Redlegs,
I’d like to start out by thanking our 54th Commandant and Chief of the Field Artillery, BG Winston Brooks for such steadfast support and dedication to ensuring our PME for the Enlisted Force remained at the forefront of his priorities as he guided the Branch over the last year. Sir, on behalf of the entire force THANK YOU and best of luck as you move to serve as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, NATO. We are excited to welcome our 55th Commandant and Chief of the Field Artillery BG Andrew Preston in May. We have yet another informative edition of the Saint Barbara Enlisted SITREP for you this Quarter, thank you to all who submitted.

Approved changes/updates during 2nd QTR FY21:
-FA Master Gunner Update: The course continues to be in high demand from the operational force. New location in Burleson Hall nearing completion and is on schedule for occupation the first week of May.
-ARMN Select attendance at FA PCC: We just completed our second iteration of our Branch PCC. All remaining course seats for SGMs are filled for this FY.
-Project Athena SLC Pilot: Schedule began on 29 March with 13F Students. Total of 90 Students expected to undergo SLC Pilot for April. Your local BLC should also be piloting the program. Project Athena is changing how we implement Guided Self Development. If you haven’t already, see for yourself at https://capl.army.mil/athena/#/
-Branch/RTI Visits. Appreciate the 101st Airborne DIVARTY hosting the FAPO Team, and the 238th KYARNG Regional Training Insti-
STRUCTURE AND APPROVED MOCS ACTIONS

The FAPO continuously review the branch and make recommendations to TOE’s, TDA’s, ASI’s, Standards of Grade to appropriately support the force and future.

- **13B, Secret Security Clearance:**
  Action to require a secret clearance for MOS 13B. If approved will take effect 01 OCT 2023.

- **13B, ASI A7, Master Gunner:**
  Proposal to A7 to new MTOE/TDA positions OC and OC/T (AC/RC).
  Proposed positions: DIVARTY MG, FAB MG, OC and select OC/T.

- **13F, ASI D3:**
  Assign ASI D3, Fire Support Vehicle and Mission Equipment Package (MEP) to ABCT and SBCTFire Support Sergeant positions. 330X 13F30 and 13F40 positions to be coded.

- **13F, Duty Title Revision:**
  Change current MOS duty titles to reflect doctrine and principle roles by position. Reducing titles from 33 different naming conventions to 10.
  Fire SPT SPC, Forward Observer, Fire SPT Sergeant, Fire SPT Liaison/Sr. Fire SPT Liaison, Fire SPT NCO/Sr.
  Fire SPT NCO, Assist. Fire SPT NCO, Fire SPT OPS NCO/Sr. Fire SPT OPS NCO

- **13R, ASI 2S, Battle Staff:**
  Assign ASI 2S to 58x Counter fire NCO to fully support staffs and counter fire operations during the planning, preparation and execution of operations.

- **131A, TAPL to A/FSO**
  Action to HQDA that will transition our 131A cohort from PLT LDR authorizations in FA Cannon Battalions, FA BDEs and DIVARTYs to Targeting Officers in RSTA squadrons.

- **131A, Occupational Title Change:**
  FA CMDT approved occupational title change from Field Artillery Technician to Targeting Technician to reduce ambiguity and emphasize targeting at all 131A grades

- **131A, TS/SCI Clearance:**
  Specify TS/SCI requirement for all 131A authorizations in grades W2-W5

*King of Battle I*
The Field Artillery Branch Preparing Soldiers for Success Through the Army Continuing Education Degree Program

By SFC Nicholas Faurot

In FY17, the Army University established the Continuing Education Degree Program (CEDP) to support the education goals of our Soldiers, and leverage academic institutions capability of developing critical and creative thinkers by exposing Soldiers to civilian education opportunities. Since its establishment, the Field Artillery Proponent Office (FAPO) has worked with colleges to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) guaranteeing credits based on MOS, NCOPDS level, and degree programs. These programs are designed to give the Soldier a set path to graduation using Army Tuition Assistance at zero cost to the Soldier.

Currently, the Field Artillery branch has agreements with three colleges with a total of six degree programs. The University of the Incarnate Word, located in San Antonio, Texas, offers Field Artillery Soldiers two degree programs under CEDP, an Associates of Arts in General Studies, and a Bachelor’s of Arts in Organizational Development.

Columbia College located in Columbia, Missouri, offers an Associates of Science in General Studies of Computer Information Systems, and a Bachelor’s of Science in Management Information Systems.

Lastly Saint Leo University located in St Leo, Florida, offers Field Artillery Soldiers an Associates of Arts degree in Cyber Security, and a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems. Soldiers interested in any of these programs should contact the Education Center on their installation for more information.

In the future, FAPO will continue to work with these three colleges to insure they have the most up to date Period of Instructions for all Field Artillery schools to insure maximum credit is awarded to each Soldier.

FAPO is also currently working with Upper Iowa University on a MOU to add an Associates of Arts in General Education, and a Bachelor’s of Science in Management. With the advancements of the Army Career Tracker website https://actnow.army.mil, links to CEDP schools will be added in the near future.
In today’s U.S. Army, higher education for a noncommissioned officer (NCO) is more than just a means for promotion points. It also plays a large part in a Soldier’s personal and career development by teaching them to communicate effectively with others, think critically (necessary to support the mission command philosophy), and sets them up for success as they prepare to transition out of the military and into the civilian sector.

Potential over Points

Leadership is not a skill all people are born with. It is a skill set that is developed through experience and education (Vowell & Aude, 2019). Becoming an NCO is an important role in the Army, and is one in which a Soldier is not just great at their job, but must also become a proficient communicator with their subordinates in order to successfully accomplish the mission.

Travis Bradberry, author and leadership expert, states: “Communication is the real work of leadership: you simply can’t become a great leader until you are a great communicator. Great communicators inspire people. They create a connection that is real, emotional, and personal. And great communicators forge this connection through an understanding of people and an ability to speak directly to their needs in a manner that they are ready to hear.” (2016, para. 6)

Communication

To build effective communicators, the Army has intensified its focus on writing in the NCO Professional Development System. This is to adequately prepare NCOs for leadership positions, where in addition to regular job and mission requirements, they’ll need to write situation reports, operation orders, personnel evaluations, counselings, award recommendations, memos, etc. (Ward, 2018). Taking college courses, especially early in a Soldier’s career, will prepare them to become effective communicators, and ultimately, better leaders.

Comprehension

Earning a college degree enhances comprehension abilities and broadens one’s knowledge base, better preparing them for future scenarios they may encounter (“Virtual Reality Battlefield,” 2020). A pursuit of higher education can also increase mental agility — the ability to assess information and reason quickly — a valued skill in any future large-scale combat operation scenario, especially under the mission command philosophy where NCOs will have to make quick decisions, often without guidance from higher (Department of the Army, 2019a: 2019b: Porter, 2018).

Educational Opportunities

The Army offers tools and resources for Soldiers of all ranks to further their education. Currently, after 36 months of enlistment, Soldiers are eligible for full benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill to put towards their education (Department of the Army, 2018). The Army also (Graphic courtesy of GoArmyEd) offers opportunities for senior NCOs to apply for positions in the Congressional and White House Fellowship programs (Votaw, 2019). To be eligible for this program an NCO must have a bachelor’s degree, and upon completion of these programs, NCOs will earn a master’s degree and gain valuable experience working with Congressional staff. Additionally, upon completion of the Sergeants Major Academy, a sergeant major is now able to earn a master’s degree and become an instructor at the academy (Myers, 2019).

It is important that Soldiers are aware of these educational opportunities. It is a leader’s responsibility to encourage their Soldiers to take advantage of them, while also doing so themselves. Additionally, by ensuring their Soldiers are afforded the chance to seek educational opportunities, they are fostering a more knowledgeable enlisted force.

Conclusion

Earning a degree while in the U.S. Army is difficult. With deployments, training cycles, and days filled with tasks, ranges, and needs of the Army, it can be challenging to fit in the time to study. Soldiers must learn to manage their time wisely and not get overwhelmed. Soldiers from all ranks and backgrounds have found ways to continue their education.

Furthering your education makes you a more well-rounded leader and increases your critical thinking, communication, and comprehension skills. You will be more competitive for promotions in the senior ranks and better prepared to transition out of the Army. Start preparing now even if it takes years to accomplish, a college degree enhances any career choice (military or civilian).


Army IgniTED: https://www.armyignited.com/app/
Army Cool: https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.htm

Continued on Page 9, See Education
First I would like to take an opportunity to say thank you for the most recent execution of our Enlisted Market Place 2201. Soldiers who participated in the market should see outputs and assignment instructions around April, 2021. If this timeline changes, your Professional Development NCOs will reach out accordingly. Our CMF had a participation rate of 80 percent, leaving 20 percent of the Soldiers in the market choosing not to participate in their career timelines. Those Soldiers, who predominantly were 13B30 and 13F30 leaders will be assigned as needs of the Army.

The information below titled Discussions Points and Proponent Assistance was used by myself and HRC EPMD leadership last month to describe where some of our manning opportunities live. Specifically, we continue to ask our King of Battle teammates to leverage the Select, Train, Educate and Promote (STEP) program. Organizations have leaders in their formations that are in the zone of consideration, but need to be boarded, sent to NCOES, or both. Lastly, we recommend “maintaining on the attack” to decrement our total expired EFMP population. Getting these Soldiers into the program of record increases our readiness across all formations.

Next, please be patient with us here at FA Branch. As many of you know your Enlisted Management is undergoing the largest systemic change since January 1972 with the ending of conscription. As such, there are very few experts within the realm of enlisted manning, just pockets of information. As these changes continue, we will place maximum effort in communicating these changes to the force. Layered on these changes, we are also preparing for the transition to IPPS-A in December of 2021, thereby changing our Army Personnel System of Record – needless to say, it has been an exciting year to be here at Knox, and will continue for the next year.

With that said, this will be my final St. Barbs SITREP. As I begin initiating transition with LTC Jason Staraitis, I would be remiss to not say thank you for the opportunity to talk to many of you in the field. We earn the reputation as the King of Battle every day because of your efforts, and the efforts of those leaders in your formations. Zero artillery rounds have ever been fired, either in training or in combat, without a Non-Commissioned Officer in that kill chain; having the opportunity to assist in those NCO’s professional development as the FA Branch Enlisted Branch Chief is a highlight in my career, and one I will cherish moving forward.

1. Promotions – “CMF 13 is short 483 mid-grade level NCOs” – Enlisted management is a Command Team fight
Discussion Point: Lack of boarding eligible Soldiers, who are in the zone of consideration, continue to strain our inventory and ability to man the operational force with fair and equitable distribution of MOS by grade (precision management). Proponent Assistance: Engage commands to assist in selecting, training, educating and promoting Soldiers to assist in Sergeant and Staff Sergeant shortages.

2. DA Pam 600 25 – “Clarity of rated KD time” – Enlisted management is a Command Team fight
Discussion Point: NCOs, CSMs, HRC and FORSCOM continue to have issues discerning between rated KD time and stabilization procedures. Proponent Assistance: Clarification of DA PAM 600-25 to ensure all NCOs, CSMs, HRC and FORSCOM have shared understanding of what counts for rated KD time and for stabilization procedures.

3. DA Pam 600 25 – “Lack of education and/or adherence” – Enlisted management is a Command Team fight
Discussion Point: Trends in the initial ASK-EM slate indicated a majority of NCOs preference location over career progression and professional development. Proponent Assistance: Continued education and emphasis to senior leaders to engage NCOs in current Markets to understand and adhere to DA PAM 600-25.

4. Airborne – “Everyone can help”
Discussion Point: Airborne enterprise (Accessions, HRC, CoE, Airborne formations) must focus efforts on SL10 populations. Proponent Assistance: “Remain on the Attack.”

5. EFMP – “Expired EFMPs are non-available population”
Discussion Point: CMF 13 has 8% of our EFMP population that have expired EFMPs. Proponent Assistance: Engage Commands to assist in the EFM Program.

6. USAFAS Priorities – “Remain on the Attack” – Enlisted management is a Command Team fight
The Extended Range program is currently in extended testing in the Jamul Field Artillery Range to provide increased power and operating efficiency of the Radar. The GaN upgrade will provide increased power and operating efficiency within their formations. These efforts will provide Commanders CTA systems enabled with greater acquisition range, flexibility and survivability within their formations. The Extended Range program is currently in the first stage of upgrading CTA Radars with Gallium Nitride (GaN). The GaN upgrade will provide increased power and operating efficiency needed to acquire enemy long range shooters for destruction. The second ER enabler is an upgraded Signal Data Processor (SDP) for increased processing speeds. Finally, we’ll include new ER software deploying the Force around the 2nd Quarter FY22.

Due to ongoing AN/TPQ-53 Radar upgrades and failure rates, “Big 6” has transitioned to “Big 7.” All spares on hand at the radar section will be replaced redundant spares with single point of failure spares. Expect some parts to become obsolete on current AN/TPQ-53s as ER upgrades continue to improve. Replacement of the equipment is expected to commence in 4th quarter FY21.

The final effort is Electronic Protection (EP). The goal of EP is to achieve overmatch against peer/near-peer EW threats, meet the directives of Multi-Domain Operation (MDO) environment, and increase Soldiers/equipment survivability. Improve EP capabilities to the Radar will encompass other benefits such as improved coverage, accuracy, classification, tracking of closely spaced objects, clutter suppression, resilience to electronic attack, and multi-functionality. The Urgent Material release for equipment is FY24 with the Operational test in FY25 and Fields to the Force TBD.

ACM FAB-D remains committed to supporting Soldiers and Leaders responsible for deploying and operating CTA Sensors. Our office wants to hear from you regarding system issues, recommended improvements and any additional RFIs about your systems. Remember, ACM FAB-D serves as your primary advocate to the manufacturer. Our job is to ensure you are fielded the most modernized and capable CTA Sensors on the battlefield to fight and win. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

By CPT Franklin Thompson and 1SG Hernan Guzman

A common observation at the Joint Readiness Training Center is the Field Artillery Battalion Master Gunner (MG) underutilization in a tactical field environment. While they typically serve a significant role during the FA certification process, FA Battalions often struggle to find meaningful purpose for their MGs as a part of the staff after Artillery Table (AT) XII Platoon Qualifications. We have observed MGs serve in menial roles such as a dedicated driver for their BN CSM, given vague guidance such as “just battle field circulate and check on the batteries,” or given no guidance at all. We believe this problem is due to a general lack of understanding from MGs and battalion leaders regarding the doctrinal roles of MG, and a lack of specificity in doctrine to describe MGs’ functions as a member of the staff. To address this problem, we will identify the Master Gunner and Operations Sergeant (OPS NCO) doctrinal roles, provide three specific recommended ways to doctrinally utilize the MG, and provide a non-doctrinal option that could benefit some organizations.

No matter what tactical role battalion leaders decide the MG will assume, two things are imperative: 1) clearly articulate to MG and the rest of the battalion what duties, responsibilities, and authorities the MG is assuming and 2) allow MG to practice serving in their tactical role during home station training. Ambiguity in MG’s tactical role will often cause friction, with MG either not doing what other leaders think they should be doing, or assuming the tasks and roles already assigned to other leaders. Both scenarios will lead to frustrated decision-making or execution of tasks, and cause leaders to be at odds with their MG. Additionally, if the MG has not rehearsed their tactical role during a Combat Training Center (CTC) rotation or combat. FA battalions should strive to utilize their MGs as a member of the staff during the planning, preparing, and execution of all home station training.

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from the FSCoord and/or S3 earlier in MDMP. These plans become the COAs that en-
ter COA Analysis before technical and tactical problems are identified (if COA Analysis is not
skipped entirely). Often technical and tactical problems are not identified prior to execution.
The assistance of the OPS NCO and/or the MG in FUOPS, especially with the selection of
PAs during the COA DEV step of MDMP but no later than COA Analysis, helps flush out
these potential issues earlier in the process and results in a more productive COA Analysis and
the execution of more feasible plans.

Of note is the lack of institutional instruction or knowledge among the NCO Corps in the
MDMP process. We recommend that the Fires Center of Excellence integrate MDMP instruc-
tion during the Master Gunner course (poten-
tially as a Distance Learning prerequisite), or even offer the entirety of the Battle Staff NCO
Course in conjunction with the Master Gunner
course. An introduction to MDMP during the
Senior Leader Course for all 13 series would also
benefit the NCO Corps and FA community.

Another possible solution is to divide the responsibilities between a day and night shift.
OPS NCOs would retain responsibility for all
their duties and delegate tasks to the MG dur-
ing the opposite shift. The two primary benefits
of this model would be the reduced potential for “burn out” of either NCO, and grooming
the MG to become an OPS NCO in the future.

However this model may require more training for the MG prior to execution and may not use
both NCOs to their full potential.

The third potential solution we recommend is specifically delegating to the MG the following duties:

1. Supervise RTOs and flow of information between the FA BN Main CP and the batteries,
   higher HQs, and adjacent units
2. Supervise staff journal and message log
3. Assist in the preparation of terrain models for OPORD briefs and rehearsals
4. Verify CP supplies and coordinate with HHB to verify maintenance and security

5. Assist planners with ammunition manage-
    ment and selection of resupply methods, espe-
cially R3P locations and times
6. Assist HHB Commander with RSOF of new
   CP locations

This division of responsibilities would free the
OPS NCO of some of their more menial tasks and
allow them to more effectively supervise command post operations and inform future
operations, while simultaneously grooming the MG to be a future OPS NCO. This model would
also better facilitate MG to coordinate efforts with
HHB.

As an alternative role for MG, a non-doctrinal
recommendation is that the MG assists the
Battalion Ammunition Officer (BAO) with
receiving, correctly packaging, and pushing
CL V “big bullets” through the field or combat trains command posts. Physical placement on
the battlefield of all leaders involved in ammu-
nition management is critical, with frequent
friction points occurring during the ordering and transition of CL V from the CSSB, to the
BSB, and then onward to the Forward Support Company (FSC).

Either what was requested is not what arrives, or the ammunition does not arrive in a configuration that facilitates rapid
distribution to the firing batteries (i.e. Combat Configured Loads or “CCLs”). Placing MG at
the CTCP or PTCP can provide the FA BN with a senior 13 series NCO to identify CL V friction earlier, clearly articulate FA BN needs to sus-
tainers on the ground at those locations, and
drive the configuration and distribution of CL
V through that location.

ATP 3-09.23 paragraph 1-47 identifies “the distribution platoon leader...performs an addi-
tional duty as the battalion ammunition
officer.” We have found that the distribution platoon leader (DISTRO PL) is commonly too
involved with leading their platoon and the dis-
tributing all classes of supply across the battle
field to dedicate adequate time and energy to
their additional responsibility as the BAO. To
combat this friction, FA battalions often assign
a 13A or senior 13B as the BAO in order to al-
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low the DISTRO PL to focus on their primary
duties. The MG can serve to assist or augment
the BAO, or entirely assume the additional
duty of BAO (if personnel manning does not
provide an "extra" leader to fill the role).

FA Battalions often arrive at the Joint Readi-
ness Training Center without clearly identify-
ing roles and responsibilities for the MG as a
part of the staff in a tactical environment. This
usually leaves a powerful and knowledgeable leader underutilized, or frustrating other lead-
ers’ duties and responsibilities. We believe that
understanding the doctrinal roles for MG and
OPS NCO in ATP 3-09.23, and disseminating
the clear delineation their roles and responsi-
bilities will help the Field Artillery community
utilize our Master Gunners to their fullest
potential.

Master Gunner Course

The Master Gunner Division has moved to Burleson Hall, Bldg 707 on Condon Road, and is updating the FAMG courseware. Attached is the change to all training locations throughout Fort Sill, OK. Listed in the series of slides are the new locations, changes to the Covid-19 process as well as requirements to attend the course by MOS.

The FA Master Gunner Course has no challenges or obstacles that Soldiers cannot over-
come. With this in mind, prepare the Soldiers with a positive mental attitude and the confidence that they can and will graduate. The POI is structured around current doctrine and technical advances gained from student feedback through operations in both combat and training environments. Sharing their experiences and knowledge of current TTPs will open many discussions within the small groups, enhancing the readiness of our current and future FA Master Gunners.

The Field Artillery Master Gunner Division does not reserve your seat in ATRRS.

The welcome letter from the School house goes to your schools NCO to confirm that you were enrolled in ATRRS.

If you are enrolled in ATRRS with a reserved status, DO NOT schedule lodging.

Accommodations will be provided for you through ITDLM. The FA Master Gunner Division will make and confirm your reservation; all orders must read, “Lodging at no cost to the Soldier/MTSS.” The hotel will charge for every night you show up EARLY, and every night you are not in ATRRS. ITDLM will cover all your meals.

Due to the layout of Fort Sill and the distance between facilities (i.e. airports, lodging, the FA Master Gunner Division, and dining facilities), a rental car is recommended for all students. Students should poss-
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Gunner based on recommendation by your BN/BDE/DIV ARTY Chain of Command.

e. 13B/13M: Minimum of 18 months, recently, as a FA Platoon Sergeant
f. 13B/13M: Minimum of 12 months on the unit’s primary Artillery weapon system
g. 13J: Must meet key developmental requirements (18-24 months) as a Fire Control NCO IAW DA PAM 600-25.

13F: FiST, JFO, & JFO-E unit designation memos, CURRENT certified/qualified, send memorandums to the 13F MG (michael.a.dubois18.mil@mail.mil). Must be serving in, or projected to serve in, BDE/DIV ARTY FSNCO position.

The Field Artillery Master Gunner Division Course updates:

ALL FA Master Gunner Students will bring their current unit’s certification program and Long Range Training Calendar (LRTC). Students will use what they learn during the course to develop their unit’s current program further. Each student will then be required to brief their certification program to the class (13B, M, J, & F). Each student will be critiqued/graded by their peers and instructors and must be able to answer questions regarding their unit’s certification program.

13F FA Master Gunner students must be familiar with Air to Ground Operations (AGO) IAW JP 3-09.3. Students will be trained and tested using the “over the shoulder” Terminal Guidance Evaluations (TGE) method utilizing the 320-degree simulator. Fire Support Master Gunner students must be well versed on the most current JFO MOA before the start of course. 13F Master Gunner students must present their unit’s JFO Program and Fire Support Certification CONOP.

13J Students need to arrive with their unit’s UNCLASSIFIED AFATDS database saved to a removable storage media. The intent is to create a DFSTS scenario for your unit that the student can leave here with to conduct training at home station. If you are in a TDA or other assignment, you will be working off the standard database here at the MG Division.

Editor’s Note: For your situational awareness pages 17-26 are maps of Fort Sill that show where the Master Gunner class is located and its associated training areas.
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...continued from Page 20

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Master Gunner Course ...continued from Page 22

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SFC Jared C. Monti (20 SEP 1975 – 21 JUN 2006)

SFC Monti received our nation’s highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor (MoH)—while serving as a forward observer and team leader in the War in Afghanistan. Monti, the son of a high school teacher and a homemaker, grew up in Massachusetts. In 1993, he enlisted in the Army. He completed basic training and forward observer training at Ft. Sill, and the Army assigned him to the 82nd Airborne Division.

Despite sustaining injuries as a paratrooper, Monti rejected a medical discharge and re-enlisted to deploy to Afghanistan as a Fire Support Team sergeant with the 10th Mountain Division. On 21 JUN 2006, Monti served as the leader of a sixteen-Soldier forward observer team in Nuristan Province. The team established a small outpost on a ridge to support operations in the valley below, but the operation was delayed, and when helicopters brought provisions to Monti’s team, they revealed the team’s position.

Insurgents established two positions on a wooded ridge, about 50 yards above Monti’s location, and that evening, at least 50 of them attacked. They subjected Monti’s team to withering fire, and they attempted to outflank and annihilate Monti and his compatriots. Monti called for field artillery fire and close air support (CAS). The insurgents killed SSG Patrick Lybert, and gravely wounded PFC Brian Bradbury in the area between the two side’s positions.

SSG Chris Cunningham, leader of the patrol’s sniper team, called out that he was going to try to rescue PFC Bradbury. Monti replied, “That’s my guy, I am going to get him.” Monti made three attempts to reach Bradbury. On his first attempt, he made it to within three feet of Bradbury before machine gun and RPG fire pushed him back. His team offered more focused covering fire for his second attempt, yet SFC Monti still could not reach PFC Bradbury because of enemy RPGs. On his third attempt to reach Bradbury, a RPG explosion critically wounded Monti.

He managed to crawl back to the American position, where his comrades report that he told SSG Cunningham that he made peace with God and asked him to tell his parents that he loved them. Monti died moments later. Near the same time, artillery fire and CAS began pounding the insurgents’ positions, eventually killing 22 of them and dispersing the rest.

PFC Bradbury died during his evacuation when the cable broke on the rescue hoist lifting him into the medivac helicopter. SSG Heathie Craig, the medic tending to Bradbury, also died.

On 24 JUL 2009, President Barack Obama signed the authorization for Monti to receive the MoH. The President gave Monti’s parents the MoH at a White House ceremony on 17 SEP 2009. Monti is the 3,448th recipient of the honor since Congress established the MoH in the American Civil War (1861-1865), and he is the second recipient from the war in Afghanistan. A call-for-fire training facility at Ft. Sill is also named in his honor, as is the former Pine Plains Fitness Center on Fort Drum.

Go to https://www.npr.org/2013/05/15/184246172/a-songwriter-and-an-army-dad-share-one-touching-story to learn more about SFC Monti and his legacy.

(From left to right) MG(R) David D. Halverson, formerly the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Ms. Janet Monti, CSM Dwight L. Morrissey, formerly the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill Command Sergeant Major, and Mr. Paul Monti, unveil the plaque in front of the FCOE’s Mission Simulation Center, renaming it after SFC Jared Monti. The hall, which houses the FCOE’s Mission Simulation Center, is designed to provide realistic and challenging training for all Fires professionals, including those from other services.

Photo by Sharon McBride
Below are the software versions, by platform, that are required for the successfully employment of Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>M109A6 Software Versions*</th>
<th>M109A7 (PIM) Software Versions*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PDFCS</td>
<td>EPIAFS PIK</td>
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<td>5.024</td>
<td>4.04</td>
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<th>M109A6 Software Versions w/ EST*</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Only units operating in an AO with Excalibur Shaped Trajectory (EST) projectiles and who have completed EST New Equipment Training)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PDFCS</td>
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<td>6.1</td>
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<th>M777 Software Versions*</th>
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<tr>
<td>PDFCS</td>
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<td>4.1.4</td>
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*Instructions on how to verify system software versions are on the next pages

If you are unable to locate your unit’s CD or SD card with the required software please contact:
M109A6/7 PIM: usarmy.pica.rdecom-ardec.list.atsd-field-support@mail.mil
M777: https://jpeoa.army.mil/tas/contact.aspx

Do NOT exchange EPIAFS components (PIK, IPIK or Setter) between howitzer platforms without considering the software requirements

EPIAFS: Enhanced Portable Electronic Fuse Setter
PIK: Platform Integration Kit (M777)

PDFCS: Paladin Digital Fire Control System
DFCS: Digital Fire Control System (M777)

Updated: November 2020
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<th>M777 Software Versions</th>
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Operational Main Menu- to display the DFCS software version screen select MAINTENANCE from the Operational Main Menu.

Maintenance Menu- From the Maintenance Menu select SOFTWARE VERSIONS. This will display software versions for DFCS Line Replacement Units (LRU).

This screen displays LRU software version. Be Advised all LRU’s are not displayed.

For version 414 IFC should read, DFCS V4.1.4, PIK 4.04, SETTER 0404.

Written by the sergeants major (SGMs) of Operations Group, National Training Center (NTC), this handbook was inspired by the book, "66 Stories of Battle Command," where commanders shared their experiences during NTC rotations and provided “a way” to other commanders before they have to make a decision for a specific situation. The NTC SGMs have the same intentions with the publication of this handbook. The stories include experiences as an operations SGM and command sergeants major (CSM) at the battalion and brigade levels. Some of the stories provided will create differing opinions, but are only intended to share the authors’ experiences with those that may face the same or similar situations. In each rotation, NTC leaders observe SGMs who, once exposed to a situation, produce extraordinary results. These stories are not meant to expose any unit; they are meant to unearth possible solutions.

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