Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery conduct MK-19 preliminary marksmanship instruction in preparation for a qualification range at Fort Hood, Texas. (Capt. Connor Savage/U.S. Army)

1st Cavalry Division Artillery, Red Team

Soldiers in 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, Red Team, successfully completed a broad range of operations in support of deploying brigades as well as division- and corps-level exercises in 2018. Collectively, these events built readiness across the force. Red Team concentrated on improving the collective Fort Hood, Texas, field artillery enterprise by preparing brigades for global deployment, standardizing field artillery practices in 1st Cavalry Division by rewriting the 1st Cavalry Division Red Book, and performing as the division and corps force field artillery headquarters in multiple warfighter exercises (WFXs).

Red Team began 2018 by supporting 3rd Field Artillery Squadron’s Artillery Table XVIs as they prepared for a combat deployment to Afghanistan. DIVARTY concurrently began preparing for Warfighter Exercise 18-05 by participating in Staff University at the Fort Hood Mission Command Training Center and subsequently the first of many tactical operations center (TOC) setups and rehearsals. During National Training Center Rotation 18-02, DIVARTY provided Sentinel radar support to 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, Iron Horse, prior to their deployment to European Command as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

In January, DIVARTY hosted the Space Cadre Basic Course mobile training team for participants from across 1st Cavalry Division. Soon after, DIVARTY resumed preparation for Warfighter Exercise 18-05 by conducting a communications and staff exercise with the 1st Cavalry Division Joint Air Ground Integration Center. After Command Post Exercise 1, the DIVARTY staff deployed to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for pre-warfighter training with cadre from the Combined Arms Center. From April through May, DIVARTY conducted two command post exercises to complete train-up for WFX 18-05. During Command Post Exercise (CPX) 3, the 1st Cavalry Division Best Warrior Competition took place; DIVARTY then-Spc. Tyler Hamby won the Best Warrior Competition for all E-4 and below and Sgt. Nicholas Cahill earned second overall in the Best Noncommissioned Officer competition. DIVARTY conducted Q53 and Q50 radar fielding and new equipment training over the three weeks following CPX 3.

DIVARTY executed WFX 18-05 with 1st Cavalry Division from the end of May thru the middle of June. DIVARTY’s ability to manage up to 11 cannon and launcher battalions simultaneously afforded the division’s brigade combat teams the freedom to maneuver despite intense enemy resistance. DIVARTY contributed more than 20 Soldiers to the Army Recruiter Assistance Program over the remainder of the summer. This directly attributed to DIVARTY Soldier’s recruitment efforts. At the end of June, DIVARTY’s senior leaders were changed out following the success of WFX 18-05 as Col. Brett Forbes took command from Col. Kelly Webster and Command Sgt. Maj. Omari Ballou assuming responsibility following the departure of Command Sgt. Maj. Matt Tran earlier in the summer.

DIVARTY undertook the task of reviewing and began rewriting the 1st Cavalry Division Red Book in July. As part of the Red Book review, DIVARTY revised the processes and procedures for evaluating Artillery Tables XV and XVIII. In August, the Target Mensuration and Collateral Damage mobile training teams were hosted in the recently renovated DI-
In September, multiple exercises spread the **Red Team** across three states. DIVARTY provided support for 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery’s Artillery Tables XV prior to their culminating exercise on Fort Hood. Under DIVARTY observation and control, the 2-82nd FA batteries were able to increase their efficiency and provide more responsive Fires during Pegasus Forge III, the brigade’s external evaluation. Third Armored Brigade Combat Team, Grey Wolf, executed Pegasus Forge III in preparation for NTC 19-02; DIVARTY evaluated 2-82nd FA’s staff during this exercise. The preponderance of the counterfire and S2 cells participated in Coalition Virtual Flag 18-4 at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. There, they provided integrated intelligence efforts to deliberately target enemy locations for multinational partnered forces. During this time, DIVARTY also sent Soldiers to Fort Sill, Okla., to participate in Unified Challenge 18.3 as members of a test element for future field artillery organizations in the Army.

In 2018, DIVARTY increased its ability to support the 1st Cavalry Division in a conflict with a peer enemy by participating in multiple warfighter-like exercises and certified two field artillery battalions on Fort Hood. Over the next 12 months, **Red Team** will perform as a corps-level force field artillery headquarters in WFX 19-02 and deploy the organization to Europe for Dynamic Front 19, operating as a force field artillery headquarters controlling firing platforms from ten European partnered nations. facebook.com/1stCavalryDivisionArtillery

**1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Calvary Division, Dragons**

Redlegs from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Calvary Division, continue to provide accurate and responsive Fires in support of the **Ironhorse Brigade.** The **Dragons** of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment were successful at National Training Center Rotation 18-02 in November 2017 and redeployed to Fort Hood, Texas to further prepare for the upcoming European Command deployment. Following leave, the battalion shifted focus to leader and artillery table certifications. In January 2018, the battalion conducted leader certifications, artillery skills proficiency testing, and Artillery Tables I-V. Later that month, the battalion conducted
henfels, Germany. In mid-November six convoys from 1-82nd FA participated in Ironhorse Ride 2, driving 950 kilometers from Torun to Hohenfels. In December 2018, the battalion successfully executed the Force on Force portion of Combined Resolve XI at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels and then conducted movement to Grafenwoehr, Germany. After celebrating the holidays, the Dragon Battalion provided accurate and responsive live Fires in support of the Ironhorse Brigade as part of Crisis Reaction Battalion XI’s live-fire exercise. As the battalion shifted focus to redeployment, they maintained combat readiness to assure our allies and deter Russian aggression.

3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, Rolling Thunder

The 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery contributed to the Army’s overall mission throughout the last year. The Rolling Thunder Battalion conducted several simultaneous operations, as well as continuously supporting sister units and multi-national forces in their missions. Third-16th Field Artillery’s timeline, and results far exceeded standards and expectations.

In February 2018, 3-16th Field Artillery Rolling Thunder returned from a rotational deployment that took place in the Republic of Korea. During the rotational deployment, 3-16th Field Artillery, alongside the ROK Army, conducted numerous joint exercises, such as Ulchi-Freedom Guardian and Warrior Strike. These outstanding exercises allowed 3-16th Field Artillery to fire over 2,500 rounds and safely observe over 5,000 mortar rounds, directly resulting in an increase of rapport and readiness between multi-national and joint forces.

In March of 2018, 3-16th Field Artillery redeployed and began a comprehensive maintenance program in order to prepare for upcoming certifications. In June of 2018, The Cadet Summer Training program requested support in the training and direct development of future officers; 3-16th Field Artillery sent over 300 Soldiers in support of this mission. During the Cadet Summer Training, Soldiers acted as opposition forces, supported logistical requirements, competed instructed combatives level one, and stepped in as cadre for the confidence course. Simultaneously, A and B batteries supported multiple rotations at the National Training Center. A and B batteries acted as artillery opposition forces in order to enhance the rotational unit’s ability to react to indirect Fires.

From August through November 2018 fire direction centers and firing batteries completed their qualifications and certifications from Artillery Table VI through Artillery Table XII, firing over 750 artillery rounds. In November of 2018, C Battery provided support to 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team by providing live-fire during maneuver companies Table XII. In direct support, 120 rounds were expended while maneuver elements conducted their operations.

2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, Steel Dragons

The 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, Steel Dragons continued to set the standard for a 155 mm self-propelled field artillery battalion. Over the past year, the Steel Dragon Battalion redeployed from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and its support to Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve, conducted unit-level reset operations, served in support of focused readiness operations, executed a deliberate Artillery Table training strategy, and prepared for a culminating training exercise at the National Training Center. The troopers list of accomplishments embodied the battalion motto “Can and Will” throughout the year, as they executed highly visible missions throughout the entirety of the year.

The 2-82nd Field Artillery led the way on improving its organization, honing its own skills, influencing organizations up the chain of command and the field artillery community as a whole. The battalion focused on maintenance and reset operations during the early months of the year. Second-82nd FA maintained an operational 18 out of 18 Paladins and six out of six radars through April 1, 2018, and adamantly stayed within one to two vehicles of that standard throughout the entire training this year until the completion of Pegasus Forge. The Steel Dragons expeditiously led the way on Force Modernization. In one week, 2-82nd FA refitted a battery’s worth of howitzers with the M984A2 chrome-tube upgrades and utilized them throughout the training this year.

The Steel Dragons were honored to discuss Force Modernization with the Secretary of the Army during his visit in April. Third Armored Brigade Combat Team fire support teams set up static dis-
plays of several fire support platforms and outlined sensor-to-shooter operations throughout the brigade. The battalion was able to show how the newly outfitted M984A2 chrome tubes can impact future combat operations. Second-82 Field Artillery’s feedback direct to the highest levels of the chain of command will positively influence how the field artillery community continues to modernize.

The Steel Dragons assumed the role of crisis reaction battalion (CRB), May 1, and maintained through the garrison readiness exercise, May 22. As the CRB, Steel Dragons planned and executed different courses of action for all force protection conditions levels and fielded the response teams. On the day of the drill, the rapid reaction force secured five locations across the installation for 18 hours. From the most critical, to the remote, the Steel Dragons demonstrated discipline and professionalism during their watch. The garrison command was particularly impressed by the troopers’ communication and dissemination of their responsibilities to every Soldier, at every location and commended them for their response times. The practical knowledge gained from the exercise will enhance the installation’s readiness and security of the Soldiers and families working and residing on the largest installation in the Army, The Great Place.

Steel Dragon Troopers played a vital role during Warfighter 18-5. Sixty Steel Dragon Troopers executed brigade tactical action center/tactical operation center operations and the DIVARTY work cell, responsible for fire mission processing for four field artillery battalions. Soldiers maneuvered their units in support of the division fight, gaining a greater understanding of larger scale operations. Steel Dragon Soldiers’ participation facilitated the experience and knowledge gained from the training event, while individual Soldiers came away with a better understanding. Their participation allowed division staff to experience planning and battle tracking multiple subordinate cells.

The 2-82nd Field Artillery continued to execute complex missions designed to push Troopers’ critical thinking and problem-solving skills to the limits. The Steel Dragons integrated into its August Artillery Tables VI and XII qualifications a variety of factors to consider and created a multifaceted training exercise that would train flexibility and adaptability during platoon-level operations. Platoons maneuvered over 20 kilometers and through four separate position areas for artillery while engaging targets during day and night operations during Table XI and Table XII. While conducting their mission, platoons had to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances as opposition forces tested the Steel Dragons with small arms fire, indirect fire and improvised explosive devices and civilian on the battlefield vignettes. The Steel Dragons honed the batteries’ security, reporting and problem-solving in the face of adverse and changing circumstances.

Simultaneously, the fire support center exercised field maintenance, logistical support and area security operations, while the staff and Headquarters

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fire high angle rounds during the Pegasus Forge exercise at Fort Hood, Texas. (1st Lt. Andrew Carstensen/U.S. Army)
Steel Dragons proudly demonstrated that field artillerymen have a mind for the integration of combat assets and looking at the battlefield as a whole. Second-82nd Field Artillery Battalion brings to the battlefield. The firing batteries demonstrated an ability to operate as a single dedicated entity in support of a maneuver battalion, as well as consolidating as a battalion and to mass combat power in order to decisively influence the battle at a critical juncture. Batteries fired calibration missions for multiple lots of ammunition and rehearsed battles drills in order to prepare for the 19-3 National Training Center rotation. The battalion also reacted to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive drills, training throughout the two week span in various mission-oriented protective posture levels. The dynamic array of mission sets enabled the battalion to simultaneously complete its Artillery Table XV and XVIII certifications.

Not to be left out, the Forward Support Company conducted rapid and sustained recoveries during the field operations, at one point returning five non-mission capable vehicles to the fight and recovering nearly 20 vehicles throughout the entire exercise. Their distribution platoon conducted CLV draws for over 30 lots and the fuel section distributed nearly 10,000 gallons of fuel during the exercise.

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over 300 FEDPOL partners in intelligence, media, and medical operations.

A Battery, King, delivered Fires in support of Special Operations Joint Task Force Syria (SOJTF – Syria) and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). They established four austere fire base locations, providing accurate and lethal Fires from each position. King fired over 1,500 rounds to support AOBE and SDF in the final defeat of ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley, resulting in over 75 enemy killed. Additionally, they provided counter-fire in support of base defense, neutralizing multiple ISIS mortar firing points, preventing their ability to place accurate Fires on friendly unit locations. Their effectiveness shaped the operating environment by denying freedom of maneuver to enemy forces and by enabling the SDF to clear the remaining pockets of ISIS in Syria.

B Battery, Lion, established Fire Support Base Um Jorais and Sa’Hem II in support of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and SDF forces along the Syrian/Iraqi border. Their M777A2 howitzers and fire direction centers conducted joint fire missions with ISF partnered artillery forces, computing eastern to western fire mission data, and facilitated key leader engagements (KLE) between ISF and Coalition Force leaders. They continued their efforts of expeditionary firing package support to CJTFOIR with the establishment of one platoon at Al Asad Air Base, partnering with the Task Force Lion (United States Marine Corps), Norwegian and ISF forces to conduct joint training. Additionally, the Lions maintained one firing section at Q-West in support of the Saladin Operation Center and the NOC-E. The Lions fired over 500 rounds in support of the military defeat ISIS mission.

C Battery, Regulator, served as the Base Operations Support Integration for more than 300 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, coalition partners and civilian contractors from over five different organizations at KI. In this capacity, the battery was responsible for over $100,000 of security improvements made throughout the KI footprint, refining fighting positions and improving external and internal anti-terrorism measures. Regulator integrated 5th FEDPOL and 2nd Counter-Terrorism Service efforts into the overall security mission, creating partnerships and a layered security plan to protect forces on KI.

Regulator, in conjunction with Havoc, also provided a Guardian Angel Platoon for the squadron commander and CJOC-KI staff, that provided security for over 200 key leader engagements with governmental and security leaders throughout Kirkuk Province. Additionally, Regulator Soldiers provided security to an Expeditionary Advisory Package (EAP) in the Northern Kirkuk Province in support of a joint operation between FEDPOL and Peshmerga Forces, while simultaneously maintaining security at KI with minimal manning. Their efforts enabled the governments of Iraq and Kurdistan to work together toward a common goal and positively impacted the re-establishment of healthy relations between the two governments.

In closing, TF Steel enabled the coalition’s efforts to achieve a military defeat of ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley by providing accurate and lethal Fires in a timely manner. The squadron’s effectiveness shaped the operating environment, resulting in our partner’s ability to realize security gains through our coordinated efforts.

1st Armored Division, Iron Steel

The Iron Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division Artillery, Iron Steel, played a critical role in the defeat of ISIS through its Fires responsibilities within Combined Joint Force Land Component Command in support of Operational Inherent Resolve Iraq. Upon redeployment, the 1st AD Fires Enterprise honed its ability to mass Fires in large-scale combat operations during Warfighter Exercise 19-2. Concurrent to these efforts, Iron Steel produced lethal field artillery batteries and battalions in support of the division’s brigade combat teams.

From July 2017 through March 2018, the DIVARTY strike cells coordinated over 1,710 close air support sorties, 680 cannon, 123 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, 29 attack weapon teams, and 182 unmanned aircraft system strikes that resulted in over 3,800 enemy killed in action. The expert employment of combined and joint Fires in support of the Iraqi security forces accelerated the defeat of Daesh and enabled a cessation of major combat operations. The DIVARTY leveraged lessons learned from the employment of joint Fires in support of the liberation of Iraq as its training foundation for the transition to training for large-scale combat operations.

The DIVARTY executed a determined gated training strategy that consisted of three command post exercises which culminated in a successful Warfighter Exercise 19-2. The DIVARTY developed new methods to mass multi-domain Fires from III Corps, 82nd Division, 31st Division, and 7th Air Support Operations Squadron in a challenging constructive environment. The 1st Armored Division Fires Enterprise developed simple and effective systems that enabled the division to defeat the critical capabilities of air defense artillery and long-range Fires. In addition, the Iron Steel team integrated their National Guard partners, the 65th Fires Brigade, as reinforcing forces and counter-fire headquarters.

Concurrent to its mission as the force field artillery headquarters, the DIVARTY produced lethal FA batteries and battalions through Table XV and XVIII qualifications. Synchronized with the brigade combat team collective training, the DIVARTY conducted two iterations of Table XV and Table XVIII
qualifications in support of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, and 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. These rigorous training events prepared 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment to excel during their National Training Center rotations and 4-1st FAR’s subsequent deployment to Korea.

Over the course of 2018, the 1st Armored Division Artillery stood out as a driver of readiness for the division. From the delivery of lethal Fires in support of contingency operations to the preparation of field artillery battalions, Iron Steel continues to accomplish its core mission, the delivery of joint Fires for the division and building readiness so batteries are ready to deploy, fight and win.

**4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Iron Thunder**


Upon redeployment, Iron Thunder immediately conducted equipment reset in order to increase readiness for the upcoming training cycle. In conjunction with reset, Iron Thunder began fire support certifications to rebuild core fire support capability while simultaneously providing support to the DIVARTY as part of the 1st Armored Division’s Warfighter Exercise. Today the Soldiers of Iron Thunder continue to hone their warfighting capability to support 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and prepare for rotation 20-01 at the National Training Center.

**2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, Gunners**

Gunners from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment provided timely, accurate and lethal supporting Fires to the Ready First Combat Team, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, throughout 2018. This past year was marked by a tough, realistic training strategy focused on the fundamentals of fire support and individual warrior tasks and drills. Through diligent adherence to standards and dedication to our mission, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment remains ready to deploy, fight and win in support of the Ready First Combat Team and 1st Armored Division.
Throughout the first and second quarters of 2018 the Gunner Battalion focused on individual section and platoon qualifications, culminating in all platoons qualifying through Table XII. In conjunction with Table XII qualifications, the battalion executed a platoon situational training exercise, focused on the fundamentals of platoon defense, day and night land navigation, reconnaissance, selection and occupation of position, and medical evacuations. Following Table XII qualification, the Gunners participated in Operation Hustler Trough in conjunction with the United States Air Force. Operation Hustler Trough pairs an Army firing battery and Army joint Fires observers with Air Force forward air control-Airborne (FAC-As). Upon completion of the event, the battalion’s 13F Master Gunner certified each FAC-A to call for fire using artillery and mortar systems. After this event, the battalion qualified through Table XVIII in preparation for Operation Iron Focus; the brigade collective training event prior to the Ready First Combat Team’s rotation to the National Training Center.

The Gunner Battalion’s performance during Operation Iron Focus and National Training Center Rotation 19-01 was indicative of a year focused on mastering the fundamentals. Collectively, the battalion built and maintained a frequency modulation (FM) digital Fires network spanning 33 kilometers, and fired over 2,500 live rounds in support of the Ready First Combat Team. Additionally, the Gunners drove over 15,000 miles, moving across the Chihuahuan and Mojave Deserts in order to replace their howitzers, never missing a time on target. As the year comes to a close, the Gunner’s remain ready to deploy, fight and win in any environment, whenever the nation calls.

4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, Defenders

In 2018, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery regiment rigorously prepared for and deployed to the Republic of Korea in direct support of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. In preparation for this mission, the Defenders conducted training at every echelon from section level Table VI certification to successful completion of National Training Center Rotation 18-08. The battalion conducted division artillery readiness test for Axeman, Beast Battery, and Copperhead Batteries in February, culminating with a battalion artillery readiness test (BART) evaluated by 1st AD DIVARTY. The battalion transitioned to supporting 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, Bulldogs, through their capstone training event, Bulldog Focus, which concluded with a maneuver combined arms live-fire exercise. After supporting the Bulldogs, the battalion moved forward and supported the division’s culminating home station training event, Iron Focus. The battalion’s fire supporters conducted Bradley sustainment gunnery in April. The battalion’s training concluded with its rotation to the National Training Center in preparation for the 2018-2019 Indo-Pacific Command deployment. Over this intensive training cycle, the battalion fired over 2,000 rounds and spent approximately 100 days in the decisive action training environment.

1st Infantry Division, Drumfire

In 2018, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, Drumfire, marked 100 years since the Big Red One’s artillery helped turn the tide toward Allied victory in World War I. It did so by continuing the tradition of developing lethal artillery units at echelon, enhancing interoperability with Allies, and setting conditions for modernization. The DIVARTY conducted these efforts at Fort Riley, Kan., at combat training centers and in Europe.

The 1st Infantry DIVARTY began the year conducting an expeditionary form of the Division Artillery Readiness Test (DART)/Table XV typically conducted at home station. A detachment of eight personnel including the commander, command sergeant major and primary staff deployed forward to Torun, Poland, and Grafenwoehr, Germany, to evaluate batteries from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery deployed with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division in support of European Command’s Operation Atlantic Resolve. The DART verified battery command teams’ ability to mitigate risks to mission and risks-to-force while still achieving time and accuracy standards laid out in the Training Circular 3-09.8 Field Artillery Gunnery manual. The tactical scenario posed these risks in the form of replicated threats from the air, ground, and indirect Fires that drove battery commanders’ decisions.

From February to April, 2018, DIVARTY leadership and its master gunners supported B Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery as they conducted the Field Artillery’s Initial Operational Test and Evaluation of the new M109A7 self-propelled howitzer and M992A3 tracked ammunition carrier. The Drumfire Team helped synchronize efforts with agencies such as U.S. Army Operational Test Command’s Fire Support Test Directorate, the Fires Center of Excellence’s Capabilities and Development Direc-
torate, the program manager for the Paladin Integrated Management system, and Fort Riley’s Directorate of Training Management. These efforts laid the groundwork for B/1-5th FA’s successful test and evaluation of the new howitzer and set conditions for future fielding of the system.

Also in February, the DIVARTY culminated months of preparation and training with its Total Army Partners, the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, as they participated together for the first time in Warfighter Exercise (WFX) 18-03. The DIVARTY performed the role of force field artillery headquarters (FFA HQ) and counterfire headquarters (CF HQ) as the primary training audience, while the 130th Field Artillery Brigade dedicated a response cell of more than 40 of its staff. The DIVARTY reciprocated by supporting the 130th FA’s fielding of M109A7s. Hamilton’s Own Battalion successfully qualified live on Table XVIII prior to deploying to the National Training Center with the Devil Brigade for NTC 18-10. During the rotation, 1st ID and DIVARTY augmented the NTC’s “52nd Infantry Division” higher command by conducting targeting across the division area of operations and coordinating suppression of enemy air defense for a live-fire aviation attack out-of-contact with elements from the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade at China Lake, Calif.

2018 proved to be a rigorous year of training, cooperation and leader development for the 1st Infantry DIVARTY. Drumfire built upon its reputation established over 100 years ago this year. It did so through improving the readiness of its artillery units, refining interoperability with its multinational and Total Army Partners, and setting conditions for modernizing Fires across the Army.

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

Hamilton’s Own! Faithful and true since 1776 and now leading the way into the future of cannon artillery with the M109A7. In January, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, spearheaded by
Bonecrusher Battery, initiated the deliberate attack on the fielding and Initial Operational Test (IOT) of the M109A7 with an aggressive training plan. Over the course of the month, all three batteries qualified through Artillery Table XII to build readiness for the brigade with Bonecrusher qualifying through AT XV in preparation for the IOT. In February, the battalion shifted to support the IOT with Dawg Battery providing logistical and observer controller support for Bonecrusher as they continued to prepare. At 6 a.m. on Feb. 26, Bonecrusher Battery stepped off on the first 90-mile movement of the IOT, triggering the shift into the execution phase of the deliberate attack. From Feb. 26 to March 22, Bonecrusher Battery fired over 8,000 rounds and drove over 1,000 miles successfully completing the IOT and opening the path for the rest of the Army. Through the months of April and May, Archangel and Dawg Battery fielded and qualified on the M109A7 completing the transition of the battalion.

Following the overwhelming success of the test, the battalion was equipped with 18 new guns and rapidly transitioned to support 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team from company-level certification during operation Devil Prowl through battalion and brigade-level certification during Operation Gauntlet. During Operation Gauntlet, the battalion conducted six AT XIs, three division artillery readiness tests and a battalion AT XVIII. After the completion of Operation Gauntlet, the battalion deployed to National Training Center.

The Soldiers of Hamilton’s Own again proved their mettle while providing lethal Fires in support of 1st ABCT’s maneuver forces. As the year comes to a close, the battalion stands ready to deploy to European Command in support of Operation Devil Resolve.

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. Faithful and True since 1776!

2nd Infantry Division

Artillery, Warrior Strike

The transition from Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 to FY19 provided unique opportunities in testing the flexibility and adaptability of the 2nd Infantry Division Artillery. Our primary missions leading up to Oct. 1, 2018, kept our focus on the oversight and ownership of our subordinate artillery battalions, training readiness authority (TRA) of U.S. Army Alaska and Washington Army National Guard direct support field artillery battalions. We also maintained our Fight Tonight posture with 2nd ID as the force field artillery headquarters (FFAHQ) in the event of conflict on the Korean peninsula.

By October, the battalions were realigned to the brigade combat teams and DIVARTY assumed duty as the headquarters (administrative control) for the newly established ICEWS (intel, cyber, electronic warfare, space) Battalion and shared Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) exercise responsibilities with the 17th Field Artillery Brigade. DIVARTY will serve as the MDTF for exercises Pacific Sentry 19 and Talisman Saber 19.

To prepare for our responsibilities as the MDTF Headquarters, 17th FA Brigade shared after action reviews and lessons learned. This better informed our mission analysis for MDTF exercises and enabled support to the ICEWS Battalion during their stand-up. Concurrent with standing up the ICEWS, DIVARTY realigned the training glide-path to account for MDTF training as we continue to provide TRA oversight of five field artillery battalions’ Table XV and XVIII qualifications programs in addition to our role in Korea during planned training and exercises. The DIVARTY quarterly long-range planning conference synchronized Table XVs and XVIIIs for the battalions through FY19 to ensure they were ready for battalion and brigade combat team collective training events. Finishing 1st quarter strong, DIVARTY served as the 7th Infantry Division FFAHQ during Yama Sakura 75 with personnel forward in Japan and at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., while simultaneously conducting a Fires command post exercise with 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea.

For FY19, 2nd ID DIVARTY stands ready with 17th FA Brigade to assist the Army in validating the MDTF concept while validating the lethality and standards of precision for the field artillery battalions in 7th ID, U.S. Army Alaska, and the Washington Army National Guard. Adapt and Overcome.

facebook.com/DIVARTYStrike/
3rd Infantry Division Artillery, 
**Marne Thunder**

The Redlegs of 3rd Infantry Division Artillery, *Marne Thunder*, further developed and refined the Fires Enterprise within the division over the past year. In February, DIVARTY dominated the battlespace while serving as the 18th Field Artillery Brigade in support of 18th Airborne Corps during Warfighter Exercise 18-03. While in the throes of WFX 18-03, DIVARTY deployed a portion of the headquarters to Afghanistan in support of the *Rock of the Marne Division*, establishing the first Force Field Artillery Headquarters in Afghanistan. During the deployment, the DIVARTY continued its oversight role with E Battery, 1st Battalion, 28th Field Artillery, assisting the brigade combat team artillery battalions with readiness and transformation activities.

Upon a successful redeployment, DIVARTY began its train up to WFX 19-02, where it focused on providing the division with accurate and responsive joint Fires and counterfire. DIVARTY’s training efforts resulted in high praise during the capstone training event for the thoroughness of Fires planning and technical mastery of Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, allowing for rapid execution of dynamic fire missions. Following WFX 19-02, DIVARTY assisted in the qualification of 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s, 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery’s M777 and M119 crews through Artillery Table VI. DIVARTY concluded the year with the planning and execution of the culminating training exercise for 48th IBCT, *Macon Volunteers Brigade*, in preparation for their deployment in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel.

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

Redlegs from 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, *Glory’s Guns*, deployed in support of the Korean Regionally Aligned Forces from January to October 2018. The *Glory’s Guns Battalion* dispersed throughout South Korea, from Camp Humphreys to Camp Hovey, with personnel task organized under the Raider Brigade from Fort Stewart, Ga., and 210th Fires Brigade of Camp Casey.

Fire supporters were an integral part of the deployment, supporting not only the Raider Brigade and 210th Fires, but also the Republic of Korea Special Forces joint Fires observers (JFOs). Fire supporters from the *Glory’s Guns Battalion* regularly conducted dry and live fire training integrated with ROKJFO’s, developing and refining ROK Army Fires plans coordinated with close air support and attack aviation. Fire supporters conducted a fire support team (FiST) certification across the Korean Peninsula, awarding A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment as the Raider Brigade Best FiST.

First-41th FA conducted a battalion level artillery training progression, completing two Artillery Table VI’s and one Artillery Table XII, firing over 600 rounds in the process. The target acquisition platoon took advantage of every training opportunity by observing rounds fired by both the Glory’s Guns team and our ROK Army partners, as well as survivability exercises with Raider engineers. Batteries took advantage of the unique training opportunities and environment of South Korea by planning and executing multiple battery-level training weeks. During this time, the batteries were able to refine their Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise procedures and Korea specific artillery tactics, techniques and procedures. This training aided the Glory’s Guns Battalion’s ability to shoot, move and communicate effectively throughout the Korean theatre of operation.

**1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, Battlekings**

The 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, *Battlekings* met a challenging and historic year head on in 2018. Through steadfast discipline and motivation, the Battlekings successfully transitioned the battalion from towed artillery into a mechanized artillery battalion, equipped with M109A6 Paladins and M7 Bradley Fire Support Vehicles (BFiST).

From February to March 2018, while waiting for their respective fielding of the new equipment, batteries took full advantage of training in the Fire Support Combined Arms Tactical Trainer. This training facilitated standardization of crew drills in the Paladin and allowed sections to gain familiarity with the equipment prior to the Operator’s Displaced Equipment Training (OPDET). The same diligent focus on crew drills allowed the fire support teams to successfully complete their BFiST OPDET and BFiST gunnery. The battalion followed an incremental training progression through Artillery Table XII, platoon qualifications. Beginning with Artillery Table (AT) VI, training variables, such as opposing forces situational training and mass casualty exercises, were applied to increase the Battleking’s readiness.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery conduct direct fire engagement during M109A6 Artillery Table VI certification, Oct. 18, 2018. (Courtesy photo)
to provide lethal, close supporting Fires in major combat operations.

Collective training culminated with deploying the entire 1-9th FA for AT XII in October. The highlight from the October AT XII was massing the battalion in a time on target fire mission, which set the conditions for the upcoming 2019 National Training Center deployment train up and execution.

October 2018 also marked the reattachment of 1-9th FA to 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. The Battlekings finished off 2018 with an expeditionary deployment readiness exercise, providing the battalion with the opportunity to exercise its ability to rapidly mobilize and deploy.

4th Infantry Division Artillery, Ivy Gunners

Throughout 2018, the Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division Artillery, continued to hone their tactical and operational skills in support of the Ivy Division. In April, the Ivy Gunners distinguished themselves by being the first DIVARTY to achieve battlefield effects before the opposing force (OPFOR) during the 4th ID warfighter. As stated by the chief of Fires, Integrated Fire Control commander, “Fourth ID DIVARTY Fires had significant effects on OPFOR enablers ... From [forward passage of lines] through the wet gap, the DIVARTY was well positioned to support maneuver.”

In July and August, the Sentinel Radar team deployed to the U.S.—Mexico border, providing surveillance in support of Joint Task Force—North and the U.S. Border Patrol. In addition, the DIVARTY established a new joint Fires team, composed of former joint terminal attack controllers and joint Fires observers, to streamline and improve joint Fires observer training and certification within the division.

The Angry Vikings of 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery completed a National Training Center rotation in January prior to deploying in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel, providing lethal fire support to coalition units across Afghanistan and expert advisory assistance to the Afghan National Army’s 201st Corps.

Second Battalion, 77th Field Artillery’s Steel Warriors displayed admirable flexibility conducting rigorous artillery training at Fort Carson, Colo., providing Fires in support of the Air Force’s 66th Weapons Squadron at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., and deploying a battery to Afghanistan to provide counter rocket, artillery, and mortar Fires in support of United States Forces—Afghanistan operations.

Pace Setters from 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery conducted realistic and challenging training, providing Fires in support of the Iron Brigade at Fort Carson, Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, and the National Training Center, and preparing them for deployment to the Central Command area of operations early next year.

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2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, Angry Vikings

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment, Angry Vikings, have been decisively engaged throughout 2018. In January, the battalion deployed to the National Training Center Rotation 18-03 providing accurate and responsive Fires for the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team. After a successful NTC rotation, the battalion deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel 18-19.

As the only cannon battalion in Afghanistan, the Angry Vikings were dispersed across theater supporting operations for every Train Advise Assist Command (TAAC) with 18x M777A2 howitzers. Through the deployment the Angry Vikings supported conventional forces, the Army’s first Security Force Assistance Brigade, Special Operations Task Force – Afghanistan and Afghan National Defense Security Forces maneuver, providing fire support for expeditionary assistance packages. In addition to their normal duties, the battalion headquarters served as the 201st Military Advisor Team, advising the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army in TAAC-East. In 2018, the Angry Vikings have proven that no matter the task, the battalion is always ready for any mission and most importantly, embodies their motto of “Stay Angry!”

2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, Steel Warriors

Redlegs from the 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, Steel Warriors, remained steadfast and loyal, providing Fires in support of the 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Forces Afghanistan and sister services. Following a successful Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in October of 2017, the Steel Battalion deployed all its fire supporters and radar crewmembers in support of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division’s mission in Operation Freedom’s Sentinel from February to November 2018.

In February and March 2018, B Battery attended Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) training in Fort Sill, Okla., and deployed shortly after to support operations across operating bases in Afghanistan. At home station A and C batteries ensured readiness for the Forces Command General Global Response Force mission and focused on mastery of core artillery competencies, achieving Table XII qualifications in July and maintaining proficiency in firing platoon operations in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 18 through a series of battery, battalion and joint Fires exercises. In September 2018, C Battery provided over 1,800 rounds of accurate and responsive Fires in support of the Air Force 66th Weapons Squadron’s Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) Weapons Instructor Course at Creech Air Force Base.

In October 2018, A Battery conducted an Artillery Table XV exercise while simultaneously supporting
a joint Fires exercise with the 66th Weapons Squadron, 13th Air Support Operations Squadron and 10th Special Forces Group in Fort Carson, Colo., providing a critical enabler to the Air Force in the training of their forward air controllers-Airborne, JTACs and joint Fires observers.

Whether providing artillery support, C-RAM defensive Fires, or supporting the joint Fires team, 2-77th FAR demonstrated capability and developed expertise in 2018, ensuring the Steel Warriors as a combat-ready field artillery formation ready to deploy and provide responsive and lethal Fires to the Warhorse Brigade Combat Team and the Ivy Division anytime and anywhere they are called to do so.

3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, Pacesetters

The 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, Pacesetters, returned from deployment in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve in October 2017 and immediately embarked on a rigorous training cycle as part of the Sustainable Readiness Model. The battalion focused on mastering the basics and digital fire mission processing.

The battalion established a dedicated room to facilitate weekly digital sustainment training that started with only battery fire direction centers and gradually incorporated the entire Fires Enterprise across the brigade. The firing platoons concentrated on consistency in their crew drills and terrain utilization. The fire support elements systematically enhanced the digital call-for-fire chain through a sustained maintenance effort on the Bradley Fire Support Team fleet. The forward support company quickly achieved proficiency in field maintenance and “tailgate” resupply operations. The strong foundation, grounded in fundamentals in digital mastery, set conditions for the battalion’s National Training Center preparation training exercise at Pinyon Canyon in July, and subsequent deployment to the NTC (19-02) in October.

The battalion provided timely and accurate Fires that allowed the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team to achieve success against a determined Blackhorse opponent. Currently, the Pacesetters are focused on their upcoming deployment in February to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

10th Mountain Division

Artillery, Mountain Thunder

It was a busy year for the artillery within 10th Mountain Division. Tenth Mountain DIVARTY deployed over half its formation in support of Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command -- Operation Inherent Resolve (CJFLCC-OIR), subsequently Combined Joint Task Force - OIR. DIVARTY Soldiers enabled partnered security forces with joint and coalition Fires in support of operations against Daesh in Iraq and Syria. Simultaneously, 10th Mountain DIVARTY provided training support to the brigade combat team’s (BCT’s) field artillery battalions at Fort Drum, N.Y., and Fort Polk, La.; and spearhead planning for a division live-fire exercise, Operation Summit Strike, on Fort Drum to occur in spring 2019. Operation Summit Strike will incorporate surface-to-surface, fixed-wing and rotary-wing assets to counter an adversary’s anti-access/aerial denial strategy and enable multi-domain operations in and around the Fort Drum area.

3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, Centaur Battalion

The Centaur Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, remained fully engaged, supporting many of the division’s missions. As part of the Warrior Brigade, 1st Brigade Combat Team, the battalion deployed Soldiers to support training missions across the continent of Africa as part of the African Command Regionally Aligned Forces. Third-6th FA fire supporters also deployed to Central Command with the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade. The battalion took part in the 10th Mountain Division’s deployment readiness exercise, highlighting its rapid deployment capability, and supported Joint Readiness Training Center rotations for 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain and a security force assistance brigade. On Aug. 13, 2018, 3-6th FA showcased its capabilities in an air assault raid demonstration and 21-gun salute to welcome President Donald Trump to Fort Drum to sign the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. The battalion completed the year

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment supported the POTUS visit to Fort Drum, N.Y. with a 21-gun salute. (Courtesy photo)

http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin • 51
with qualifications through Table XVIII and a rigorous Mountain Peak Exercise where 3-6th FA provided a lethal application of Fires in the cold and snow of the North Country, honing their skills to execute their wartime mission.

2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, Allons

The Allons remained steadfast in providing accurate and responsive Fires to the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Commandos. The battalion executed its Table XVIII qualification under three feet of snow and fired over 1,000 rounds in support of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s combined arms live-fire exercise. It also supported its brigade’s Mountain Peak Exercise in March. The battalion took part in the division’s sea emergency deployment readiness exercise in conjunction with its JRTC 18-08 rotation where the unit’s Fires allowed 2nd BCT to rapidly exploit the initiative during offensive operations and provided critical to support to defensive operations. In October, the more than 100 fire supporters deployed to Afghanistan with 2nd BCT to provide fire support and assume military advisory duties as a part of Train, Advise and Assist Command. Throughout the year, 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery demonstrated time and again it is Ready Now, capable of overcoming the challenges of time and terrain, and poised to make the next Climb to Glory!

5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, Thunder Battalion

The Thunder Battalion, provided lethal Fires across Central Command against adversaries in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Fifth-25th FAR delivered over 1,000 rounds of indirect fire and coordinated joint strikes in support of Iraqi Security Forces. Carnage Battery (M777A2) supported operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while Bulldog Battery (M119A3) cross-trained on the M777A2 to support Operation Inherent Resolve missions in Iraq and Syria. Ares Battery (M119A3) maintained decisive action proficiency at home station by supporting company combined arms live-fire missions in cooperation with the brigade’s associated unit partners of the 36th Infantry Division. Following redeployment, the battalion continued its support of associated unit missions; completed qualifications through battery, a fire support coordination exercise and a combined arms live fire exercise; and assumed the focused ready mission on Oct. 1. In the Thunder Battalion, everyone fights and we fight to win, with our Patriot Brigade
teammates, we continue to be Focused Ready Now. Climb to Glory!

**17th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunderbolt!**

The 17th Field Artillery Thunderbolt Brigade continued its mission supporting America’s I Corps as the force field artillery headquarters and the U.S. Army’s Multi-Domain Task Force Pilot Program. This past year the brigade accomplished and executed many successful training objectives as well as combined, joint training exercises. This year marked the centennial for the Thunderbolt Brigade, as the brigade celebrated 100 years after being founded at Camp Bowie, Texas, in July 1918 under the 17th Division.

At the beginning of the year the Thunderbolt Brigade reintegrated 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment after their successful deployment in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom-Spartan Shield and Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. During the deployment First Round fired over 1,500 precision-guided munitions in support of CJTF-OIR operations.

In April, 17th FA Brigade conducted a 550-mile trek to Orchard Combat Training Center in Idaho. The training stressed the brigade’s systems to include logistics, maintenance, communications and overall firing processes. This exercise gave Thunderbolt Soldiers the confidence in their equipment and their ability to sustain through limited logistic capabilities. While at OCTC, 308th Brigade Support Battalion and 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment were given an external evaluation by the brigade to ensure that both battalions were certified and ready to deploy if called to support contingency operations. It established the brigade’s readiness as a whole in the event of a deployment to combat aggression towards a near-peer adversary in support of I Corps.

The Thunderbolt Brigade traveled in July to Schofield Barracks and Ford Island, Hawaii, to participate as the MDTF-PP in support of U.S. Navy’s Third Fleet during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), the world’s largest biennial international maritime exercise. RIMPAC provided a unique training opportunity for the Thunderbolt Brigade by fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships with joint and international forces. This exercise allowed the Brigade to integrate its High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) asset into planning efforts with joint services in order to further develop multi-domain concepts.

During RIMPAC, 17th FA Brigade and 1-94th FAR worked alongside the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force and conducted the first multinational and U.S. Army HIMARS Rapid Infiltration (HI-RAIN) at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawaii. The HI-RAIN validated the HIMARS as part of the Multi-Domain Task Force and its ability to shape both land and naval operations by targeting adversary naval assets. The exercise provided tough, realistic training for the Thunderbolt Brigade in order to deter and defeat aggression by major powers across all domains and levels of conflict in order to build multi-domain concepts.

Immediately following RIMPAC, 17th FA Brigade deployed a portion of its headquarters, alongside 1-94th FAR, to Guam in support of Valiant Shield as the MDTF-PP. Valiant Shield is a U.S. only, biennial field training exercise with a focus on integration of joint training in a blue-water environment among U.S. forces. This training enabled the Thunderbolt Brigade with real-world proficiency by integrating with the joint assets to provide capabilities to employ the joint services freedom of maneuver in a maritime environment and be able to enable the operation and mission in the Pacific domain. Seventeenth FA Brigade continued to develop and validate priorities as the MDTF-PP while at Valiant Shield such as improve communication systems and architecture, facilitate and integrate artillery capabilities in the Indo-Pacific maritime environment, and inform and improve upon the multi-domain operational discussion.

Simultaneously, the Thunderbolt Brigade conducted a Warfighter Exercise 19-1 exercise in support of I Corps. This was a routine exercise to enhance the interoperability between the U.S. and Republic of Korea forces. The exercise was hosted at the Joint Base Lewis McChord Mission Command Training Center in Washington. The brigade met all training objectives and validated its ability to serve as the FFAHQ for I Corps.

In November, Soldiers from the 17th FA Brigade’s 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment conducted a field training exercise at Yakima Training Center, Wash., during this exercise the first HIMARS Rapid Infiltration was conducted at YTC on the newly established Selah Airstrip. Seventeenth FA Brigade, in conjunction with 62nd Airlift Wing, planned and executed a successful live fire HI-RAIN that clearly demonstrated joint inoperability as well as the HIMARS ability to rapidly strike long-distance targets and move before being detected. This training also demonstrated that now units similar to 17th FA Brigade can utilize YTC as a premiere training installation in order to rapidly deploy and execute missions at a moments notice.

The Thunderbolt Brigade wrapped up the year by welcoming the new Thunderbolt commander, Col. Brandon Anderson while simultaneously supporting the Yama Sakura 75 exercise. Seventeenth FA Brigade deployed a small contingent of Soldiers and leaders to Japan to train with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and support I Corps as the FFAHQ for the exercise.

While only a small contingent of Soldiers went forward from the brigade, the majority of the bri-
gade participated in the exercise at the MCTC on JBLM, Wash. In conjunction with JGSDF, the Thunderbolt Brigade is responsible for directing fire support and shaping efforts for I Corps.

This year marked significant changes to the mission of the Thunderbolt Brigade as well as the leadership at the brigade level. However, 17th FAB continues to foster a learning-based organization by employing disciplined initiative, and maximizing efforts to deploy, fight, and win, whenever, and wherever, our nation requires for the next year to come.

Facebook.com/17thFieldArtilleryBrigade/

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

First Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, Deep Steel set the standard for High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalions through the successful execution of diverse mission sets, to include overseas exercises with multi-national partners across the Pacific. Each quarter, the battalion validated expeditionary readiness through HIMARS Rapid Infiltration (HIRAIN) operations, in conjunction with 62nd Airlift Wing. Batteries rapidly load launchers into aircraft and conduct tactical movements to firing positions upon landing, giving commanders the ability to conduct forward projected precision strikes, anywhere in the world. The Deep Steel Battalion remains prepared to rapidly deploy launchers with no notice in support of worldwide operations.

Keeping in line with the Army’s sustainable readiness model, the Deep Steel team conducted weekly tactical readiness exercises (TRXs). The TRX tests leadership abilities and the professional competency of platoon leaders and section chiefs and fosters an expeditionary mindset across the battalion. Battery commanders task elements within their formation to conduct short notice missions tied to mission essential task list tasks. The detachment could be a light HIMARS package, the battalion fire direction center, a retransmission team, etc., that must conduct a convoy movement to training areas and exercise their core competencies. Observer/coach, trainers move with the element, providing invaluable feedback to the tasked unit and battalion commander. These exercises reveal avenues of continual improvement and shape future training, leading to greater warfighting capacity across the formation.

In April, 1-94th FAR conducted a battalion external evaluation (EXEVAL) at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho. The battalion executed a three-day, 550-mile convoy to validate expeditionary ground movement and vehicle recovery operations. While at OCTC, the battalion conducted a HIRAIN operation with 62nd Air Wing to integrate multi-domain planning and cross-service operations in a training environment. Battalion staff exercised real-time airspace de-confliction with AH-64Ds, successfully synchronizing surface-to-surface and air-to-surface Fires in support of deep strike operations. Launcher crews closed out the EXEVAL by successfully qualifying through a Table XV live-fire mission. After successfully qualifying all 16 launcher crews, the battalion conducted a three-day convoy movement back to Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash.

The battalion continued to rehearse our deployment readiness with a HIRAIN deployment to Hawaii following the EXEVAL. First-94th FAR deployed to the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Kauai, Hawaii, as part of a joint forces operation to in support of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) and validate multi-domain operation (MDO) capabilities. The Deep Steel Battalion shaped land operations by executing multiple missions targeting naval assets. The realistic mission set provided crews with the ability to hone their skills and integrate in a multinational operation. RIMPAC highlighted the validation of HIMARS as a part of the Multi-Domain Task Force for future global operations.

Immediately following RIMPAC, the Deep Steel Battalion deployed to Guam for another joint-forces operation, Operation Valiant Shield. The battalion, as the Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) headquarters, conducted land, air, sea, space and cyberspace shaping operations in conjunction with the Navy and Air Force. Operation Valiant Shield validated the joint communications architecture necessary to conduct synchronized MDO and further the discussion of MDTF HQ roles and responsibilities in the joint environment.

Facebook.com/1stBattalion94thFieldArtilleryRegiment

308th Brigade Support Battalion, Red Lions

The Red Lion Battalion has been hard at work in 2018 with major training events internal to the battalion and in support of 17th Field Artillery Brigade. We conducted platoon and company external evaluations (EXEVALs) in January and February to prepare for our battalion EXEVAL in March. We then focused on reset and recovery across the brigade’s maintenance program from May to July, supported various brigade and corps exercises such as Rim of the Pacific 18, and absorbed external units into our formation for a battalion field training exercise (FTX) in November.

In January 2018, 308th BSB began collective training to prepare for deployment to Orchard Center Training Center, Idaho in March 2018. From the section to battalion levels, all Red Lions were externally evaluated in order to become certified for deployment in support of contingency operations around the world. The 308th BSB was augmented by 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion. The augmentation was to train on one of our primary tasks: to absorb and employ external units to support 17th FA BDE’s firing units. OCTC was located 550 miles away from JBLM and our deployment exer-
cised the unit’s ability to deploy and move personnel and equipment across three states.

Upon redeployment from OCTC, 308th BSB took time to allow for personnel, equipment, and vehicle recovery. Immediately after this reset period, we deployed both logistics and signal capabilities to support Valiant Shield 18. During these exercises, Red Lions brought dedicated expertise and equipment to support 17th Field Artillery Brigade as it assumed the role of Multi-Domain Task Force Pilot Program.

The Soldiers of 308th BSB solidified the year’s training efforts by conducting a battalion FTX at Yakima Training Center in November 2018. Again practicing the employment of external medical and transportation companies, the battalion displaced the brigade support area both during day and night operations while supporting the training efforts of our sister battalion, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery. Over the course of this exercise, all battalion mission essential tasks were trained and we internally tested our junior leaders on all aspects of sustaining the fight. Pride in Performance!

facebook.com/308bsb/

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

It’s been a busy year for the First Round Nation – redeploying from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in December, conducting reintegration and reset operations through June and an arduous train-up culminating with a Table XV live-fire exercise in November.

In December 2017, the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, First Round Battalion, redeployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., from the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of both Operation Enduring Freedom-Spartan Shield and Combined Joint Task Force–Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) where it delivered over 1,500 precision-guided munitions in support of CJTF-OIR operations.

Upon redeployment, the First Round Nation conducted in-depth re-integration, reset operations and designed a combat training center-like external evaluation at the Orchard Center Training Center in Idaho for our sister battalions, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment and 308th Brigade Support Battalion in April. Heading into the summer months, 5-3rd FAR focused on individual and lower-level collective training culminating with Table VI and XII live-fire exercise in June. Heading into fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2018, the team conducted battery and company external evaluations here at JBLM in preparation for a battalion field training exercise (FTX) and Table XV live fire exercise (LFX) at Yakima Training Center, Wash. The battalion FTX at YTC improved on proficiencies through disciplined initiative scenarios driving decisive action by the battery and battalion leadership. The culmination of the battalion FTX was the execution of the first High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Rapid Infiltration (HIRAIN) LFX on the newly established Selah Airstrip; demonstrating the capability of 5-3rd FAR and other similar units to rapidly deploy to an austere environment and execute operations at a moments’ notice.

Soldiers assigned to the 18th Field Artillery Brigade fire an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) near Fort Greely, Alaska, Oct. 9, 2018, during Red Flag-Alaska 19-1. A HIMARS has the ability and flexibility to launch its payload at ground targets and quickly move to a different location. (Airman Aaron Guerisky/U.S. Air Force)
18th Field Artillery Brigade, Steel Brigade

The Steel Brigade started the year with an aggressive training strategy designed to increase overall readiness and maintain a high proficiency in artillery skills. The brigade challenged Soldiers, crews, and battalion staffs alike through a rigorous brigade field training exercise which included executing artillery raids, base defense missions, and logistical operations; all while firing Table XVIII qualifications.

The brigade built on its proficiency while supporting the XVIII Airborne Corps War Fighter Exercise (WFX) 18-04. During the WFX, brigade and battalion staffs exercised the ability to control artillery Fires on a large and rapid scale through the military decision making process as the corps’ force field artillery headquarters (FFA HQ).

In addition to numerous local events and training exercises to maintain certifications and qualifications, 18th Field Artillery Brigade provided support across the globe to joint and coalition partners. As part of the XVIII Airborne Corps Global Response Force element, the brigade participated in multiple emergency deployment readiness exercises, Joint Readiness Training Center rotations to Fort Polk, La., and a seabase emergency deployment readiness exercise to the Port of Charleston, S.C.

Other joint training executed by the brigade included participation at the Weapons School Integration at Nellis Air Force Base, the Air Force’s Red Flag Exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, and the 75th Ranger Regiment’s Multi-Lateral Airborne Training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

When a natural disaster struck, the brigade deployed elements from all of its battalions in support of local, state and federal emergency services and disaster relief organizations to respond to Hurricane Florence.

As part of the brigade headquarters preparation for a deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield, Steel Soldiers participated in U.S. Army Alaska’s Arctic Anvil exercise as the FFA HQ for 7th Infantry Division over 1st Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division in Delta Junction, Alaska.

The 18th Field Artillery Brigade stands ready to provide lethal Fires in support of Operation Spartan Shield, Operation Freedom Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve as U.S. Army Central’s FFA HQ and as an element of the XVIII Airborne Corps Global Response Force.

Regardless of challenge or location, the Soldiers of the Steel Brigade remain tough, proud, and disciplined ready to answer our nation’s call. facebook.com/18thfires

188th Brigade Support Battalion, Steel Eagle

The Steel Eagle Battalion spent the past year building proficiency in logistical operations and supporting the firing battalions. In addition to maintaining crew certifications and qualifications, the battalion maintained logistical support for the brigade, until June, as it supported XVIII Airborne Corps 96-hour global response force mission set.

From March to April, the 188th Brigade Support Battalion led sustainment operations for the XVIII ABC Warfighter (WFX) 18-02. During this operation, Headquarters Support Company and the forward support companies conducted daily pushes of class I and class III to over 1,500 Soldiers from multiple Forces Command units and a U.K. brigade throughout Fort Bragg, N.C. Additionally, the battalion conducted mission command of daily life support and transportation requirements for all WFX 18-02 participants.

In July 2018, 583rd Forward Support Company and 135th Forward Support Company were attached to 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, respectively, while 188th BSB assumed administrative control of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Field Artillery Brigade. As the logistical headquarters for the brigade, 188th BSB continued to plan training events to validate the readiness of the forward support companies. The 188th BSB lead the brigades planning efforts and coordinated a movement of 65 vehicles and over 120 personnel from Headquarters Service Company, 206th Signal Company, and the FSCs in support of 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command’s Dragon Lifeline. This was a seabase emergency deployment readiness exercise which allowed sustainment elements to validate their ability to marshal, ground convoy to Charleston, S.C., and load rail and sea vessels. In September, 188th BSB’s staff led the brigade’s planning and mission command of 35 vehicles and over 80 Soldiers to conduct high water rescues in Eastern North Carolina during and after Hurricane Florence in support of 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

In September and October, the BSB and FSCs conducted base defense live-fire exercises where the units trained to: defend the assigned area, conduct troop leading procedures, employ camouflage and concealment, treat and evacuate casualties. This exercise tested the units’ ability to maintain a defensive posture while it reinforced Soldiers’ warrior tasks and drills.

The 206th Signal Company continues to provide the brigade headquarters the ability to conduct mission command through secure command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The 206th Signal Company installs, operates, maintains, and defends the brigade’s communication network.

The battalion remains ready to set the logistical conditions in support of the 18th Field Artillery Brigade’s mission of delivering precision Fires for future missions. Bearing the Heavy Burden Steel Eagles! facebook.com/188thBSB/
3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Steel Rain

The Steel Rain Battalion spent the past year honing its field artillery skills and preparing for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield. In addition to maintaining crew certifications and qualifications throughout the year, the battalion maintained XVIII Airborne Corps 96-hour global response Global Response Force mission sets through June.

As part of the battalion’s support to conventional and special operation forces, B Battery provided a Light High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Package (LHP) to participate in Strike 2.0 – a joint Fires exercise in White Sands, N.M. B Battery conducted an infiltration by air, with a follow-on field artillery raid in support of joint forces. The battalion also trained with joint partners as it exercised a LHP in support of Red Flag Alaska 18-01. Red Flag Alaska was a multi-national, joint exercise conducted between Eielson Air Force Base, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska and Fort Greely, Alaska. The battalion’s mission was to conduct a HIMARS rapid infiltration (HIRAIN) mission integrating air movement and long-range strike Fires into multiple Air Force vulnerability exercises (VULS). The battalion integrated with 535th Airlift Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and 517th Airlift Squadron, JBER, Alaska using the Joint Precision Airdrop System to perform hot panel raids. In June, the battalion saw a change in leadership as Lt. Col. Jeremy Linney assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment from Lt. Col. Douglas Thomas.

After a successful handover of the GRF mission set to 3-321st FAR, the battalion continued to train with external conventional units as the battalion’s 135th Forward Support Company participated in a seaborne emergency deployment readiness exercise to the port of Charleston, S.C., testing the readiness of the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command. The exercise validated the ability of the battalion to marshal and deploy via both ground and sea. In October, the battalion supported U.S. Army Alaska’s Arctic Anvil and the Air Force’s Red Flag Alaska 19-01 exercise with A Battery sending an LHP to perform multiple HIRAIN missions, integrating air movement and long range strike Fires into Air Force VULS. These training events showed the battalion’s ability to control multi-echelon independent field artillery operations while providing seamless Fires capability – with special emphasis on a dynamic environment against a hybrid threat, and counter-fire operations.

In December, the battalion continued to prepare for Operation Spartan Shield and spent time with friends and families, over the holiday season, in preparation for continued excellence in 2019. United We Stand!

3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, Thunderbolt Battalion

The Thunderbolt Battalion started 2018 fully reset from deployment and focused on rapid deployment combat readiness. With the assumption of the Global Response Force mission, the Thunderbolts worked to develop, refine and achieve a high standard of preparation for no-notice deployments from Fort Bragg, N.C. Third Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment stands ready to deploy, engage, and destroy our nation’s enemies with precision strike Fires.

In the spirit of 3-321st FAR’s glider airborne artillery history during WWII, Thunderbolt leaders worked with Air Force elements to develop joint High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Rapid Insertion (HIRAIN) competencies and integration into their mission command nodes. Batteries spent countless hours conducting hot and cold load training events with C-130 and C-17 platforms, culminating with fly-aways for multiple off-post training exercises. In February, B Battery, 3-321st FAR participated in 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division’s emergency deployment readiness exercise (EDRE) and joint forcible entry (JFE) firing pre-assault suppression of energy air defense missions against targets to protect 2nd BCT, 82nd ABN DIV’s insertion. Following the airfield seizure, the battery executed air lands to continue providing deep-strike Fires. The EDRE set conditions for support to Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-06, where B/3-321st FAR deployed a platoon via HIRAIN to provide precision Fires that shaped the deep fight in support of maneuver forces. The EDRE also allowed the battalion to validate version 8.0 software prior to its release by the Army’s Precision Fires Rockets and Munitions Program Office at Redstone Arsenal. PFRMS used the JFE to gather data on version 8.0 during normal operations and
tested its operability during air movement. Consistent and successful engagement with PFRMS resulted in 3-321st FAR being the first unit in the Army to successfully live-fire with the version 8.0 software upgrades.

In June, the Thunderbolts assumed the GRF mission for the brigade. As part of the GRF, the battalion provided support to conventional and special operation forces. A Battery, 3-321 FAR provided a Light HIMARS Package (LHP) to support U.S. Army Special Operations Command’s and XVIII Airborne Corps’ Multi-Lateral Airborne Training – a multi-echelon training event on Fort Bragg involving 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd ABN DIV and 75th Ranger Regiment. During this operation, Thunderbolts conducted a HIRAIN in support of 75th Ranger Regiment to seize critical objectives and provide precision Fires against scenario targets that highlighted HIMARS capabilities to conventional and SOF forces.

Also in June, and again in December, A/3-321st FAR and B/3-321st FAR provided LHPs via 96-hour notification sequences that culminated in live-fire exercises in support of the Air Force’s Weapon School Integration training for their joint terminal attack controllers. In September, Thunderbolts from A/3-321st FAR supported U.S. Army Europe’s Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe treaty compliance demonstration in Grafenwoehr, Germany to support requirements to demonstrate new weapon types and equipment systems projected for deployment to Europe. The Thunderbolts closed the year with HIRAIN training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. to support internal and Air Force training objectives.

As 3-321st FAR prepares for 2019, the Thunderbolts remain a lethal and combat-ready battalion of disciplined artillery professionals ready to rapidly deploy and provide precision strike Fires wherever needed. Thunderbolts!

25th Infantry Division Artillery, Tropic Thunder

The Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the Tropic Thunder Division Artillery worked hard this year to support numerous training missions, partner engagements and simulated exercises to increase the capabilities and readiness of the most lethal Fires enterprise in the Pacific. Twenty-fifth DIVARTY served as the division’s force field artillery headquarters in three major command post exercises (CPXs) to build mission command capabilities and support theatre security cooperation plan missions.

In May, the 25th DIVARTY participated in Opera-

Soldiers from 25th Infantry Division Artillery with 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery stand in formation prior to a division review. (Courtesy photo)
Lightning Strike at the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii. This operation is a multi-echelon command post exercise using the division targeting process for a live, constructive build training. It also allowed the DIVARTY to enable 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s preparation for Joint Readiness Training Center by executing Tables XV and XVIII for 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment. Second-11th FAR and 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment conducted gunnery, fire support team certifications, and offensive and defensive exercises at Schofield Barracks, Pohakuloa Training Area, and the Kahuku Training Area. The DIVARTY staff participated in multiple command post exercises throughout the year, to include Yama Sakura, Key Resolve, and CPX2. The 25th DIVARTY conducted a change of command ceremony in June bidding farewell to Col. Matthew Stader and Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron White and welcoming Col. Brendan Raymond and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Donegan. From Sept. 30 through Oct. 11, the 25th DIVARTY executed Warfighter Exercise 19-01, proving once again, that the world class opposing force was no match for the Tropic Thunder Brigade.

**3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, Never Broken**

The 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, *Never Broken*, returned from the Joint Readiness Center in March 2018 as a fully trained unit prepared for combat operations anywhere in the world. The battalion sustained proficiency within a band of excellence by executing a combination of regional engagement exercises and fire support field training exercises. Soldiers of 3-7th FAR provided gunnery and fire support to partnered maneuver forces while increasing interoperability, strengthening alliances and building partner capacity. A Battery, 3-7th FA deployed to New Zealand in July 2018 in partnership with the 196th Artillery Regiment for a month-long field training exercise providing live artillery fire, honing battery defense techniques and small unit tactics. Likewise, the *Never Broken Battalion* executed Operation Tiger Balm by integrating with the Singapore Strike Observer Mission team; deployed Soldiers to Japan to participate in Orient Shield; and deployed to Australia for Exercise Kowari. These exercises improved Fires enterprise skills and supported U.S. Army Pacific Command’s overall effort to support positive strategic relations in the Asia-Pacific Region. *Never Broken Soldiers* executed Operation Steel Crucible to improve combat readiness. The battalion increased expertise in core artillery skills and gained proficiency in artillery raid operations by partnering with the 463rd Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron and 2nd battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. Furthermore, 3-7th FAR fire supporters partnered with ground and air cavalry units to exercise calls for fire utilizing AH-64s and Raven Unmanned Aircraft System. Headquarters Battery also gained proficiency in casualty management.
evacuation procedures by working with the UH-60 teams from C Battery, 325th Brigade Support Battalion and HH-60s from the U.S. Coast Guard. The team also fielded the Q-53 radar, further enhancing their ability to provide Fires to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

**2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, On Time**

Artillerymen and women from the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, *On Time*, continued their steadfast support in providing Fires in support of maneuver forces across the Pacific area of operations over the past year. In April, the *War Gators of A Battery* deployed with Task Force 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, Gimlets on Pacific Pathways for a six-month training exercise. The exercise spanned three countries: Thailand, Korea and the Philippines. They conducted combined arms live-fire exercises and enhanced gunnery and fire support skills, all while building relationships with partner nations. The *On Time Battalion* trained alongside 2nd Squadron, 6th Aviation and 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment at the Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, on ways to fight the division and brigade deep fights. This was followed by the crucible training exercise of Lightning Forge; a validation of 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, *Warrior Brigade*. Finally, *On Time* closed out the year with its culminating training event, providing accurate and responsive Fires at the Joint Readiness Training Center. The *On Time Battalion* performed masterfully in support of the *Warrior Brigade* Combat Team and stands ready to deploy, fight and win anywhere in the world.

**2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, Automatic**

The *Automatic Soldiers* of 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment supported the *Arctic Wolves* of the 1st Stryker Brigade through a full training cycle in preparation for an upcoming combat training center rotation. Determined to gain and maintain *Arctic* proficiency at the platoon level, the battalion spent January to March executing platoon operations in temperatures ranging from -30 to 15 degrees. The quarter culminated in a week of platoon-level artillery raids supported by 1st Battalion, 52nd General Support Aviation Regiment, executed under snowy Arctic conditions. *A Battery*, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment supported a key joint exercise, Operation Arctic Edge, with 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment augmented by a company of Marines, validating U.S. Army Alaska’s ability to project combat power across Alaska. The battalion and brigade Fires cell synchronized and massed joint Fires during Red Flag 18-02, hosted at Eielson Air Force Base. The battalion also executed Precision Guidance Kit Fielding, and qualified through Artillery Gunnery Table XV in preparation to Arctic Avalanche – the brigade’s combined arms maneuver live-fire exercise – throughout August and September. The year culminated with the brigade force-on-force exercise, Arctic Anvil. Anvil ended with a 2nd Infantry Division Artillery supported Artillery Gunnery Table XVIII. The *Automatic Battalion* remains poised to provide massed, lethal, joint Fires in support of the *Arctic Wolves* under any conditions across the Globe.

*Open Sheaf...Never Miss...Repeat!*  

**2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, Spartan Steel**

Arctic airborne Redlegs from the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division remain committed as a modernized, lethal and ready battalion not only capable of providing Fires in support of Asia-Pacific and Arctic Regions, but also contingency operations worldwide. The battalion returned in May from a nine-month deployment to Eastern Afghanistan where it made significant contributions to Operation Resolute Support and Operation Freedom’s Sentinel. Prior to the battalion’s deployment, Parachute Field Artillery Regiment (PFA) made the transition to a composite Fires battalion. As part of the composite Fires modernization, C Battery executed a delib-
erate lateral transfer of six M777A2s in Afghanistan where they trained and certified its howitzer sections and subsequently supported Operation Freedom’s Sentinel with effective and precision 155 mm Fires. Also while deployed, the battalion supported the train, advise, assist East Command, Special Operations Joint Task Force Afghanistan, and the very first Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) unit, 1st SFAB Brigade, with lethal Fires and integrated fire support enabling offensive and defensive operations for the Afghan National Defense Security Forces. To highlight, PFAR executed one of the longest Excalibur, M982A1 fire missions in combat, ranging nearly 39 kilometers that successfully denied enemies of Afghanistan’s ability to engage friendly maneuver forces. Lastly, PFAR’s battalion staff executed the train, advise and assist mission and were the primary military advisors to the 201st Afghanistan National Army Corps. Their efforts enabled the Afghans to conduct two large-scale offensive operations cited by Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, as an example of what winning looks like in Afghanistan.

Upon redeployment from Afghanistan, PFAR began an aggressive approach to collective training deploying north to the Donnelly Training Area. At DTA, the batteries successfully certified all M19A3 and M777A2 Howitzer sections, fire direction center and radar sections, and nearly 100 fire supporters on their respective section level certification training tables. Additionally in October, PFAR deployed again to DTA to support 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division’s Operation Arctic Anvil that included a joint forcible entry operation, OC/T, and opposing force support for 1-25th SBCT’s upcoming National Training Center rotation.

With arctic conditions setting in at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, in November and December, the battalion continued its collective training glide path completing Table XII and provided Fires in support of the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

In 2018, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Fires team demonstrated its professionalism and increased its proficiency through multiple exercises and pre-deployment events.

Throughout the year, the 34th Infantry Division headquarters conducted training exercises in preparation for the unit’s deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield. Training included planning and conducting four command post exercises (CPXs), a warfighter exercise, and a culminating training event (CTE).

In the first half of the year, the division Fires team participated in CPXs, which solidified its Joint Air Ground Integration Center procedures for controlling and clearing joint lethal Fires. These CPXs refined the Fires team’s targeting cycle, enabling the division to effectively prosecute Fires in a joint environment.

In June 2018, the division headquarters conducted Warfighter 18-5 at Camp Atterbury, Ind. During this exercise, the Fires team planned deep lethal Fires through the division targeting process, in order to shape the battlefield to achieve desired effects and to set the conditions for a successful end state. Upon completion of Warfighter 18-5, the division Fires team shifted its focus from lethal to non-lethal Fires by implementing a four-week engagement cycle process in anticipation of the new mission.

In September 2018, the division mobilized in support of Operation Spartan Shield and completed final pre-deployment activities at Fort Hood, Texas. While at Fort Hood, the unit conducted a CTE, which validated the non-lethal engagement process. During the CTE, the Fires team trained to drive leader engagements to support exercises and events throughout the U.S. Army Central Command area of operations. After a successful CTE, the division headquarters deployed to Kuwait, where the unit took command of Task Force Spartan on Nov.
12 during a transfer of authority ceremony with the outgoing 28th Infantry Division.

The division Fires team leads the Task Force Spartan engagement cycle, which is the critical path to the commanding general for decisions to conduct Theater Security Cooperation engagements, exercises and events (E3) throughout the region. These E3s are focused on increasing military readiness and capability in order to maintain regional stability and expand partnerships.

The past year has provided ample opportunities for the 34th Infantry Division Fires Warfighting Function to improve proficiency, while enabling the division to excel in conducting lethal and non-lethal targeting and joint Fires.

41st Field Artillery Brigade, Railgunners

The 41st Field Artillery Brigade uncased its colors in an activation ceremony that was combined with an assumption of command and responsibility for the unit, here, Nov. 30.

With a history dating back 100 years, crossing oceans and continents, the 41st FA Brigade has been known by many names and called many locations home — including 33 years in Babenhausen, Germany.

“After a 13-year break, the Railgunners have come back to Germany,” said Col. Seth Knazovich, 41st FA Brigade commander. “The field artillery has a reputation. It is known for always being ready to support the Army, day or night, in any weather, under any conditions.”

The 41st FA Regiment formed in 1918 in Virginia; in 1924, was re-designated as the 41st Coast Artillery in Hawaii; re-activated as the 41st FA Group in Oklahoma in 1952; spent 1972-2005 in Germany, while also changing names to the 41st FA Brigade; re-activated in Texas in 2007 under the name of 41st Fires Brigade; reverted back to the 41st FA Brigade in 2014; and inactivated and reflagged as the 1st Caval-

Col. Seth Knazovich, left, 41st Field Artillery Brigade commander, and Edgar Knobloch, right, mayor of Grafenwoehr, Germany, sign a partnership agreement during the unit’s activation ceremony in Grafenwoehr, Nov. 30, 2018. The 41st Field Artillery Bde. ‘Railgunners’ is the new unit activating in Grafenwoehr, Germany under the training readiness authority of 7th Army Training Command and will provide long-range precision Fires capabilities for U.S. Army Europe. (Spc. Emily Houdershieldt/U.S. Army)
Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, maintained a trained and ready combined arms team capable of executing joint force entry operations through decisive action by integrating all means of fire direction, fire delivery and fire support with maneuver elements and end states. Throughout the year, fire supporters from across the 82nd Airborne Field Artillery Enterprise supported multiple divisional efforts to include Key Resolve 2018, Swift Response 2018 and Unified Challenge 2018. Additionally, our Redleg paratroopers conducted numerous iterations of the Precision Fires Program, Joint Fires Observer Course, and upgrades to our M777A2 and M119A3 through the Fires Center of Excellence Modification Work Order program.

The DIVARTY executed battalion artillery readiness tests and multiple division artillery readiness tests as the capstone training events in support of no notice deployments to various collective training centers and real-time contingency operations around the globe. Whether in air or on land, the 82nd Airborne Artillerymen are ready to jump, fight, and mass the fire tonight!”

facebook.com/82ndABNDIVARTY/

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

The Paratroopers of 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, Loyalty, stayed ready to provide accurate, lethal and timely Fires in support of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, and the Nation’s Global Response Force (GRF). The Loyalty Battalion maintained the highest level of readiness from January to July 2018 while on GRF, continuing to uphold its high standard of training from individual certifications through Table XII qualifications.

Throughout its time on GRF, 1-319th AFAR conducted numerous live Fires, certified sections on Artillery Tables I-VI, and supported several exercises. In April, A Battery participated in Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-06 at Fort Polk, La., to support 2nd Brigade Combat Team as the opposition force battery. Also in April, C Battery conducted a combined arms live-fire exercise with 3rd Brigade Combat Team maneuver companies, integrating howitzer with mortar Fires to great effect.

In June, 1-319th AFAR supported 3rd BCT in Operation Swift Response, a multi-national airborne training operation in Latvia. Loyalty Paratroopers successfully conducted a joint forcible entry by
jumping into Latvia, and fire supporters integrated Fires from several NATO partners, helping project a strong United States and NATO presence in Eastern Europe. Also in June, Loyalty fire supporters back at Fort Bragg, N.C., supported Operation Bronze Ram, a joint forcible entry exercise with 3rd BCT and 75th Ranger Regiment. Both operations greatly increased 1-319th AFAR’s interoperability and lethality of Fires.

From October through November 2018, 1-319th AFAR supported 3rd BCT, this time at Fort Bliss, Texas, during Network Integration Exercise (NIE) 18.2. While at NIE 18.2, Loyalty Paratroopers conducted mission command and integration of Fires with the Command Post Computing Environment (CPCE) system. Using CPCE in conjunction with the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, Loyalty successfully provided Fires in support of 3rd BCT operations. At Fort Bragg, Loyalty Paratroopers completed an air assault mission, live fire, and a drop zone mission with live fire in back-to-back weeks.

Upon returning from Fort Bliss, Texas, 1-319th AFAR finished the year assuming the role of outload support battalion, supporting 2nd BCT as the Global Response Force. Loyalty will continue training to provide Fires in 2019, and prepare to maintain a high level of focus to support the upcoming deployment of 3rd BCT.

Facebook.com/1st319th/

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

The Black Falcons of the 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment continued to provide direct support to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division. Second-319th AFAR provided Fires critical to successful 2nd BCT operations at its Joint Readiness Training Center rotation in April 2018, prior to its Global Response Force assumption in July 2018. The Black Falcons conducted a successful battalion mass fire mission from Sicily Drop Zone following an airborne operation in November 2018.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Hydra, has provided critical fire support and radar coverage for 2nd BCTs combined-arms live-fire exercise and JRTC rotation, observation for every howitzer qualification and live fire throughout the year, and support of Warfighter Exercise 19-2. The A Battery, Demons, conducted seven howitzer heavy drops and drop zone missions, and two gun raids. The B Battery, Bulls, returned from Afghanistan and
Counter Rocket and Artillery Mortar operations to its airborne firing battery mission at Fort Bragg, N.C. Additionally, B Battery represented 82nd Division Artillery during All American Week 2018-Air Assault Demonstration, the National Airborne Day Static Display and the 4th of July Salute. C Battery, Strike, conducted one joint forcibly entry exercise and provided long-range precision fire capabilities to 2nd BCT throughout the year, with M777A2 howitzers. Fox Forward Support Company has supported every training event while working overtime to maintain the battalion’s equipment and winning the 82nd Airborne Division’s “Best Chef” competition. Heading into 2019, the Black Falcons remain professional paratroopers who are ready to jump, fight, and win tonight, anywhere in the world on a moment’s notice.

facebook.com/2nd319th/

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

The Gun Devils of the 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment proved their versatility and professional excellence during 2018. Spending the first three months of the year deployed across two continents, the organization completed successful missions simultaneously in both Kosovo and Afghanistan. In Kosovo, the battalion commanded the forward command post for the Multi-National Battle Group – East, who, along with B Battery operating as liaison monitoring teams, provided a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for the local populace throughout the area.

While in Afghanistan, detachments from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery directed lethal strikes and targeting against Taliban targets in the volatile Kandahar region of southern Afghanistan, along with providing embedded training and advising of the local Afghan Army artillery forces within the Train Advise Assist Command – South headquarters area of responsibility. In addition, C Battery provided lethal Fires across the country with M777 howitzers, while A Battery separately provided Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar support for force protection after having been cross-trained on the Land-based Phalanx Weapon System at Fort Sill, Okla., prior to deployment.

Upon redeployment, the battalion immediately began training for traditional artillery operations, successfully completing all certifications, platoon-level air assaults and conducting four heavy-drop parachute assaults with live Fires off the drop zone. The Gun Devils also conducted a brigade-level fire support coordination exercise and combined arms live-fire exercise, culminating with the massing of the battalion’s Fires in support of a brigade-level joint forcible entry and simultaneously successfully completing a division artillery readiness tests — all within four months of redeployment. Finally, the battalion ended the year supporting a deployment readiness exercise with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Devil Brigade, in early December, conducting an in-flight rig heavy-drop from Fort Bragg, N.C., across the country to the National Training Center, Calif.

facebook.com/gundevilsFA/

101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Artillery, Guns of Glory

Redlegs from the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Artillery, Guns of Glory, continued their Rendezvous With Destiny by supporting brigade combat team integration of Fires at every echelon, and providing accurate and responsive Fires in support of the Screaming Eagles Division and Operations Freedom’s Sentinel and Inherent Resolve.

The DIVARTY started the year running, supporting Warfighter Exercise 18-03 with the DIVARTY headquarters and Fires battalions participating.

Immediately after Warfighter conclusion, DIVARTY Soldiers hit the road to Germany supporting Operation Dynamic Front with our strategic partners in the 138th Field Artillery Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard, integrating combined Fires in Europe and forging bonds between strategically aligned regular Army and National Guard units.

In March, the DIVARTY hosted the inaugural Eagle Fires Forum, a two-day Fires Conference to synchronize Fires, best practices and build branch camaraderie within the 101st Division and XVIII Airborne Corps Fires communities.

Later in March, the Top Guns of 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment deployed to Joint Readiness Training Center providing lethal Fires in support of the Strike Brigade Combat Team’s (BCT) rotation, capping off a grueling yearlong train up that prepared the Top Guns to fight and win wherever required.

The DIVARTY headquarters deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters in support of Operations Resolute Support and Freedom’s Sentinel. There, they were responsible for all surface-to-surface Fires throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan and resourcing train, advise and assist missions to improve Afghan Fires and training. While deployed, 101st DIVARTY successfully employed joint Fires in support of Afghan National Defense Force missions, advising and lethal strikes against terrorist networks in Afghanistan.

The Proud Americans of 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment sharpened their core competencies and Fires skills through the DIVARTY battalion artillery readiness test in April and division artillery readiness test in June. After proving their mettle during tough and realistic training events against live and simulated enemy and friendly maneuver forces, exceeding over 2,000 rounds of ammunition, the

http://sill-www.army.mil/firesbulletin • 65
battalion accompanied Bastogne BCT to JRTC in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility. The Proud Americans were augmented by current Knox Award recipient, C Battery, Top Guns, in a general support reinforcing role to give Bastogne even greater lethality on the modern battlefield.

Fire supporters and radar operators from Red Knights, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment further strengthened the relationship with the 138th FA Brigade (Kentucky Army National Guard) by supporting 1st Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Regiment’s qualifications at Fort Knox, Ky., and Camp Grayling, Mich. The observers and radar coverage integrated additional assets into the battalion’s training, making it more realistic and providing excellent training to the Red Knights Soldiers, building interoperability between the two formations.

1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Top Guns

Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers from Top Guns, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Strike, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), remain trained and ready to deploy in any environment to support maneuver elements with lethal and accurate Fires. During 2nd BCT’s brigade field training exercise Fire supporters and radar operators from Red Knights, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment accompanied Bastogne BCT to JRTC in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility. The Proud Americans were augmented by current Knox Award recipient, C Battery, Top Guns, in a general support reinforcing role to give Bastogne even greater lethality on the modern battlefield.

Fire supporters and radar operators from Red Knights, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment further strengthened the relationship with the 138th FA Brigade (Kentucky Army National Guard) by supporting 1st Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Regiment’s qualifications at Fort Knox, Ky., and Camp Grayling, Mich. The observers and radar coverage integrated additional assets into the battalion’s training, making it more realistic and providing excellent training to the Red Knights Soldiers, building interoperability between the two formations.

1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Top Guns

Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers from Top Guns, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Strike, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), remain trained and ready to deploy in any environment to support maneuver elements with lethal and accurate Fires. During 2nd BCT’s brigade field training exercise

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery fire an M119 howitzer during an exercise. (Courtesy photo)

(FTX), Top Guns deployed and destroyed opposing forces (OPFOR) Fires assets and maneuver forces enabling the Strike Brigade to seize key terrain and meet all training objectives during the final evaluation along the ramp up to Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation 18-05. The nine-day FTX tested the Strike Brigade’s ability to deploy to a tactical assembly area, conduct joint forced entry, expand the lodgment, conduct a defense, and subsequently execute offensive operations against a hybrid threat replicating potential real-world adversaries. Following recovery operations, Top Guns deployed to Fort Polk, La., utilizing barge transport for the first time in 13 years. At JRTC 18-05, Top Guns met and defeated the challenges posed by Geronimo’s world class OPFOR in a near-peer fight. Top Guns stressed the enemy fire support and JRTC training systems with the speed of counterfire and quantity of rounds fired in support of Strike maneuver formations.

With the successful completion of JRTC, 1-320th FAR recovered and reset personnel and equipment in preparation to support the United States Military Academy’s summer training in West Point, N.Y., Top Guns applied lessons learned from a challenging training cycle to teach, mentor and develop West Point Cadets in field artillery operations. During this period Command Sgt. Maj. Berkeley Parsons, the senior advisor to the field artillery commandant, presented the 2017 Henry A. Knox Award to the Comanches of C Battery, recognizing the unit as the best battery in the U.S. Army. The summer culminated with B and C Batteries deploying to JRTC for the second time in six months for Rotation 18-10. C Battery provided general support Fires for 1st BCT Bastogne, doubling their long-range precision Fires capability, while B Battery challenged the Bastogne team as an elusive and deadly opposing force. Throughout 2018, Top Guns maintained an exceptional operational tempo and established the unit as one of the most highly trained and lethal artillery battalions in the Army. The 1-320th Top Guns stand ready to fight where they are told and win where they fight!

facebook.com/thetopguns/

3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Knight Rakkasans

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Knight Rakkasans, continued to provide timely and accurate Fires in support of 3rd Brigade Combat Team Rakkasan, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). In January, A Battery, 3-320th FA conducted air assault insertions and fire mission processing in support of joint Fires element (JFE) operations as the division exercised its unique air assault lethality. Building upon the JFE, all batteries conducted platoon external evaluations (EXEVALs) initiated by live air raid insertions to sustain strong air assault artillery proficiencies. In February, the battalion staff gained valuable experience participating in 101st Division Warfighter Exercise 18-3, while
B Battery, 3–320th FA deployed to Joint Readiness Training Center to provide opposing force support to rotation 18-03.

The Red Knight Battalion continued the spirit of support and camaraderie within the 101st DIV ARTY by providing support to 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment’s division artillery readiness test (DART,) and deploying fire supporters to Exportable Combat Training Capability Rotation 18-05.

In May, Red Knight firing batteries progressed through Table XV EXEVALs and executed demanding and challenging fire support team and radar semi-annual certifications. In June, the Red Knights provided timely and accurate Fires in support of the Rakkasan combined arms maneuver live-fire exercise, preparing them well for their subsequent battery artillery readiness tests. To ensure the remained ready to Fight Tonight, the Red Knights conducted four deployment readiness exercises, two battery artillery readiness tests, an internal DIVARTY DART, and a brigade-level field training exercise with an integrated DART. The Red Knights excelled in the execution of core field artillery standards which enhanced our lethality and set conditions to provide prompt Fires in support of the Rakkasans.

Controlling the Best!

Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division Artillery Brigade, began moving artillery assets to the training area at Fort Campbell, Ky., Jan. 22, 2018. The air assault training is the lead up to platoon level artillery live-fire evaluations over the next three weeks. Six artillery platoons from the Red Knights are slated to participate in the evaluation, which will validate the unit’s readiness to fight. (Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot)

210th Field Artillery Brigade, Thunder Brigade

The 210th Field Artillery Brigade remains the only permanently forward stationed field artillery brigade in the United States Army. Through task organization and command and control of rotation forces, the Thunder Brigade operates as a Field Artillery Brigade Task Force in the Republic of Korea (ROK). It consists of three Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalions, a Paladin battalion, an armored cavalry squadron, a brigade support battalion organized with a maintenance company, transportation company and chemical company, and a combined U.S. and ROK infantry battalion. Task Force Thunder remains the only U.S. field artillery brigade aligned with a ROK Army headquarters and fights as part of the ROK led Counter Fire Task Force to deter aggression on the Korean Peninsula and defend the Greater Seoul Metropolitan Area.

Task Force Thunder began 2018 at a heightened state of readiness to Fight Tonight as tensions escalated to unprecedented levels. The task force prioritized operational readiness of its equipment and conducted multiple, unannounced task force-wide emergency deployment readiness exercises and supported theater and division-level exercises. Simultaneously, the Thunder Brigade remained postured to conduct counter provocation operations with ROK Army Missile Command. After almost two years and the conduct of multiple Fires missions, the mission concluded and the brigade’s elements returned to Camp Casey.

Throughout the year, the Thunder Brigade continued to strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance. The brigade focused on interoperability with the ROK Army and participated in the certification of three Chun-moo equipped field artillery battalions to increase interoperability of combined Fires on the peninsula. Additionally, the Thunder Brigade integrated ROK officers onto its staff to include a deputy commanding officer. Approved by the commanding general of United States Forces Korea and the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Third ROK Army (TROKA) reinforces the brigade with first-rate officers and NCOs to ensure Task Force Thunder operates and coordinates seamlessly with TROKA and adjacent ROK elements.

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Controlling the Best!

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

The 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment On the Minute stands ready to provide rocket and missile Fires, in support of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and U.S. alliance. For the past year, the battalion executed multiple rotations on deterrence operations, partnered with our ROK Army (ROKA) security forces and artillery units, and maintained a high level of readiness through a host of training exercises.

The Assassin and Barbarian Batteries deployed for extended periods of time on a strategic deterrence mission in support of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff mission to deter enemy aggression. The two firing batteries demonstrated a high level of readiness and agile responsiveness during several recent critical periods in Korea: 2018 Winter Olym-
The 2018 Red Book


The 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, the Steel

The 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment, the Steel, relentlessly pursued readiness to complete its missions to both deter enemy aggression and defend the Republic of Korea (ROK) alongside its ROK Army (ROKA) partners.

This year, the Steel Battalion celebrated its 100th anniversary. For a century, the battalion has answered the call to serve wherever needed. The battalion traces its honors and lineage back to WWI, WWII, and the Korean War. Today we still stand ready as part of the most forward stationed Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion in the ROK.

The Steel Battalion has led the way in initiatives to train in adaptive, non-standard missions that meet the operational needs of the Korean theater of operations. We aggressively pursued the development of proactive fire mission sets that would suppress enemy long-range artillery and allow ROK and U.S. forces the freedom to maneuver during contingency operations. This required detailed integration and cooperation with our ROKA counterparts to create a shared ammunition plan which expedited war-time resupplies, ensuring the most expeditious defense of the ROK.

The Steel Battalion participated in Warrior Thunder, a field exercise that validated our ability to successfully execute fire mission processing, develop battery defense plans, fortify position areas for artillery and conduct field expedient maintenance and vehicle recovery. The battalion conducted convoys in densely populated ROK cities while integrating simulated hip shoots, and linked up with our ROKA counterparts, who enabled our local security plan. The battalion also spent 135 days conducting the
Flexible Response Option mission with the ROKA, which increased bilateral cooperation and strengthened the ROK-U.S. alliance.

The firing batteries shared responsibility in assuming the Ready Battery mission that provided the 8th Army and the Combined Forces Command a method of immediate response to crises with limited notice. The batteries of the Steel Battalion displayed commitment to the profession of arms by maintaining a no-notice response option postured to deter enemy aggression.

The Steel Battalion displays flexibility within its initiatives and training through the constant adaptation to the unique geopolitical environment that exists in the Korean Theater of Operations. Diplomatic advances yielded the change in the political atmosphere that shaped combined training and exemplified the necessity to creatively integrate limited resource intensive training with ROKA partners.

The Steel Battalion continues to lead the way during a time of change in modern field artillery as it constantly seeks to develop forward-thinking leaders and Soldiers. Our determination to shape and enhance our operational environment set the battalion and battery standard for excellence in the Thunder Brigade. The legacy of selfless service and dedication that Steel Soldiers have forged over the last century will continue to stand strong for generations to come.

Steel!

facebook.com/SteelBehindTheRock/

70th Brigade Support Battalion, Blacksmith

The 70th Brigade Support Battalion, Blacksmith, earned its name as the premier support battalion in the division. The 70th BSB played a pivotal role in logistics package operations in support of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff’s Flexible Response Option. The Blacksmith Battalion provided external logistics support to the 7th Ordnance Company, Marines, as well as other rotational and echelons above brigade elements. The Blacksmith Battalion provided coordination and hasty support of all classes of supply, to include artillery pod exchanges at two brigade support area training exercises—Blacksmith Hammer I and II. Additionally, the Blacksmiths hosted two sustainment conferences, refined Thunder Brigade’s sustainment annex of the operational plan, and expanded the knowledge to senior maneuver leaders on how the brigade support battalion will overcome challenges and keep them in the fight!

The headquarters support company Outlaws participated in and trained Operation Outlaw Strike, which led to proficiency of battalion and company mission essential task lists in preparation for its wartime mission. During this operation, the company established a brigade support area with elements of base security and entry control point operations. The Outlaws safely trained leaders and Soldiers on the fundamental skills required to conduct alerts, marshal, deployment and redeployment with 100 percent of personnel and equipment accountability in order to coordinate, synchronize and employ sustainment of the Thunder Brigade.

The 579th Signal Company, Dawgpound, maintained relentless efforts to provide reliable and efficient means of digital and voice communication to Thunder Brigade and its Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalions. Throughout the year, Dawgpound Company provided communications support to the division, brigade and battalion exercises. Soldiers from the Network Operations platoon, provided uninterrupted Non-classified Internet Protocol Router, Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System and Secret Internet Protocol Router communication services through high capacity line-of-sight communications, Joint Network Node systems, secure, mobile, anti-jam, reliable, tactical–terminals and satellite transportable terminal systems to each level of echelon when needed. In addition, the Range Extension (RETRANS) platoon successfully validated frequency-modulated voice and digital communications linked for all four primary go-to-war RETRANS sites and ensured a successful Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System platform. The RETRANS platoon also provided outstanding communications support to multiple live-fire exercises to enable the MLRS battalions to qualify with their launchers. The 579th Signal Company was an epitome of excellence in support of the brigade throughout the year.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Headhunters, of the Thunder Brigade remained ready to Fight Tonight and kept fighting throughout a year of heightened tension. The battery conducted several emergency deployment readiness exercises to maintain a superior level of readiness. With each loss and addition to the team, one of the many constants of the Headhunters is the ability to accomplish the mission no matter the adversity. The battery was
at the forefront of the fielding of the Collective Protection Equipment Tent throughout the Peninsula that provided the ability to self-decontaminate various chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive agents. The battery continued to lead the Thunder Brigade through various exercises, such as Exercise Directive 18, TROKA Combined Counterfire Exercise, and division command post exercises that combined forces from across the world, such as the British Scotts Guard. The exercise helped to improve the alliance and practice working alongside systems and networks from allied nations and our combined force with the ROKA.

Strength through Support!

Facebook.com/70th-BSB-Official

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428th Field Artillery Brigade, Cornerstone

The Cornerstone Brigade is the foundation of America’s artillery and produces the best field artillery Soldiers in the world through initial military training and professional military education. In Fiscal Year 18, the brigade trained 8,197 artillerymen to include 5,119 Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Soldiers, 921 field artillery lieutenants, 394 FA captains, and 100 FA warrant officers in addition to 1,663 Soldiers trained in specialty functional courses.

This year the brigade began a major shift from counter-insurgency operations to large-scale combat operations and increased focus on degraded operations in order to produce Soldiers and leaders capable of fighting and winning against a peer threat in a contested environment. The brigade is adding new field training exercises and modifying existing exercises to ensure graduates are both physically and mentally prepared to accomplish their mission. The 428th Brigade consists of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery Regiment (firing battalion), 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery (officer professional military education, Basic Officer Leaders Course, and functional courses), and 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery (AIT).

Facebook.com/428FABrigade/

2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, Big Deuce

Second Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery Regiment, 428th Field Artillery Brigade, delivered field artillery Fires and provided logistics to support the training of more than 2,200 artillerymen in 2018. Big Deuce fired over 60,000 105 mm rounds this year in support of 18F Advance Individual Training, Marine Artillery Scout Course, and the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sill, Okla. Second-2nd FAR serves as the ceremonial cannon salute and mascot support battalion for Fort Sill, Okla. Additionally, the battalion conducted air assault operations and platoon-level training with the capstone of Table XII certification. Big Deuce remains focused on supporting the 428th FA Brigade, and the Fires Center of Excellence’s mission of producing highly trained and adaptive artillerymen. The battalion is unique mission allows the battalion, and the U.S. Army and Marine Corps Field Artillery, to showcase the power, precision and tradition of our time-honored branch. Second-2nd FAR is a reliable, credible and disciplined organization and sets the standard for howitzer and fire direction crew drills, ammunition delivery, mascot handling and ceremonial salutes and is the “Base Piece of the Field Artillery.”

1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Regiment, Hard Chargers

The Hard Chargers Battalion mission is to execute initial military training and professional military education to develop fit, competent, disciplined field artillery leaders of character to enable maneuver commanders to dominate in large-scale combat operations. The battalion trained and sent more than 3,000 leaders to the operational force from Basic Officer Leader Course-B (BOLC-B), Captain’s Career Course (CCC) (to include the Reserve Component classes), Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC), Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC), Master Gunner, and the Weapons Maintenance course. These new and seasoned professionals are ready to lead their units in accomplishing missions in increasingly complex operating environments. The cadre are transforming already dynamic programs of instruction, adding rigor and challenge where possible to better prepare field artillery leaders. The battalion is increasing academic demands within BOLC-B, with the intent of placing officers in stressful situations while reinforcing core competencies. BOLC has also increased physical demands by expanding field time within the existing program of instruction, three times the number of foot marches, and preparation for the Army Combat Fitness Test. The addition of a walk-and-shoot lane in BOLC-B will
challenge second lieutenants mentally and physically while demanding they demonstrate proficiency in their craft as artillerymen. They will now integrate 105 mm and 155 mm Fires within 450 meters of their position and gain firsthand appreciation for the capabilities and effects of artillery.

Within the CCC, the battalion increased academic rigor by adding three additional iterations of military decision-making process, doubling practical exercises, and adding a comprehensive rewrite of quizzes and exams. Both WOAC and WOBC have increased academic and physical rigor through additional practical exercises in realistic scenarios, quizzes, research and writing assignments, Warrior tasks and battle drills, ensuring students are proficient in the application of their acquired skills. Functional courses—the Weapons Maintenance Course and the Master Gunner Course—continue to meet the needs of the force through tough, realistic standards.

facebook.com/1stBN30thFA/

**1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery Regiment, Teamwork**

**Teamwork** instructors and staff from the 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery trained over 5,119 Advanced Individual Training Soldiers across five occupational specialties in order to provide the Fires forces with combat ready and resilient, skill level one Soldiers qualified in field artillery core competencies. The battalion conducted 39 live-fire events, fired over 7,000 artillery rounds, observed over 26,000 rounds and fired 48 rockets in support of course curriculums. The **Teamwork** Battalion focused on improving the confidence of Soldiers graduating from the 13-Series AIT. To do so the battalion focused on instructor development by setting higher standards for instructor badges, increasing the number of total instructors, spending more time conducting tactical training, and extending the amount of training time on core skills. Each school is re-investing into degraded operations to adjust to multi-domain warfare and competition within the electromagnetic domain. We added physically rigorous training to courses through foot marches, combatives and obstacle courses. Each course now has a culminating training event that sends the Soldiers through a field tactical training event requiring them to integrate each artillery skill with common Soldier skills. Furthermore, the 13F School refocused on artillery call-for-fire by shifting the requirements of joint Fires observer to Skill Level II Soldiers.

The **Teamwork** Battalion informed Army and civilian leaders of the field artillery accomplishments by hosting the Under Secretary of the Army; foreign leaders from Thailand, Ukraine, Poland and Israel; and the New York Times at our training events. Artillery Soldiers from the past were recognized during two artillery live Fires with the Artillery Officer Candidate School Association and the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association.

**434th Field Artillery Brigade**

**1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Regiment, War Eagle**

Over the last year, the **War Eagle Battalion** continued to execute Basic Combat Training and successfully completed 21 cycles resulting in over 4,500 Soldiers, prepared for Advanced Individual Training and first unit of assignment. In 2018, 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Regiment, trained and developed our nation’s newest Soldiers, preparing them for various military occupational specialties to include, field artillery, air defense artillery, military intelligence, and medical service corps.

In October the battalion made the transition to a revised program of instruction that increased rigor throughout BCT and included qualification with both backup iron sights and close combat optics during rifle marksmanship along with an expeditionary mindset during field training exercises. Coupled with the execution of training the battalion conducted two post retirement ceremonies and is working toward the implementation Army Combat Fitness Test. The battalion planned and executed Leadership Oklahoma Class 32 giving delegates from across Oklahoma the opportunity to experience the life of a BCT Soldier during a 72-hour period.

The battalion bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Jon-Paul Zappala and welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Slater in the summer of 2018 and also executed two battery changes of command and three battery changes of responsibility. During this time the battalion continued to focus on the mission and remained committed to the local community through its Army Partnership with Local Schools program with Ridgecrest Elementary School in Lawton, Okla., and local veteran’s organizations throughout the Lawton-Fort Sill community.

Throughout the year, members of the **War Eagle** team distinguished themselves within their career field and personally. Drill Sergeant (Sgt. 1st Class) Jeffery Williams, D Battery, was recognized as the 1st Battalion, 19th Field Artillery Drill Sergeant of the Year and was also selected to serve as a Drill Sergeant Leader. Drill Sergeant (Staff Sgt.) Gilbert Mayer was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, C Battery, led by Capt. David Johnson and 1st Sgt. Christopher Hartzell won the inaugural Best Battery competition that tested the physical endurance of the battery along with the systems and processes within the battery. Congratulations to the 19 drill sergeants and cadre that were selected for promotion to sergeant first class! Finally, congratulations to Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Rios and his family for their recognition as a finalist for the Fort Sill Family of the Year.
1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery Regiment, Proud Americans/Always First

Located “across the tracks” at the Fires Center of Excellence on Fort Still, the cadre and drill sergeants of 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, continued to execute their unique and vital Basic Combat Training (BCT) mission of transforming civilian volunteers into trained, disciplined, and motivated Soldiers, who can immediately contribute to the operational force.

This year, the Always First Battalion trained 18 BCT classes and successfully graduated over 4,500 newly-trained Soldiers that entered Advanced Individual Training. As they have done for years, the battalion stood up an additional battery to help manage the influx of trainees during the “summer surge.” The “Echo Mission” integrates Reserve cadre at all levels of leadership to staff an additional battery and, as always, the level of training and professionalism is such that you cannot tell a seasoned active duty drill sergeant from their Reservist counterpart.

In addition to their standard mission, the Proud Americans were instrumental in testing and implementing the new BCT program of instruction, which overhauled BCT by making it more rigorous and strenuous, producing more lethal and disciplined Soldiers. The battalion also selectively tested the newly minted Army Combat Fitness Test, specifically on how to execute it in a timely and efficient fashion with a class of 250 trainees and only 12 drill sergeants to administer it.

More impressive than the tireless efforts of the 1-31st FA cadre to produce tomorrow’s Soldiers, are the added ways in which they continue to expand their outreach efforts. The battalion is proud of its active role in building and maintaining relationships with the local community, including through the Army Partnership with Local Area Schools program. Their partnership with Freedom Elementary School on Fort Sill has truly grown through many positive experiences. The Always First Battalion was proud to volunteer at numerous events like the Color Run to promote fitness, the annual Halloween Monster Mash and Holiday Santa Shop, and even held a Back to School Drive to provide students with much needed supplies. Of note, students and teachers honored several volunteer Soldiers at their Veteran’s Day Assembly. Other outreach activities included hosting the Youth Leadership of Oklahoma, facilitating the 5th Brigade JROTC Leadership Challenge, providing a BCT tour for leadership from the Defense Credit Union Council, and publishing numerous articles in various outlets, including the Fort Sill Tribune and the NCO Journal.

The Proud Americans continue to train the newest trainees and demonstrate the excellence demanded of Redlegs, despite their distinctly different mission set. However, this would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the cadre and the support of their families and the Lawton-Fort Sill community. Always First!

1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, Gauntlets

Over the course of 2018, 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery achieved many milestones and continues to lead the brigade in providing new Soldiers to the Army. The battalion graduated over 3,500 new Soldiers this year over the course of 18 Basic Combat Training cycles. The battalion was the first in 434th Field Artillery Brigade to implement the new basic training program of instruction with great success. Feedback from cadre and trainees has been very positive and the increased rigor and repetitive focus on fundamentals will no doubt produce a better quality Soldier for the force.

In June, the unit celebrated its 100th anniversary by hosting over 75 Vietnam Veterans and their families for a weeklong celebration. Special events included room dedications for Soldiers of the battalion that were killed in action, a rededication of the monument located at the Fort Sill Artillery Museum, and a welcome home ceremony 50 years overdue. The week was a great way to recognize the veterans for their service and maintain ties to our lineage and heritage. Additionally, throughout the year, 1-40th FA continued to develop its relationship with the local community, participating in the Army Partnership with Local Area Schools program and a number of other volunteer and community outreach events. Lastly, the battalion began preparations for implementing the new Army Combat Fitness Test into basic training. Our glide path has the first trainees...
experiencing the ACFT by summer of 2019, and will enhance new Soldiers’ readiness and integration into their first units of assignment.

Regardless of the obstacles facing the Gauntlets this year, the All for One Battalion stands ready to train our future force and sets the standard for training excellence in 434th FA Brigade.

1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, Peace Through Victory

A myriad of military occupational specialties fill the ranks of drill sergeants and cadre within the 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery, Peace through Victory. Their mission is to provide the Army with professional, dedicated and well trained Soldiers. The battalion completed the Standard Army Safety and Occupational Health Inspection, ensuring the battalion is enforcing all safety standards in order to build an environment for civilians to transition into Soldiers.

The brigade hired military family life counselors to assist with trainees who are having difficulties adjusting to the stressors of military training. These valuable additions to the team provide much needed support for the trainees and drastically reduced the number of visits to Community Behavioral Health Services. Drill sergeants also took part in a wellness survey that gave the Army a snapshot of a drill sergeant’s overall wellbeing. This survey also identified ways to improve their overall mental and physical health.

Two drill sergeants were selected as drill sergeant leaders. Their mission is to mold future drill sergeants. Drill sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Diego Vega and drill sergeant Staff Sgt. Samuel York earned the title of distinguished honor graduate at their Senior Leaders Course and drill sergeant Staff Sgt. Danny Gardner was the honor graduate for his class at the Drill Sergeant’s Academy. Gardner also earned admission into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

First Battalion, 79th Field Artillery has completely new battalion leadership. The battalion commander, command sergeants major and battalion executive officer have all recently joined the Peace through Victory team. In addition to executing a battalion change of command, 1-79th FA conducted change of command ceremonies for all five batteries. The battalion also gained four new battery executive officers. The new leadership at all levels oversaw the implementation of the new program of instruction (POI) for Basic Combat Training (BCT) events, as well as moved to a newly renovated starship. To support the change in BCT physical fitness standards, the battalion implemented new policies, ensuring trainees were conducting truly rigorous physical training. As a result, the battalion saw drastic improvements in their trainee’s abilities to meet the Army Physical Fitness Test standards. The new POI provides increased focus on basic rifle marksmanship through additional range days in order to emphasize basic marksmanship principles with Iron Sights, extends training time in hand-to-hand combat, and reinforces skill level 1 tasks through added field time, basic tactical operations and additional field craft instruction. Improved training events, such as the Forge, expose trainees to a truly rigorous and demanding training environment. The 1-79th FA executed 20 cycles, producing over 3,900 Soldiers. These Soldiers completed more than 280 ranges, utilizing the M16A2 rifle, M249 squad automatic weapon, M203 grenade launcher and M67 fragmentation grenades. Soldiers fired over 2.5 million 5.56 mm rounds, fired more than 27,000 40 mm grenades, and threw over 7,800 M67 fragmentation grenades. Drill sergeants and cadre dedicated over 6,000 hours to administer these training events.

The professionalism of the drill sergeants and cadre lead to the creation of well-trained, physically and mentally tough Soldiers ready to contribute to their first unit. In addition to the immense amount of time put into training, the battalion still developed America’s younger generations at Lincoln Elementary School. The battalion held monthly book readings, assisted with serving lunch, and provided assistance wherever the school needed. Batteries conducted resiliency training events following each cycle. Both cadre and their families learned techniques to strengthen their bonds and cope with the high operational tempo of Basic Combat Training.

2nd Cavalry Regiment

Field Artillery Squadron, Artillery Hell

Artillery Hell Dragoons from the Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, maintained an extremely high level of readiness through complex and realistic training over the course of a demanding operational year. To begin the year, FA Squadron
deployed to Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, to participate in Allied Spirit VIII, a NATO combat training center rotation, which provided an opportunity to further strengthen interoperability with United Kingdom, Poland and Czech militaries. Following this exercise, Artillery Hell joined 26 other allies and partner nations in U.S. Army Europe’s largest collective Fires Warfighting exercise in the past decade: Dynamic Front.

Several months later, FA Squadron deployed in support of USAEUR’s exercise Saber Strike 18, demonstrating our “Fight Tonight” deterrence capability and interoperability by traveling over 8000 kilometer round-trip and throughout Germany, Czechia, Poland and Lithuania with High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems from the Kentucky Army National Guard and our multinational partners. This exercise allowed the squadron to plan and execute a deliberate attack on an airfield, a battery gun raid as part of a wet gap crossing, and defensive Fires planning in Lithuania.

Less than a month later C Battery deployed to Georgia to support exercise Noble Partner, working with our multinational partners to provide accurate and responsive fire support in complex maneuver scenario. Throughout the course of the year Artillery Hell supported enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group, Poland, rotating A and C Batteries to a forward deployed posture in Northeast Poland, capable of providing fire support to assigned maneuver task forces arrayed along the Sulwalki Gap. In October, Field Artillery Squadron participated in 2nd Cavalry Regiment’s force-on-force exercise Dragoon Ready 19, once again deploying to JMRC, Hohenfels, to evaluate the squadron and battery’s ability to execute mission essential tasks against a free thinking opposing force. Finally, to maintain artillery proficiency, Artillery Hell started its collective squadron training progression beginning with Artillery Tables I-VI qualifications in November as it advances toward Table XVIII culmination early next year. Artillery Hell! Always Ready!

157th Infantry Brigade
2nd Battalion, 307th Field Artillery Regiment, Bushmasters

In 2018, 2nd Battalion, 307th Field Artillery Regiment, an active duty U.S. Army Forces Command unit, partnered with and provided observer, coach/trainer (OC/T) support to two National Guard divisions, 12 brigades, three Multiple Launch Rocket System battalions, and 11 cannon artillery battalions across the Midwest.

The Bushmasters assisted their partners in developing training plans and facilitating their mobilization to future missions within U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command areas of operation. Their mission sets included coordinating division to Soldier level training events with Army National Guard counterparts, operational support for all phases of Guard mobilization, and support to each military occupational specialty and staff elements at annual trainings and monthly inactive duty trainings.

In February 2-307th FAR supported C Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery Regiment in conducting new equipment training on Precision Guided Kit munitions. Later in the month, the Bushmasters supported C Battery, 1-161st FAR and 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment as they conducted pre-deployment mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas. Bushmasters Soldiers proved vital in their partner units’ successfully firing of all the artillery tables up to and including Table XVIII. This demanding exercise lasted until May when the 2-307th FAR Soldiers returned to Camp Atterbury, Ind.

The Bushmasters supported their partner battalions throughout three separate annual trainings. In the summer, the Bushmasters also supported 157th Infantry Brigade in conducting an Exportable Combat Training Capability to 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Camp Grayling, Mich. The Bushmasters partnered with 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment to build their readiness through platoon operations in a replicated dynamic operating environment with a hybrid threat. Second-307th FAR augmented Joint Readiness Training Center personnel with six OC/Ts in support of the 157th Infantry Brigade and 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s partnered JRTC rotation in July. The unit also sent 17 personnel to Fort Hood, in September to assist 34th Infantry Division in their mission readiness exercise prior to their deployment to the CENTCOM theater. The OC/Ts assisted in building their combat power and assuring the division was prepared to take over their deployed mission.

Even during these major events, the Bushmasters continued to support their partner units as they prepared for other deployments. Bushmaster Soldiers

Soldiers of A Battery, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment conducted sling load loading and unloading operations, transportation, and air drops of their M777 Howitzers using CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade. (Courtesy photo)
assisted B Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Regiment to prepare for their upcoming EUCOM mission, the first of its kind in that theater. Second-307th FAR later facilitated the pre-mobilization training and deployment of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Regiment at Fort Bliss, starting Dec. 31, 2018. In total, the Bushmasters supported 38 unique missions throughout 2018 while enhancing the readiness of their partners and the Army.

173rd Infantry Brigade

**Combat Team (Airborne)**

**4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, King of the Herd**

King of the Herd Paratroopers of 4th Battalion, 219th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, provided an intensive schedule of Fires throughout the calendar year 2018 in support of the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne). As the only permanently forward stationed airborne artillery battalion in Europe, King Paratroopers provided deterrence and a ready deployable force throughout European Command. In 2018, 4-319th FAR supported several multi-national exercises and combat training center rotations providing Fires across six countries and firing over 3,050 105 mm and 155 mm rounds. These joint, multi-national operations were: Bayonet Sphinx, Dynamic Front 18, Joint Warfighter Assessment 18.1, Saber Strike 18 and Saber Junction 18.

Throughout the year, King Paratroopers trained, jumped, and worked alongside German, British, French, Italian, Polish, Czech, Israeli and Latvian forces, supporting a wide array of allied missions. The battalion fielded the Q-53 radar system into its asset pool providing significantly improved target acquisition capability. Additionally, the battalion’s M199A3s were upgraded with the new Suspension Lock Out System, improving the robustness of the firing platform and ability to provide a diversified mission set. As 4-319th AFAR sets its sights on 2019, King Paratroopers will once again be expected to train and fight with our allies across Europe at a moment’s notice.

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177th Armored Brigade

**2nd Battalion (Fires), 305th Regiment, Red Team**

During 2018, the 2nd Battalion, 305th Regiment, Red Team, supported 13 National Guard units across nine states. Red Team members collectively traveled over 20,000 miles building readiness and mobilizing units for our Total Army.

Red Team assisted in the first brigade mobilization since 1991. They collaborated with 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, Dragon under 155th Brigade Combat Team, Dixie Thunder, at Fort Bliss, Texas, from February to June. Red Team was essential in 155th BCT’s deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield. They trained over 500 Soldiers in Field Artillery Table XVIII, supported 12 combined arms live-fire exercises, and one Fires coordination exercise.

Following the 155th BCT mobilization, 16 Red Team members drove to Camp Guernsey, Wyo., to support Western Strike and collaborate with 142nd Observer/controller-trainers 2nd Battalion, 307th Field Artillery Regiment evaluate the crew drill of this M777 howitzer section from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment during Exportable Combat Training Capability Rotation 18-05 at Camp Grayling, Mich. (Courtesy photo)

Paratroopers in 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment stationed at Tower Barracks in Grafenwoehr, Germany. (Courtesy photo)
Field Artillery Brigade from Arkansas. Over the course of 11 days, Red Team and partnered units conducted a scenario-based operation culminating in a Field Artillery Table XVIII live-fire exercise for two rocket battalions and two cannon battalions.

Concurrent to Western Strike, the remaining Red Team members went to Camp Shelby, Miss., and diligently prepared for eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) with 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s 550 Soldiers. Upon the start of XCTC, Red Team split once again to support both XCTC and train 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) from Fort Hood, Texas, for 14 days which resulted in 370 trained Soldiers.

From mid-August to November, Red Team re-organized its internal teams to mirror a brigade combat team-style battalion by creating an additional cannon team while partnering with 11 units over the course of 17 inactive duty trainings in four months covering every type of field artillery weapon system. In November, Red Team, along with six other field artillery battalions from 1st Army East and 1st Army West conducted the first 1st Army Fires Symposium at Camp Mabry, Texas, to develop products to support qualification at platoon, battery and battalion echelon for Army National Guard FA units for pre- and post-mobilization.

Focusing on the upcoming year, Red Team conducted their annual field artillery certification in December. Throughout the year, Red Team also focused internally on professional growth and development at all levels. A Soldier graduated from Warrant Officer Candidate School, eight Soldiers promoted to sergeant first class, five Soldiers were selected to master sergeant, there were five Noncommissioned Officer Education System School graduates, and Soldiers graduated multiple Army schools to include Joint Targeting School. Red Team worked tirelessly to improve the Army and itself.

Red Team continues its success this year by following key goals of making ourselves better, our partners better and making the Army better. Dedicated to the Army Total Force Policy, Red Team continues to be a large presence across the 1st Army East footprint.

188th Infantry Brigade
2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Dragons

The 2nd Battalion, 306th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Dragons, has the mission to advise, assist and train Army Reserve and Army National Guard component units in the First Army South Region to conduct unified land operations during pre-mobilization training in order to provide trained and ready forces to geographic combatant commanders.

Over the past year, the battalion’s priority has been to support post-mobilization training events for the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Tennes

Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 305th Regiment at Fort Bliss, Texas, for 155 mobilization. (Sgt. 1st Class Frazier/U.S. Army)

Operationally, 4th BCD continued to support distributed operations in Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Resolute Support (ORS) to include other NATO missions. For the past year, 4th BCD synchronized air and ground power for Combined Joint Task Force-OIR, resulting in over 8,500 close air support (CAS) requests, 17,000 CAS sorties, 30,000 flight hours, 15,500 airstrikes, and the employment of over 35,000 weapons in support of OIR and ORS. Fourth BCD’s airlift section completed a seamless transition of operations while moving from the CAOC to Shaw AFB in coordination with the 609th Air Operations Center’s Air Mobility Division. Fourth BCD coordinated multiple airlift support missions to include frequent expeditionary advisor packages and troop deployments across the CENTCOM AOR.

Fourth BCD prepared their Soldiers by conducting a rigorous deployment certification program. They also simultaneously provided support to multiple exercises: 3rd Infantry Division’s mission ready exercise (Fort Stewart, Ga.), two air missile defense exercises (AUAB), Eager Lion (Jordan), two Lucky Strike joint air defense exercises (AUAB), multiple Warfighters (Hurlburt Air Force Base, Fla.; Quantico, Va.; Camp Lejeune, N.C.) and other training events. In preparation for future warfighter exercises, the BCD executed the Virtual Flag Exercise in partnership with the 609th AOC. The BCD continued a strong partnership with 505th Command and Control Wing (Hurlburt Field, Fla.) to ensure all personnel received proper training and schooling to integrate air power in the CENTCOM AOR. The Soldiers participated in Joint Air Operations Senior Staff Courses as members of the symposium panels, discussing the role of component liaison elements across functions of the CAOC enterprise. BCD members participated in the Regional Fires Conference to discuss air-ground integration and airspace management with Gulf Cooperation Council members, helping strengthen ties with our partner nations within CENTCOM.

Fourth BCD continued to deploy a balanced force generation model in order to prepare Contiguous United States (CONUS)-based ground based liaison officers (GLOs) for deployments across the CENTCOM AOR. To maintain proficiency and share the most current GLO tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) in support of combat operations, we conducted our annual Ground Liaison Officers Qualification Course (Shaw Air Force Base) to train, certify and prepare personnel for deployment to the AOR. The BCD’s CONUS Ground Liaison Detachments (GLDs) provided support to multiple Joint Readiness Training Center rotations, Green Flag exercises, Carrier Strike Group Composite Training Unit Exercises and pre-deployment CAS training events. In total, the BCD supported six Green Flag East rotations (Barksdale Air Force Base, La.), eight Green Flag West rotations (Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.), 11 airlift missions in support of JRTC (Little Rock Air Force Base, Ariz.), over 35 close air support exercises and pre-deployment training missions, and multiple partnered exercises. GLOs coordinated CAS live-fire exercises that recertified over 130 joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs). Fourth BCD GLDs continued pre-deployment training with Air National Guard units at home station and at Green Flag West in preparation for their CENTCOM deployments. GLDs supported over 300 sorties of relief efforts after hurricanes Florence and Michael. Airlift GLDs began coordination with 18th and 75th Field Artillery Brigades to provide expanded aircraft support to High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems Rapid Infiltration training exercises while further developing joint tactics, techniques and procedures for a joint forcible entry in an anti-access/area denial and near-peer environment. GLDs provided routine classroom instruction focused on Army operations to pilots of the 96th Test Wing (Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.) and 96th Test Group (Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.).

In 2019, the 4th BCD will continue to support operations both CONUS and across the CENTCOM AOR. The Wolfpack continues to pride itself on consistently representing the ground commander’s priorities and requirements to ensure timely and accurate Fires during combined air and ground operations in support of mission success.

19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment

The 19th Battlefield Coordination Detachment provides air-ground integration and expertise across all warfighting functions and coordinates operations between U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Air Force Europe/U.S. Air Force Africa from within the 603rd Air Operations Center. When called upon, the 19th BCD remains ready to support multi-component NATO operations.

Blue Flag/Joint Warfighter Assessment 19 served as Team 19’s premier training event in 2018. USAFE and USAREUR combined training exercises in a 17-day joint command post exercise. The BCD represented the launch control center with hundreds of air support, electronic warfare, and joint integrated prioritized target list requests, as well as serving as the principle advisor to the air combat command. Fifth BCD, U.S. Army Pacific, travelled from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to provide an Objective-T evaluation and excellent support as observer controllers/trainers.

At the tactical level, the three ground liaison detachments (GLDs) located at Spangdahlem, Aviano and Lakenheath provided outstanding support to USAFE’s fighter squadrons. The 547th Ground Li-
aison Detachment at Spangdahlem supported close air support (CAS) for Polish forces, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and 2nd Cavalry Regiment during Saber Strike 2018 and further assisted 40 joint terminal attack controller certifications. The 349th Ground Liaison Detachment, Aviano, provided air-ground integration for over 1,700 CAS sorties as well as a Green Flag rotation. The GLD also provided real-world support to combat sorties in support of Operations Resolve Support and Freedom’s Sentinel out of Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the 348th GLD, Lakenheath, deployed to support Operation Inherent Resolve with the 492nd and 494th Fighter Squadrons and standardized several tactics, techniques and procedures used across the area of operation.

Throughout 2018 the 19th BCD developed the concept for a Theater Surface Fires Command with USAREUR Fires, ultimately testing the model during Dynamic Front 18 at Grafenwohr, Germany. The TSFC is a land component Fires element charged with Fires mission command and filling operational gaps in multinational Fires capabilities. Originally a mandate of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the BCD developed and operationalized the TSFC to provide theater Fires across the European continent. During Dynamic Front 18, seven nations assembled to test the TSFC model in concert with a separate live-fire exercise involving over 20 nations. It provided mission command, cross-corps boundary Fires, operational counterfire, and multinational Fires situational awareness. In Dynamic Front, the TSFC concept will expand by incorporating a field artillery brigade headquarters as the TSFC.

Concurrent with TSFC development, the BCD Airspace Team examined challenges of NATO’s dynamic and complex airspace environment. Given Europe’s 15.4 million square miles of airspace, covering more than 29 nations, NATO should possess the capability to coordinate military and civilian airborne assets with surface Fires in potential Article V scenarios. Each nation’s airspace is sovereign and requires significant expertise and engagement with host nation professionals to establish bi-lateral agreements. The BCD refined airspace challenges and capability gaps to four key pillars: Manning, Doctrine, Systems Integration and Training. To shape future capabilities, the team partners with Air Force Communications, USAFE, U.S. Army Europe G3, Joint Multinational Readiness Center, host nation liaison officers and project manager offices. Using a doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities methodology, the team will continue developing recommended milestones for airspace control and integration.

In 2018 the BCD also committed significant resources to improving NATO doctrine in Fires, CAS, and airspace control. Most notably, our planners contributed to multiple doctrine review panels that continue to develop the new NATO Allied Artillery Publication 1 and 5, which better align NATO doctrine within large scale operations. The 19th BCD additionally supported 7th Army Training Command’s development of Allied Artillery Publication 2: Counterfire. The publications are expected for release in spring 2019. The BCD also supported multiple NATO conferences to include the CAS Conference, the Allied Land Command Fires and Targeting Conference, and the Deployable Air Command and Control Centre’s Air Land Integration Working Group.

Finally the BCD closed the year by hosting the fourth annual International Fires Warfighter Forum at NATO Air Command with delegates from 20 nations and 31 European commands. This year’s theme focused on “increasing lethality through multi-domain effects to meet strategic objectives.” Lt. Gen. John Thomson, commander LANDCOM, opened the three-day event followed by a TSFC overview, NATO Fires Doctrine update, and a Fires Center of Excellence update. Other presentations followed with anti-access/area denial defeat (USAFE), rotational lessons-learned (7th ATC/JMRC), multinational artillery perspectives and an update from Precision Fires. Additional breakout groups allowed for further discussion and problem solving to review two of Europe’s largest challenges: the TSFC and European Airspace Control.

http://www.19bcd.army.mil/

Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Vampire Team

As part of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center located in Hohenfels, Germany, the Vampires observers continued support to United States Army as well as allied and partnered forces, providing field artillery and fire support expertise during training rotations, engagements with allies and partners, and working groups focused on improving the Fires Warfighting Function (Wff) across the NATO Alliance.

For the Vampires, the year began with Dynamic Front 2018, a multi-national artillery live-fire exercise involving 26 nations, designed to test interoperability in the Fires Wff. During this exercise, Artillery Systems Cooperation Activities (ASCA) nations massed eight battalions from five nations. In addition to Dynamic Front 2018, the team supported training rotations throughout Europe, covering U.S. Title X and non-Title X rotations and live-fire exercises during Combined Resolve X, Saber Junction 18 and Dragon Ready 18. Further, they contributed to the readiness and capability building between allied forces during Allied Spirit VIII. Overall, 2018 witnessed the Vampires observe, coach and train over 3,500 U.S. and multinational Soldiers throughout Europe.

Further, the Vampire Team contributed to the improvement of both U.S. and NATO doctrine. The team participated in a series of working groups with the Fires Center of Excellence, providing feed-
back to the re-write of Training Circular 3-09.8 to improve collective training at the battery and battalion level. Team members participated in NATO Procedures Panel Input Working Groups focused on reviewing and ratifying land-based fire support doctrine and introduced counter battery operations doctrine to the alliance, filling a much-needed gap. The team also worked closely with ASCA members, participating in conferences aimed at improving interoperability and subsequently validating ASCA interoperability during training rotations. Finally, at the request of the National Ground Intelligence Center, the team shared lessons learned on peer and near-peer artillery threats at their Threat Coordination Group Conference.

In 2019, the Vampires remain committed to supporting United States, allies and partnered forces providing first-rate field artillery coaching supported by field artillery professionals dedicated to Strong Europe. Vampires, train to win.

Field Artillery Trainers, Wolf Team, Operations Group, National Training Center

Redlegs of the Wolf Team at the National Training Center remained steadfast in providing outstanding support through observing coaching/teaching and spearheading multiple outreach initiatives with touchpoints throughout the officer education system, non-commissioned officer education system, professional publications and the operational force to advance the field artillery. Seven active-duty field artillery battalions, two National Guard FA battalions and associated rotational brigade fire support elements (FSEs) were able to exercise the fundamentals of top down Fires planning as they integrated joint and organic Fires in support of multiple brigade offensive and defensive operations. This training contributed to Forces Command’s ability to deploy six trained FA battalions in support of deterrent and combat operations in the United States Indo Pacific Command’s, U.S. Central Command’s, and U.S. European Command’s theaters of responsibility.

Decisive action training at the NTC afforded rotational brigade FSEs and the FA battalions the opportunity to exercise their mission essential tasks against a near-peer threat in challenging and realistic scenarios. Rotational units employed and synchronized their organic weapon systems which included the M109A6, M109A7 and M777, the integration of a M270 General Support Reinforcing unit and joint Fires platforms resulting in the expenditure of 6,327 rounds and the employment of 92 joint Fires munitions over nine brigade live-fire events. Of note, the M109A7 was employed for the system’s debut rotation at the NTC displaying the weapons improved survivability and lethality. The observations and lessons learned will greatly contribute to the Army’s lethality and successful integration into the joint force.

75th Ranger Regiment Fire Support Element

The 75th Ranger Regiment Fire Support Teams (FISTs) fulfill a unique special operations force mission for the nation’s premier direct action raid force. The FISTs are comprised of specially selected and highly trained 13F’s, 13A’s, and a 131A. Constantly tested in combat and training, the joint Fires team provides all aspects of joint firepower employment capabilities and some not found in any other special operations or conventional forces. Throughout 2018, the 75th Ranger Regiment Fire Supporters remained resolute with providing terminal control of fires in support of the Regiment’s global strategic mission. During this period, the Regiment conducted multiple large-scale joint forcible entry exercises while simultaneously executing surgical special operations raids across the globe with each consisting of more than 50 high performance aircraft. Simultaneously, all Ranger battalions continue to execute a rigorous joint operational readiness training regime in order to maintain proficiency and remain postured for no-notice worldwide contingency operations, all while maintaining a continued forward combat presence in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS). Rangers in OFS continue to produce critical and devastating effects across the battlefield using the full gamut of surface-to-surface and air-to-surface Fires.

1st Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters

In January 2018, 1st Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters began the year by maintaining their training readiness and fire support proficiency. Each company’s FIST conducted a close air support exercise (CASEX) at military installations across the continental United States. These CASEXs prepared the FISTs to culminate their January 2018 training with the execution of a two-week special operations graduate-level CASEX with multiple joint air players in Gulf Port, Miss.

During February 2018, the battalion Fire Support Element (FSE) facilitated a staff strike integration exercise at Wright-Paterson Air Force Base, Ohio. This joint exercise allowed the battalion staff to develop and implement systems and procedures to employ

Soldiers of Wolf Team, Operations Group, National Training Center. (Courtesy photo)
joint Fires assets prior to deploying for combat. Following this exercise, the battalion FSE facilitated a CASEX at Pine Castle Bombing Range, Fla., with supporting F/A-18 aircraft. This CASEX focused on ensuring all of the battalion’s Army Special Operations joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs) were current and qualified prior to deploying for combat.

Following these training events, the battalion’s FISTs deployed in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and OFS. Throughout these deployments, the battalion’s fire supporters provided Fires for 350 operations resulting in over 1,400 enemy killed in action. In October 2018, the battalion FSE facilitated a CASEX at Smoky Hill Bombing Range, Kan. The exercise ensured the battalion’s JTACs were current for their forthcoming training cycle. The battalion closed out the year by conducting a multi-lateral exercise and the battalion’s fire support coordination exercise incorporating mortar, AH-6M, and AC-130W Fires in support of an airborne assault and ground maneuver.

**2nd Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters**

Second Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters participated in Joint War-Fighter Assessment at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Germany. The participating Rangers, partnered with a platoon of Italian Rangers (Alpini), simulated penetrating behind the forward line of troops while providing Fires in a degraded GPS/communications environment. Their involvement in the highly dynamic exercise highlighted the Ranger Regiment’s fire support prowess against a near-peer threat in contested air-space scenario. Additionally, the Soldiers continue to innovate with the employment and usage TrelisWare 400 (TW400) for Fires and digitally-aided close air support. The TW400 interfaces with the end user devices to provide real-time friendly positions and enhance situational awareness.

**3rd Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters**

Third Ranger Battalion Fire Supporters offer a robust package of eight Army joint terminal attack controllers, and four fire support squads directly aligned with rifle companies consisting of 40 total forward observers and officers. The primary focus of the greater battalion fire support team is to resource and coordinate collective and individual close-air support, rotary wing, surface-to-surface, and naval gunfire training in accordance with our mission essential tasks and core competencies as they associate with the employment of Fires. The Soldiers of the 3rd Ranger Battalion Fire Support Team have three areas of focus: proficiency in the application of all areas of fire support, with a heavy focus on close air support. The precise integration of Joint Fires and Maneuver and the innovation of relevant and modernized fire support equipment will increase our capability to adapt to any mission set we are required to execute.

Our most recent initiative is the Ranger-Combat Observation and Lasing Team. The system is gaining traction within the special operations fire support and field artillery community as a force multiplier. It is a modular radar/high definition camera sensor mounted on a Polaris M-RZR framed in by FLIR Light Tactical Vehicle-X with the full complement of mounted fire support equipment. Third Ranger Battalion Fires is conducting final live-fire training preparations for deployment in early 2019.

Over the last year, Rangers have expended more than 100,000 pounds of munitions while conducting 1,000 real-world and training, close air support missions. Additionally, Ranger fire supporters accurately and safely employed the full spectrum of special operations forces air assets and conventional surface-to-surface assets. To close out 2018, the regiment saw the addition of making the Stinger weapon system organic to each of the battalions. Looking forward to 2019, the 75th Ranger Regiment fire supporters will continue to lead the way for joint fire-power employment in training and readiness that bridge the gap between special operations and conventional forces.