

2019 Knox, Gruber & Hamilton Winners



Henry A. Knox Award

Congratulations to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the First Infantry Division Artillery, Fort Riley, Kan.

The 1ID DIVARTY Fort Riley, Kan., took full advantage of every training opportunity in fiscal year 2019 and executed its missions with distinction. The train-up and execution of the Multi-National Warfighter Exercise 19-04 and support to Operation Atlantic Resolve through the 1ID Forward Deployed Mission Command Element in Europe, propelled the battery towards realizing its full potential as the senior element responsible for every aspect of the fires warfighting function within the 1ID.

The Henry A. Knox Award is named after the first Chief of the Field Artillery, and first Secretary of War, Major General Henry A. Knox. The award recognizes the most outstanding active component battery. Originally called the Knox Trophy and Medal, the awards were established in 1924 by the Chief of the Field Artillery and presented annually. The trophy recognized the best Field Artillery battery and the medal recognized the best enlisted Field Artillery Soldier. Before World War II, the awards were not presented. In 2002, the Knox Trophy was reinstated and the medal was replaced with the Gruber Award to recognize individual Soldiers.

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Alexander Hamilton Award

Congratulations to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard.

Charlie Battery's mission is to destroy, neutralize or suppress the enemy by cannon fire, to help integrate all fire support assets to dominate large-scale combat operations and on order to conduct Civil Support Operations in support of Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA). The battery executed their assigned mission in an exemplary manner by participating in multi-national partnerships in support of Operation Spartan Shield, and security force missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve as assigned. Charlie Battery participated in Table XVIII gunnery qualification while in country.

Additionally, the unit achieved numerous significant readiness milestones including: a 100 percent duty MOS qualification, meeting 119 percent of their re-enlistment mission, 100 percent Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) take rate, 88 percent APFT pass rate, and 100 percent qualification on personal weapons. The unit led the battalion in the Noncom-

missioned Officer Education System with an overall 100 percent completion and also ranked among the highest within the state with a 100 percent assigned strength, and an exceptional 100 percent duty MOS qualification, all contributing to the unit's overall success. Charlie Battery rear detachment Soldiers also excelled at mission execution by supporting DSCA activities during multiple periods of state active duty. Charlie Battery participated in ceremonial salutes, wildland firefighting efforts as well as supported stranded motorist assistance and recovery teams during winter inclement weather.

The Alexander Hamilton Award recognizes the best Army National Guard Battery. It was created in 2002 and is named after American Statesman and Continental Army Artilleryman Alexander Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton was an outstanding artillery battery commander and a skilled cohort of General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Hamilton helped frame the U.S. Constitution and served as the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury.

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Edmund L. Gruber Award

Congratulations to CW3 Christopher Ludwick with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Throughout his career, CW3 Ludwick has demonstrated incomparable leadership and dedication to the Field Artillery as both an enlisted NCO and warrant officer. While serving in the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as the brigade targeting officer, CW3 Ludwick significantly enhanced the lethality and capability of the brigade. He created, and masterfully implemented, a revised targeting process, providing more lethal and non-lethal options to the brigade commander. This targeting process acutely serves air assault and airborne forces, in support of large-scale combat operations, and is primed to be adopted throughout the division and

beyond. An output of the targeting process resulted in the creation of non-doctrinal targeting products and facilitated more effective synchronization within the brigade operations process. His creativity led to recognition by the Joint Readiness Training Center leadership in March 2019 as a best practice as well as a feature in the quarterly Center for Army Lessons Learned Insider newsletter.

The Edmund L. Gruber Award is named after Brigadier General Edmund L. Gruber, a noted Field Artillery officer, who as a first lieutenant in 1908 composed the “Caisson Song,” which the Army adapted as “The Army Song” (The Army Goes Rolling Along) in 1952. The Gruber Award was established in 2002 to recognize individual Field Artillery Soldiers for innovations that resulted in significant contributions to enhance the Field Artillery’s war fighting capabilities, morale, readiness and maintenance.