European Command areas of responsibility. A Battery traveled to Fort Sill, Okla., and received training to assume furnished artillery support as part of the 3rd BCT and 82nd Airborne Division during the 2018 division training exercise. The battalion transitioned to support 1st Armored Division during the 2018 division training exercise.

Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, fire a howitzer. (Courtesy photo)
a Counter-Mortar and Rocket mission in Afghanistan. Following this training, the unit deployed in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel and is currently providing critical force protection capabilities to forces on the ground. C Battery, along with radar sections within the battalion, deployed in support of the brigade’s mission at Train, Advise and Assist Command-South in Afghanistan. The unit provides accurate and timely fire support for paratroopers in the brigade and our Afghan partners. Additionally, all fire support elements deployed to support the brigade’s mission and are currently executing critical operational and advising efforts throughout the country.

The battalion headquarters, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, B Battery and an attached maneuver company from within the brigade (D Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment) prepared for and deployed in support of Joint Guardian. The battalion completed a rotation to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, to validate the unit’s ability to respond to crowd riot control events prior to arriving in Kosovo. The unit currently serves as the forward command post for Multinational Battle Group-East and is charged with providing a safe and secure environment throughout the country. The battalion recently supported municipal elections that were held throughout Kosovo, resulting in a successful election process and numerous accolades from KFOR senior leaders to include the commander of the Kosovo Force.

**101st Airborne Division Artillery**

**2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment**

**Proud Americans**

2nd Platoon, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment *Proud Americans*, 101st Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) deployed to Creech Air Force Base, Nev., in support of the 66th Weapons Squadron (United States Air Force Weapons School) and 10th Special Forces Group.

During the exercise, 2nd Platoon, Joker Platoon, supported USAF Weapons School students and 10th Special Forces Group joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs). Through this supporting effort, 2-32nd FAR fire support officers (FSOs), C Battery, Carnage Battery, fire direction officer and fire direction non-commissioned officer and Joker Platoon leadership were able to take part in pre-mission and post-mission briefs and work hand-in-hand with 10th SFG.

Fire missions on pre-planned targets were called in by a combination of 2-32nd FAR FSOs, 10th SFG JTACs, and USAF Weapons School students from the air. Also, through extensive coordination between 101st DIVARTY and Creech AFB, this exercise was the first time DIVARTY moved a platoon of M777 A2s, the associated vehicles and equipment via air.

This was also the first time 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division CH-47 pilots were able to sling load M777 A2s. Overall, Joker Platoon and 2-32nd FAR gained invaluable experience with the air movement of equipment, working in a joint environment for the first time, and integrating air assault operations into field artillery missions.

**210th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunder**

The 210th Field Artillery Brigade, *Thunder*, the only permanently forward deployed field artillery brigade in the United States Army, stands ready to *Fight Tonight* in the Republic of Korea. The *Thunder Brigade* consists of a rotational M109A6 self-propelled howitzer battalion, one rotational and two organic M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System battalions, a brigade support battalion and the United Nations Command Security Battalion. The *Thunder* Soldiers, emboldened by the 2nd Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Division warrior spirit, performed exceptionally in 2017 as provocations increased and tensions escalated within the Korean theater of operations.

In support of the enduring ROK-U.S. alliance, the *Thunder Brigade*, as part of the Third Republic of Korea Army Counterfire Task Force, maintained its cutting edge and exercised warfighting functions in support of Ground Component Command and Combined Forces Command. The brigade’s subordinate field artillery battalions consistently executed field training exercises and field artillery live-fire qualifications maintaining certified and qualified crews while the brigade support battalion provided uninterrupted logistical and sustainment support. Posturing for contingency operations throughout the last year, the *Thunder Brigade* participated in four major command post exercises (CPX): Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, Warfighter 18-02, and the TROKA CFTF CPX. Additionally, the brigade executed Loaded Thunder, a quarterly loadout and deployment exercises geared to facilitate the deployment of combat power to fighting positions within South Korea.

Ready to *Fight Tonight*, the brigade under the direction of the
Combined Forces Command assumed a Flexible Response Option and executed combined ROK-U.S. counter provocation Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMs) fire missions in support of the ROK-U.S. alliance; the first employment of ATACMs in the Pacific Theater.

In the “Land of the Morning Calm,” the Thunder Brigade stands side-by-side with the ROK. The Thunder Brigade remains trained, postured and prepared to defend our interests and that of the alliance.

Katchi Kapsi Da! Controlling the Best!
210th FA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/210.FA.BDE

1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery, Steel Behind the Rock

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment stand ready in their mission to both deter North Korean aggression and defend the Republic of Korea alongside its ROK Army partners.

The Steel Battalion set a precedent across the Korean theater of operations by executing battery road marches to its go-to-war positions through Operation Stalwart. This movement validated primary, alternate and tertiary routes to the positions; the capability of the batteries to alert, upload and deploy to their positions; and how to execute a hasty decontamination prior to executing a night movement of over 50 km.

The battalion also validated its long-range, high frequency communication systems and executed fire missions sent to launchers from the battalion headquarters at Camp Casey, South Korea, both in hip-shoots and from their final firing positions. This operation also encompassed the use of a platoon from 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, which provided route and area reconnaissance, and our link to the ROK security force, 118th Mechanized Infantry. Second Infantry Division also took advantage of this exercise to practice its ability to battle-track a unit’s actual movement during what would be a wartime situation.

Steel Behind the Rock’s training enhanced its ability to execute key missions such as counter-fire operations, suppression of enemy air defense, and prosecution of time sensitive targets. These critical missions enable the battalion to effectively support the Air Component Command, the Ground Component Command Counter-Fire Task Force (GCC CFTT), and the Combined Forces Command. Additionally, 1-38th FA supported the CFC during multiple exercises to include the Third ROK Army combined counterfire exercise, Key Resolve, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, the GCC CFTT, and Warfighter Exercise 18-01; instilling confidence in the ROK higher headquarters of 1-38th FA’s ability to thrive in war.

The battalion worked hand-in-hand with brother battalions, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, to support 210th Field Artillery Brigade in its combined mission of providing the CFC commander a flexible response option to North Korean aggression. The battalion completed four, month-long rotations of this combined mission which culminated in a combined live-fire, strategic show of force with the ROK 1800 Battalion, by firing two Army Tactical Missile System missiles.

Outside of these events, the battalion executed a wide range of missions to include four live-fire exercises that qualified 32 launcher crews and 12 fire direction sections. The battalion’s two target acquisition platoons supported over 10 dry and live-fire exercises for units across the 210th Field Artillery Brigade including 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, which is the brigade’s rotational Paladin battalion. Leaders of the unit provided observer controller/trainer support for the ROK Chunmu certification and a HIMARS rapid infiltration mission, which arrived on the peninsula from Fort Lewis, Wash. The battalion also executed multiple static displays to highlight the battalion’s capabilities for the ROK foreign minister of affairs, USFK/CFC commander, and multiple major news outlets/reporters. The battalion and battalion commander were featured on CNN with Brooke Baldwin’s Newsroom, representing all units, Soldiers and families stationed in Korea.

First-38th FA supported its surrounding community by sponsoring and working with Dongducheon’s Orphanage though charitable donations, teaching English classes and doing several different activities with the children.

Next year, this battalion will mark its 100th anniversary, and with it a proud tradition of professionalism and answering our nation’s call at a movement’s notice.

Steel!
1-38th FA Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SteelBehindTheRock/

6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, On the Minute

The 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment is one of two forward-deployed, permanently stationed field artillery battalions on the Korean Peninsula. The Deep Strike Battalion continues to serve as one of the counterfire artillery forces supporting 2nd Republic of Korea/U.S. Combined Division and Ground Component commander. In 2017, the battalion focused on maintaining a high state of readiness to deter North Korean aggression.

The Soldiers of the On the Minute Battalion trained tirelessly, participating in four digital command and control exercises, part-
enabling all ROK allies in the Ulchi Freedom Guardian and Key Resolve exercises. The battalion maintained readiness through three emergency deployment readiness exercises, three battalion live-fire exercises, and two battery-level field training exercises. The Soldiers demonstrated their ability to rapidly deploy and deliver Fires in support of the GCC and the Counterfire Task Force.

A key highlight for the year was when 6-37th FAR participated in a combined live-fire with the Republic of Korea Air Missile Command and made history by firing the first Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) on the Korean Peninsula. For the past year, both Assassin and Barbarian batteries partnered with ROK Army counterparts, conducting mission command and digital rehearsals during multiple training rotations throughout the year. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Hammer Battery, provided the command and control for these exercises, maintaining long range communications and fire direction with both the Eighth Army Headquarters and United States Forces Korea’s Combined Joint Fires Element. 579th Forward Support Company, Pillar Company, sustained these training rotations by executing long-distance logistical resupply missions on a weekly basis.

As the battalion looks to 2018, the On the Minute Battalion will remain trained and ready to Fight Tonight and continue to fight until we win with our allies here in the Republic of Korea.

6-37th FAR Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/rocketbattalion/

70th Brigade Support Battalion, Blacksmiths

The 70th Brigade Support Battalion, Blacksmiths, provided uninterrupted sustainment support for 210th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunder Brigade. The Blacksmiths executed a Class V Proof of Principle in August that validated their ability to execute and support critical munitions re-supply and meet their Fight Tonight requirements in support of Task Force 210, part of the Counterfire Task Force.

The Blacksmiths continued relationships across the peninsula by planning, hosting and executing the first-ever Task Force 210 Sustainment Conference in October, which brought in commanders and planners from the 19th Expeditionary Support Command; Materiel Support Command-Korea; 65th Medical Brigade; 2nd Sustainment Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division C4; Army Field Support Battalion-Korea; and the 5th Republic of Korea Division Supply and Transportation Battalion. The conference ensured the Thunder Brigade’s go-to-war logistics and medical requirements were clearly defined and nested with critical enablers across the peninsula.

The Headquarters Support Company and 579th Signal Company provided critical sustainment and network and tactical signal support to four Thunder loading exercises, two major theater exercises, the ground component exercise and multiple brigade and battalion level exercises.

This year, the 70th BSB made tremendous strides to ensure Thunder Brigade’s support requirements were nested with the operational plans and that mitigation strategies were enhanced and continuously evaluated for uninterrupted sustainment support. The Blacksmiths remained ready to Fight Tonight and enabled all Thunder command team’s freedom of action unconstrained by logistics. Strength through Support!

70th BSB Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/70th-BSB-Official-146805835404387/about/

434th Field Artillery Brigade, Destroyers

Throughout 2017, the Destroyer Brigade executed their mission of conducting reception operations and Basic Combat Training (BCT) at the Fires Center of Excellence by integrating and transforming civilian volunteers into Soldiers who are prepared to complete initial military training and contribute to their first unit of assignment. The brigade graduated 17,320 Soldiers in 2017; just under 20 percent of the Army’s BCT mission. During the summer, 134 drill sergeants from 1st Brigade, 95th Division (Institutional Training) joined the ranks to successfully train the summer surge of high school students joining the Army.

The brigade welcomed four new battalion commanders and battalion command sergeants major throughout the year and participated in numerous community events. Soldiers in 434th FAB hosted Leadership Oklahoma and Leadership Lawton delegations; hosted the FCaE African American History Month Observance Luncheon; provided a color guard for civic events across Southwest Oklahoma; supported local and regional U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps cadet challenges and drill competitions; and partnered with local schools so cadre could fulfill vol-

Soldiers from the 434th Field Artillery Brigade participate in the unveil-