

The Beidorn Switchboard

28th Field Artillery Regiment Association

Volume 5 Edition 1 Spring/Summer 2024



Inside this Edition

- *Buzz from the Board
- *How to Join 28th FARA
- *Membership
- *Chaplains Corner
- *Sick Call & Honors
- *Casualty Assistance
- *Veterans Assistance
- *Chief Information Officer
- *Special Assistant to the President
- *Contact Information
- *Trivia Questions
- *Talking with Heroes
- *Feature Article -
A Visit Down Memory Lane
- *Trivia Answers
- *Did You Know???
- *Photos & Memories
- *2/28th FARA Monument



Editor 28th FARA Newsletter
Janet Malherek

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2024 edition of the 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association Newsletter.

We certainly hope ALL our 28th FARA Family are doing well. We hope this newsletter allows you to reminisce about your time in the 2/28 FA and that you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoy putting it together. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me at Newsletter@28fara.org.

Janet Malherek 😊



**Presidents Corner
Association Update**
Pat Malherek



President's Message

Hello 28 FARA members and family,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and happy. There is much to update you with since our last publication.

We held our biennial reunion in Springfield, Virginia, back in October. At this reunion, our new board of directors were installed. They are: Pat Malherek, President; Bill Dunham, 1st Vice President; Chris Dolan, 2nd Vice President; Dave Dolan, Treasurer; Scott Sumpter, Secretary; Keith Young, Senior NCO Member of the Board; Miguel Rosario, 1st Enlisted Member of the Board; and Wayne Pfeffer, 2nd Enlisted Member of the Board. In addition to the elected board members, the following individuals continue to serve our association. Dave Dehnel, Special Assistant to the President; Dan Marksberry, Chaplain; Madonna Stecher, Chief Accounting Officer; George Hardin, Chief Information Officer; Janet Malherek, Newsletter Editor; Dave Mohan, Scholarship Coordinator; and Tom Houston, President Emeritus. Thank you for volunteering to serve our association. I would like to thank our outgoing board members for their contributions to the association.

The reunion was a remarkable success. Thank you to all who attended. The placing of a wreath from our association on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery was very moving. The reunion culminated with our traditional banquet, which was highlighted by the changing of command of the association and awarding of the 8 ball to Scott Sumpter. I would like to thank Dave Mohan for planning and organizing the entire event. I would also like to thank the many

people who assisted with different parts of the reunion. The reunions take a “TEAM” effort, and we are so fortunate to have so many people willing to step in to help make everything run so smoothly.

The scholarship committee just completed its work on reviewing applications and selecting this year’s recipients. This is the third consecutive year that the association is awarding scholarships. We had three applicants and the board decided to award each applicant with a \$1000 scholarship. Congratulations to Leah Beach, daughter of Dwight Beach (A Battery, HHB), Dru Rosario, daughter of Miguel Rosario (C Battery), and Kimora Lewis, granddaughter of Otha Toliver (C Battery).

Finally, as always, please join me in thanking Janet and Pat Malherek for all the countless hours they put into the production of the newsletters. I think you will agree with me that they do a fantastic job which allows all of us to keep track of what is going on with our brothers and sisters from the 28th Artillery!

GUNSHOT!

Pat Malherek





1st Vice President
28th Field Artillery Regiment Monument Update
Bill Dunham

Greetings!

Our biennial reunion was a HUGE SUCCESS. I cannot express my gratitude for the amazing job done by Dave Mohan and Scott Sumpter putting all of it together!

We thoroughly enjoyed staying at the Hilton in Springfield, going to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath from the 2/28 FARA, and visiting the Tomb of the Unknowns and the National Mall.

One of the things we have been working on is what to do when a veteran of ours passes away. We have put in place a plan to accommodate the desires of the family. We can provide a soldier's cross, a eulogy, and any other presence desired. To accomplish this will require the efforts of all members. Tommy Houston did a great job finding all the stuff for the cross and putting it together.

Another item we have been working on is a bit more sensitive. I call it our Taps Folder. There are simply a plethora of things available to a veteran upon his passing and most of us are ignorant of them. We have assembled a list of everything we can think of and will make it available on our website. For example, my brother-in-law passed last January. He was a retired Marine MSG. My sister was also a Marine and upon his passing was overwhelmed at the many items the VA wanted: Birth certificate, death certificate, marriage license, any divorce decrees, and the list goes on and on. We hope that all of us will assemble all of these things to make life easier for our family. The last thing we need to be concerned about is finding all of these items. It is also imperative that you decide ahead of time what involvement you desire of the Association. Your family will need to contact the Association ASAP and we have included phone numbers and e-mail addresses to accommodate that. Time is of the essence as it takes us two days to ship our soldier's cross via UPS.

We have ended a phase of our Association and begun another. From the brain of Tommy Houston sprang forth the idea for all of this. He assembled a team to help him realize his vision and I dare say that it has been a great success. None of this would have been possible without him. All of us owe him a debt of gratitude.

Bill Dunham



2nd Vice President

Looking Ahead to Our Next Reunion!

Chris Dolan



The 2025 Reunion will be held in Colorado Springs, CO!!!

Greetings, Members!

I am excited to announce that we have begun our preparations for the **28th FARA 2025 Reunion!!!** In early May I emailed a survey to the members of the 28th FARA asking for their preference on where they would like the next reunion held. Based on the responses we received from the survey, Colorado Springs was voted as the number one choice!!! The Association's Board of Directors approved the recommendation that we hold the reunion in the Colorado Springs area. We are looking at late August to mid-September for the 2025 Reunion.

This will be a truly wonderful time of year to experience Colorado with warm days and cool nights! Many attractions are nearby like Pike's Peak, Garden of the Gods, and golfing to name a few. Fort Carson is close, and we will be looking into coordinating with a Field Artillery unit there. I hope you are as excited as we are and plan to join us for this wonderful event at a beautiful location!

I will keep you updated as we continue the planning process. If anybody is interested in assisting with the preparations for the reunion, please contact me!!! We are always looking for people to help us make it a great reunion for everyone!!!

Chris Dolan



Scholarship Coordinator
Dave Mohan



Scholarship Program:

We are pleased to announce the recipients of our scholarships for the 2024-25 academic year. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able to award three scholarship grants of \$1000 this year. The awardees this year are Leah Beach, Dru Rosario, and Kimora Lewis.

Leah is the daughter of Dwight Beach, who served in the battalion from 1984-87 as A Btry FDO & XO and as Bn S-2. She is a sophomore at the University of Chicago and is majoring in molecular engineering.

Dru is the daughter of Miguel Rosario, who served from 1986-88 as a cannon crewman in C Btry. She is studying digital media at Tulsa Community College and will graduate in Dec 2025.

Kimora is the granddaughter of Otha Toliver, who served in C Btry as Commo Chief and Support Platoon Sergeant from 1987-91. She is a senior at Manhattan High School in Manhattan, KS, and plans to pursue a degree in psychology.

All three students are recognized for excellence in academic and extra-curricular achievement. We hope these grants will enable them to achieve their goals in higher education and service to their communities, and we wish them success in their studies.

The scholarship program for the 2025-26 academic year will open in December 2024. Association members in good standing and their spouses, children, and grandchildren are eligible and encouraged to apply. Please watch for announcements or visit the scholarship page of the website at <https://28fara.org/Membership/Scholarship.html> this December for application instructions.



Dru Rosario



Kimora Lewis



Treasurer
Dave Dolan

Chief Financial Officer
Madonna Stecher



Report as of May 2024

This year the Association awarded three \$1000 scholarships to deserving scholars. We plan to continue that program into the future. Look at the qualifications, perhaps you have a young scholar who would qualify.

A summary of 2024 financials year to date is as follows:

Ending Balance 10/31/2023		\$17,433
Ending Balance 05/30/2024		\$19,836
Revenue		\$3,009
Dues	\$2,954	
Contributions	\$0	
Other	\$55.00	
Expenses		\$606
Technology	\$340	
General	\$0	
Scholarship	\$97	
Office Fees	\$169	
Change in Cash		\$2,403



Adjutant/Secretary

Scott Sumpter

Adjutant/Secretary

Greetings! I am Scott Sumpter and have been elected as your new Adjutant.

As the Adjutant for the Association, I am responsible for all official Association communications, maintaining the membership roster and all Association records.

Here is some of my background information to help you get to know me better. I served in the battalion in C-Btry from 1985-88, under the great leadership of SFC Trice, 1SG Moretz, & CMDR's Houston, Dehnel, Malherek, and Earleywine. I also served in the S-3 for a period of 4-5 months. I was a section chief (SSG) while in Ansbach, Germany. I then was selected to attend drill sergeant school at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in 1989 where I graduated, and was assigned to 1/19th FA in A & E-Btry's, where I later achieved the rank of SFC. Upon my departure from the military in 1992, I began my life as a leader in various civilian occupations in management positions. My achievement of being leader at the highest level of the military seemed to not fit in very well with civilians. However, I worked at Goodyear Tire Plant in Lawton, Oklahoma for 5yrs. I later moved to Cincinnati to be around my family to help improve my quality of life.

2-28 FA Association WELCOMES the following NEW MEMBERS:

John Boynton	*Harry Broaddus
Dennis Chadwick	Raul Dinzey
*Chris Dolan	*David Dolan
Albert Gayle	*Frank McCook
*Daniel Raasch	Baron Ransome
Miguel Rosario	D.I. Smith
*Jason Talsma	David Taylor
Joe Varela-Gonzalez	Billy White

+Indicates Lifetime Membership

**RECRUIT your former
2-28 FA brothers and their families
and encourage them
to join the Association!!!**





**28th Field Artillery Regimental Association (FARA) Wants YOU!!!
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!!!
Renewal Process & Lifetime Membership Options!!!**



We value your membership, and you are the reason we exist. We hope that you have reunited with some of your 28 FARA brothers from the past and are enjoying all that this membership has to offer. We are into our fifth year as an Association and it's the Association's mission to increase our membership!!! With that in mind, if you joined the Association before October, your \$40.00 fee will pay for your membership until January of the next year. If you paid the \$45.00 after October 1st, your annual dues of \$25.00 will be due in January, 12 to 15 months later and then every January thereafter. A Lifetime Membership however is paid once, and the annual payments are no longer required. Please see the information below that was sent out in a letter about Membership Renewal.

*Membership renewal is due in January of every year after your first year of membership paying your initial \$40.00 Fee. The renewal fee is \$25 each year thereafter. We also have a lifetime membership which is prorated by your age (less than 60 years of age: \$350; 60-69 years of age: \$250; those 70 years and above: \$150). **This option allows you to pay the lifetime fee one time and you don't have to pay the annual renewal fee again.** Many of us have selected the lifetime membership option.*

Your updated membership has its benefits. One of the benefits is for you and your guest to attend the reunions without having to pay a conference registration fee. All others will be required to pay a \$55 conference registration fee. So, if you haven't paid/renewed you will want to do so right away to receive the full benefits of your membership.

Please advise us of your intentions of renewing your membership to the Association. If you have attempted to make a payment and experienced technical issues, let us know and we can get someone to assist you. Thank you in advance for being attentive to address this issue no later than 1 October each year. We appreciate your interest in continued membership with the 28th Field Artillery Regimental Association.

Please visit the FARA's website to JOIN or RENEW your membership TODAY!!!

www.28FARA.ORG

Please review the steps and options listed below for joining.

Membership Options

Year to Year Membership:

- a) For those joining for the **first time** the fee is \$40 for your first year of membership.
- b) Membership **renewal** for 1 year is \$25.

The Association is offering LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS for interested members as follows:

Members interested in the **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP option will **PAY the Lifetime Fee ONE TIME** and **WILL NOT** have to pay an annual renewal fee.**

- a) Members who are currently under 60 years of age: \$350
- b) Members who are currently between 60 to 69 years of age: \$250
- c) Members who are currently 70 years of age or older: \$150

MEMBERSHIP

Total Membership: 72

The numbers below the guidons reflect soldiers who were in any and all batteries during their time in 2/28 FA.



(HHB includes the Battalion Staff)

Please join our Association!!!

We had a great time at the past Reunions, and hope to have more people joining us at our future reunions. We want you and yours to carry on our legacy. We once made a difference! Our Association now needs to continue carrying on your memories, our stories, and our great legacy. But most of all, we want to reunite and share that military comradery that only a soldier understands.

If you have chosen not to continue to be a member in the association, please send an email to Scott Sumpter (Secretary@28fara.org) and explain why. Membership is our major mission in the future. We want to make our Association better and bigger, and we need your input!!!





Chaplain's Corner

COL(R) Chaplain Danny Marksberry

Just contemplating---I turned 75 years old on July 25th (2023). I thought about our last reunion in October and most of us (if not all) are OLD!!! Even those young soldiers back in the mid 80's are now nearing their 60s or more!! And some of us were well past our twenties back then.

I thought it might be insightful and may be encouraging to look at what the Bible, since I am a Christian chaplain, says about aging. So, I'll share some Scripture verses with you without a lot of my commentary and let you ponder their meaning and impact on you.

I really like this one—Proverbs 17:6 “Children's children (grandkids) are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.”

Proverbs 20:29 “gray hair the splendor of the old” I got plenty of splendor!

Job 12:12 “Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long-life bring understanding?”

This verse should give us confidence that God really loves and cares for us. Isaiah 46:6 “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and will carry you: I will sustain you and I will rescue you”. Isaiah 40:31 “but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles: they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

Psalms 73:26 “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and portion forever.”

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Philippians 3:20-21 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

II Corinthians 4:16-18 “Therefore we do not lose heart though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal.”

And finally, may we be able to say with the apostle Paul (II Timothy 4:6-8) “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his coming.”

Numbers 6: 24-25 “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

AMEN

May God Bless America with His grace and the full knowledge of the truth in His Word.

Chaplain Danny Marksberry

The
CHAPLAIN'S
Corner

Sick Call

*The following Veterans or Family Members are ill or have been infirmed.
(Please contact the Chaplain if you know of any others.
We want to make sure they know we care and are thinking of them.)*

***Harry Broaddus - Medical Issues**

***Paul Lange - Medical Issues**

Honors To Those Who Have Passed On

*In loving memory of great soldiers, family members, and friends
who have gone before us.*

We hold your memory close in our hearts today and always.



**Sergeant First Class (R)
William Savage
HHB**



**Lieutenant Colonel (R)
Thomas Stecher
HHB**



**Major (R)
John Valenstein
B Battery**



How We Can Help

We understand how stressful and difficult the passing of a loved one can be. At our age, all of us have been through this at one time or another and in one capacity of another.

One of the goals of our Association is to make sure that, within our power and means, that every veteran of the unit is provided the proper honors upon their passing and to provide the surviving spouse with as much assistance as we can give. All of this is based on the desires of the family of course.

The rules and regulations of the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense can be confusing. Also, when a death occurs, there is not a lot of time to go look for the information. Also, we have found some funeral homes are well familiar with the rules and regulations, whom you need to contact etc and some are not.

To help our members, the Association will appoint a duty officer from the board of directors to be available every 90 days to assist the family of the Veteran or Family member. The duty officer familiar with all the information that you need as well as having access to the resources of the Association. This support continues after the funeral.

Besides information to assist the family, we wish to provide honors to the Veteran, but much of what we can provide will be dependant on location and how many members can attend the services. As a minimum, the Association can provide someone for the Family to call and get information. However, depending on location and the availability of other veteran members, here are some examples of the services we can provide:

- Depending on how many veterans that can attend the services, provide fellow 28th FA veterans as pall bearers.

- Provide the Battalion Colors and appropriate guidon to be displayed at appropriate services. These will be shipped Fedex to a 28 FA member who is in the area who will be responsible for the display as well as returning the items to the Association.

- A "soldiers cross" consisting of a helmet, dummy rifle with Bayonet, boots and dog tags. These will also be shipped to a veteran member that is in the area and can attend the funeral who will be responsible for setting up the display and returning it to the Association.

- Depending on member availability a 28 FA member/vet who will represent the Association/Battalion and can speak of the member's service at the Service.

- The Association Chaplain will be available via phone to council and support

- Setting up a donation account through the Wounded Warriors foundation or a Veterans Charity of the families choice in the veterans honor.

- The least we will do is to ensure that the Veteran/Family Member is honored on our web site, newsletter and official association functions such as reunions.

The key to all of this is timing. Our Chaplain, Danny Marksberry, is the Association's contact point for this type of support. Danny will connect the "duty officer" with the family so that we can render our offer of assistance. Make sure that the family knows to contact Danny if there is a death or serious illness that occurs to a Veteran member or family member. Danny will get the word out to the appropriate people. ***It is imperative that we know about the situation as soon as possible!!!***

To provide you with an idea of how the Association can assist, below is a check list that is used by our Bereavement Duty Officer once we are notified of the passing of one of our members:

Casualty Officer Check list for death of member of 28th Field Artillery Association:

- Receive death notification.
- Get as much information as possible, ie. obituary, widow/next of kin information, date of funeral and where and when it will be held.
- Determine if the deceased member is a retiree. (if so, see below)
- Disseminate to membership via email of the death including obituary if available. (Time is of the essence)
- Determine if any members are in the area that could possibly attend the funeral or other events. Contact those members to see if they can/will attend
- Contact the family and ask if they would like our help. If so, help any way needed
- Ask the family if it has the veteran's DD214, (Discharge Form). If not, and a replacement is needed, have them call 1-866-272-6272
- Ask the family if the veteran desires to be buried in his uniform. Have them send you a picture of the uniform and check to see if it is put together properly.
- Contact Treasurer or CAO to authorize flowers from the association, if enough lead time, if not find out which veterans organization they desire to receive the donation by the Association in the Veterans name.
- If a military headstone is wanted have the family inform the funeral director and the funeral home can the arrangements with the VA.
- If the service member is a retired Army veteran, in addition to the above do the following:
- Inform the family to make sure the survivor stops the retired pay. To report a retiree's death call 1-888-332-7411.
- Inform the family that if the retiree is receiving disability compensation call 1-1-844-698-2311.
- If another member is attending the services, ask the widow/next of kin if they want to have a memorial at the funeral such as a soldier cross (helmet boots, fake weapon with bayonet and dog tags) to put in front of the funeral. Also if they would like the appropriate Battery Guidon present.
- If this is desired by the family, coordinate with another member that will be attending the services. Make sure they are OK with receiving "the kit" and setting it up.
- If this is acceptable to the family and the members attending, contact the Quartermaster to have the "kit" sent to a member attending the service.
- Contact President of the Association to send a letter of condolence to the family.
- Each attendee should submit an AAR to the chaplain so we can continue what we did well and improve the areas that we need to.
- After the Services, Contact the members that did attend and find out how things went.
- Provide a copy of the obituary to the Webmaster and Newsletter editor.



Veterans Assistance
Here to help!
Doyle Watters



VA Disability Claims Information Sheet

From my experience of working with Veterans and their VA disability claims over the past thirty plus years, I have used the following information to aid me in getting their claim processed. I call this a roadmap to get from point A to point B. In fact, it's a working guide to help one to understand a process that is rather simple, in which many Veterans have a tendency to make complicated.

All county Veteran Service Officers (VSO) are in a paid position to assist Veteran and not to make decisions for the Veteran. If you feel you aren't getting the assistance you are entitled, don't stop there. Let the VSO know about your concerns if that doesn't work, inform VA of your concerns. It is easy to get frustrated and give up. If that is the case, you are cheating yourself and possibly family members out of funds that could be used to enrich everyday life.

Some do's and do not's that I have found helpful over the years.

1. Go online and read all about VA Disabilities and how the system works.
2. Do not be afraid of losing any VA benefits you may have already acquired, while attempting to increase your disability.
3. Do not confuse the Veterans Administration and the VA hospital they are two separate entities.
4. Keep any and all paperwork that one may receive from outside medical facilities.
5. It is important to understand how VA computes disabilities, which can also be explained online.
6. Know the appeals process in case your claim is disapproved.
7. There are many lawyers that work on appeals pro bono. Meaning they take a percentage of any back pay one may receive.
8. If one is retired military, they will not receive any disability funds until their disability reaches fifty percent.
9. I suggest keeping your spouse informed and take them along, if possible, anytime one goes in for a Compensation and Pension (C and P). They need to know everything going on and for the most part do. Don't be late for the exam and do not lie, just be upfront and tell the examiner all about how your claim is affecting one's life. One is not going to remember everything they want to say, take notes, and give a copy to the examiner.
10. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a very sensitive related disability that goes untreated a lot of times due to lack of information and or fear. One of the biggest misnomers that Veterans believe, is they will lose their rights to own weapons. By the way one does not have to have been in combat to experience PTSD.

There are several stressors that can be found online that could or will cause a negative response and take one aback in time, if only for a few seconds. A few examples are as follows: a. Diesel fuel, b. Helicopters, c. Fireworks, d. Crowds, and the list goes on.

Note: I'm here if you need me. I am not a psychologist; I am a veteran who has worked with many Veterans who have been successful in getting their disability claims approved.

Doyle Watters
CSM (R)





Chief Information Officer & Webmaster

George Hardin



Hi 28Fara Members,

I wanted to give you a quick rundown of some features on our website www.28fara.org. There are several pages on our website that can be accessed without creating a login ID. However, to get full access to all content on our website you will need to create a login ID by following the instructions below.

How to Use Our Website

Access the Members Only pages of our website: Go to Membership, Members Only, then Login or “sign up for a new account here”. New accounts are activated once paid membership is verified (3-5 days). The Members Only page gives you full access to the membership roster, pictures, member location on a map, membership roster and all issues of the Bleidorn Switchboard Newsletters.

Members Only Login-Password Reset or Password Change: If you forgot your Members Only password, or want to change it, go to Membership, Login-Password Services, and follow the instructions. Note: If you forget your login ID, I can retrieve that for you. I cannot retrieve your password. Just send an email to me and I will help you get access.

Member Roster Updates: If you want to update your roster information, go to Membership, Join the 28FARA, Application, then enter your last, first name update (for example: “Hardin, George update”), your email address and then any other information that needs changing, click submit. You can also email your updates directly to CIO@28fara.org.

Pay Dues: Go to Membership, Membership Dues, then choose the appropriate yearly renewal or lifetime membership purchase. You can either use PayPal (you do not need to have an account) or mail a check to: Treasurer, 94 Utah Meadows Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

If you ever have any problems with our website or have just a general IT question, please contact me at CIO@28fara.org.

George Hardin

**Special Assistant
to the President**
Dave Dehnel



Election for 2023

One of the main events at our bi-annual reunion was the introduction of the new Board of Directors and recognition of the outgoing Board members.

Outgoing Board of Directors

President (2 years) - Tommy Houston
1st Vice President (2 years) - Bill Dunham
2nd Vice President (2 years) - Dave Mohan
Treasurer (3 years) - Ralph Ripley
Adjutant (3 years) - Tom Stecher
Senior NCO (2 years) - CSM Keith Young
1st Enlisted Member (2 years) - Rod Lindgren
2nd Enlisted Member (2 years) - Frank McCook

Current Board of Directors

Patrick Malherek
Bill Dunham
Chris Dolan
Dave Dolan
Scott Sumpter
CSM Keith Young
Miguel Rosario
Wayne Pfeffer

The election was conducted from August 13-30, 2023, and all candidates received more than 50% approval. During the General Membership Meeting at the reunion, we recognized the outgoing Board Members for their service, formally announced the results of this election, introduced, and formally installed the new Board Members.

Voting is an important part of our Association. Our Association requires quality people to lead and oversee the organization. The Board tasks the Election Committee to go through a process to seek quality candidates. We vet them for their character, ability to commit the time and resources required, and their desire to contribute to the Association. Being a member of the Board is a commitment but also an opportunity to see how the Association runs, contribute to a good cause, meet new people, and have a good time.

The Election Committee wants to thank all the members who voted and those Board members who assisted in getting the word out about the election.

Shot Out!!

Election Committee

CSM Keith Young / David Dehnel MAJ (RET)

The following positions are appointed positions:

Appointed Positions

Chaplain - Danny Marksberry

Chief Accounting Officer - Madonna Stecher

Chief Information Officer - George Hardin

Veterans Assistance - Doyle Watters

Judge Advocate - Vacant

Quartermaster - Vacant

Historian - Tommy Houston

Special Assistant to the President - Dave Dehnel

Newsletter Editor - Janet Malherek

If you are interested in finding out more information about any of the positions above, please contact me. We are always looking for help!

Contact Information:

Dave Dehnel / daviddehnel2@gmail.com / 919-523-2542 (mobile) leave a message.



**Contact Information for the
Board of Directors & Appointed Positions:**

We want to hear from you!!!
Please send us your ideas and suggestions!!!

President and Chairman of the Board: **Pat Malherek** - President@28fara.org

1st Vice President/XO: **Bill Dunham** - 1stVP@28fara.org

2nd Vice President/OPS: **Chris Dolan** - 2ndVP@28fara.org

Treasurer: **Dave Dolan** - Treasurer@28fara.org

Chief Accounting Officer: **Madonna Stecher** - Finance@28fara.org

Adjutant/Secretary: **Scott Sumpter** - Secretary@28fara.org

SR NCO Member of the Board at Large: **CSM Keith Young** - CSM@28fara.org

Chief Information Officer: **George Hardin** - CIO@28fara.org

1st Enlisted Member of the Board at Large: **Miguel Rosario** - Enlisted1@28fara.org

2nd Enlisted Member of the Board at Large: **Wayne Pfeffer** - Enlisted2@28fara.org

Veterans Assistance: **Doyle Watters** - VA@28fara.org

Special Assistant to the President: **Dave Dehnel** - BOARD EMAIL TBD

Judge Advocate: **Vacant**

Chaplin: **Danny Marksberry** - Chaplain@28fara.org

Scholarship Coordinator: **Dave Mohan** - Scholarship@28fara.org

Newsletter Editor: **Janet Malherek** - Newsletter@28fara.org

President Emeritus: **Tommy Houston**

Trivia Questions

EVERYBODY LOVES TRIVIA!!!

Trivia questions are a great way to bring back so many memories of the time we spent in 2-28, the military, and Ansbach, Germany!!! A huge **THANK YOU** and **SHOUT OUT** to Tommy Houston who provides the Trivia questions and answers. Tommy is a wealth of information and knowledge...he kept amazing notes on EVERYTHING and is now happy to share that information through the Trivia Questions. The answers can be found in a different part of the newsletter for those who like to challenge themselves!!! 😊 **ENJOY!!!**



Military Trivia



1. What are the official components of a Field Artillery Round of Ammunition?
2. What is the overall mission of the Field Artillery in the US ARMY?
3. In the world of Field Artillery what is an M-82?
4. True/False: The stronger the propellant the lower the angle needed to hit the target.
5. What does DODAC (Pronounced "DOEDAC") stand for?
6. True/False: The Field Artillery term "MT" means Modular time.
7. What is an M-739 fuse?
8. What does the term TLABSPAP mean? (Formerly known as TLASBAP)
9. How many Sgt/E-5s are authorized on the MTOE for an M-109A2 Howitzer Section?
10. What is the function of an accumulator in a Howitzer?

*****Answers can be found on Page 29...***

With each issue of the Newsletter, we will highlight members of the Association so we can share their memories of their time in Germany with the Battalion. To make sure we get those memories from different perspectives, we will interview Officers, NCOs, EMs and Spouses. This month's interview is with: Lieutenant Allan Cupicciotti (Cupp)



**Interview with Lieutenant Allan Cupicciotti (Cupp) (1984 - 1987)
Service Battery - Ammo Officer/XO
Bravo Battery - Fire Direction Officer**

****When were you assigned to the Battalion and what was your MOS/Jobs?***

I was assigned to the Battalion in early November 1984 as a 13A (Cannon Field Artillery Officer) as a 2LT. My first job was the Service Battery Ammo Officer/XO. The following year I was assigned to Bravo Battery as the Fire Direction Officer. My last year was spent as the Battalion Recon Survey Officer assigned to HHB.

****What was your marital status when assigned to the Battalion and where did you live?***

During my time in the battalion I was not married.

****Who was in your chain of command and what do you remember about them?***

My chain of command varied with each assignment over a three year period. Often times lieutenants would have a different job assignment each year to get different experiences to help prepare them to become a battery commander. Tommy Houston was my battery commander for most of my time in Service Battery. Pat Malherek and Tom Bailey were my battery commanders while in Bravo Battery. Lastly, while in HHB, I remember Del Jensen was the commander. I also remember Jeff McCausland was the S-3 and Battalion XO. Robert Michaud and Ralph Ripley were my battalion commanders also during this time.

There are many things I remember about these officers. I can only say positive things about them. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have had them as leaders. Much of what they taught me helped me a great deal later on in the Army Reserve as well as life itself.

****When you hear the term “Graf” or “Grafenwoehr” what comes to mind?***

When I hear the term “Graf” different things come to mind. The most obvious being the lousy weather and endless tank trails. One great thing was that we actually got to live fire and train as artillerymen. It was a great time to be in one of the firing batteries.

On some Graf trips we also trained with the Italians and British. Those were interesting because we learned some things about our NATO allies.

Lastly, I do remember some excellent NCO's I worked with on many of these trips: SFC Earl Jones (Chief of Firing Battery), SSG Nor (Gunnery Sergeant), Sgt Steven Rhodes (Bravo FDC), Sgt Skipwith (Service Battery) always made sure we could get the ammo, and 1SGT Howard Martin was a really good motivator for some troops.

****What were your toughest times when you were in the Battalion?***

Probably the most difficult time was when I first arrived. Being a young 2LT in a new unit and foreign country was an adjustment at first. Being the Battalion Ammo Officer kept me extremely busy along with the additional duties assigned to a new lieutenant.

****What did you like best about your time in the Battalion?***

There were many things I liked while assigned to the 2nd Bn 28th FA. The various trips to Munich during Oktoberfest were lots of fun and the source of many laughs. The presentation of the 8 Ball Award at the Battalion Hail and Farewells was also very entertaining. In September of 1986, while I was the FDO, Bravo Battery was assigned to the Berlin Brigade for somewhere around 28 days. C Battery/94th FA went to Grafenwohr for live fire exercises, so we took over their mission while assigned to the Berlin Brigade. At that time the Berlin Wall still existed. Being in East Germany in an occupied city at that time was something I will never forget. When we traveled into East Berlin the environment was quite depressing on so many different levels. While training in Doughboy Village there were times when we were in view of the East German Guard towers

****Who is the person you remember the most from your time in the Battalion?***

There are many people I still remember from my time in the Battalion. Some of the Lieutenants I remember during my time are: John Williams (we arrived to the Battalion on the same day), Nils Strombom, Dwight Beach, Jim Bermudez, Jim La Luzerne, Sheman Takatori, Mark Winnicki, John Sweeney, Tim Gorell, John Sneed, Jim Shields, John Donahue, Roy Parker, and Steve Volk (our NBC officer) nicknamed "Bugs and Gas".

My superior officers I remember were LTC Robert Michaud and LTC Ralph Ripley the Battalion Commanders while I was there. Majors Jeff McCausland, Tom Stecher, and Bob Greene I also remember very well. They were either the Battalion XO or S-3 while I was there.

The Battery Commanders I remember most were Tommy Houston, Pat Malherek, Bill Dunham, John McEnroe, and Gary Cheek.

****Who or what had the greatest impact on your life after your assignment to the Battalion?***

As far as the people who had an impact on me back then, there were quite a few. I would have to say the people who I learned the most from were Tommy Houston, Pat Malherek, and Jeff McCausland. Both LTC Robert Michaud and Ralph Ripley were excellent Battalion Commanders.

****Give us an overview of your life after Bleidorn (Marriage, kids, jobs, where lived, Career etc.).***

After leaving the Battalion I continued in the Army Reserve for another three years. I was assigned to the 434th Field Artillery Brigade in Chicago, IL. I was a firing battery XO in C Btry, 4th Bn 75th FA; and the Battery Commander for C Btry ,7th Bn 1st FA. Both units were 8-inch battalions. At that time Field Artillery units were still part of the Army Reserve.

I went on to get my master's degree in education and began teaching 5th Grade in Melrose Park, IL. After leaving Melrose Park I continued teaching but switched to Chicago Public Schools. I currently teach middle school Social Studies at Galileo Scholastic Academy. I have been teaching for 31 years at this point and hope to retire from being a classroom teacher in 4 years.

In 1997, the year I was married, I changed my last name from Cupp to Cupicciotti. My wife said she would prefer an Italian last name, so I changed from Cupp to Cupicciotti. Cupicciotti was my father's original last name which he changed before I was born. I have been married over 25 years and have two amazing sons, Michael (21) and Nick (20).

****What would you like to see with our 28th FA Association?***

I would like to see our association continue in the direction that it is moving. The many people who made our battalion so unique and outstanding when I was there, continue to do so today.



Allan Cupicciotti (Cupp)
and John Williams.



Allan Cupicciotti (Cupp), B Btry FDC



Allan Cupicciotti (Cupp)
at the Berlin Wall.



Allan Cupicciotti (Cupp)
and Nils Strombom.

****If any members of the 28th FARA Family have an article they would like to share, please contact Janet Malherek, the editor!***

A Visit Down Memory Lane

By Bill Dunham

I was sitting at my in-law's home in Hope Mills, NC when I received a call from Paul Lange. After introductions he asked if I was ready to assume command of HHB. While it wasn't what I really desired what could I say but, "Yes." Little did I know that our brigade chaplain, LTC Clarence Corbett, had seen my name on a list of incoming officers during a command and staff call. He had known me since I was a SP4 at Fort Bragg. He was our battalion chaplain there and we played many games of basketball during lunch. After OCS and OBC at Fort Sill I was assigned to Fort Hood where he was the chaplain of the Air Brigade. During those years we played many rounds of golf with his sons, Neil and Lee. When he saw my name, he put in a good word for me, thus the offer of command sight unseen. We continued many rounds of golf at Herzo, Lichtenau, Monteith, and other places. Sadly, he passed away a few years ago. I miss him.

Dave Mohan picked me up at Frankfurt and we zoomed to Ansbach in what I recall was his 3 series BMW. Rick Swain was on leave but met me at battalion headquarters and Paul Lange performed the change of command the very next morning while I was still recovering from jet lag. I was very fortunate to have a top notch first sergeant, Pat Kiernan, who made my transition very easy.

One of my first memories is going to the local German "Wal-Mart" and browsing the beer selection. I decided to buy one of each kind to help me find my new favorite. The lieutenants were very welcoming, and I remember being in Jay Hartmann's room and him telling me that we had to decide if it was going to be a one liter or two liter night. I found out quickly that one liter was quite enough.

I enrolled in Head Start but really had a leg up. I had attended 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in Dexheim and knew basic German so I was at least conversant. One week after I arrived the battalion departed on Reforger and I remained behind. What an experience that was.

Continued on next page...

I will end this little trip down memory lane (there will be more to come in future iterations) with an anecdote from my first weekend in country. I fancied myself as a pretty fair tennis player and found out that Ansbach had indoor courts. So, I grabbed my racquets, hopped in a taxi, and headed for downtown. In my basic German I asked if there was anyone there looking for a match. I found a doctor visiting from Munich who wanted to play. Playing on carpet is vastly different from the concrete courts I was used to. I found that you could slide into a shot if you had to. So, during one of our games the doctor hit a shot wide to my forehand. As I slid and tried to simply flick the shot back over the net my racquet hit me in the forehead just above my right eye. We all know how head wounds bleed. So here I was, in country for about 5 days, bleeding all over the indoor courts in town. I had absolutely no idea where the nearest dispensary was, but the good doctor was able to find out that I needed to go to Katterbach.

Thankfully his English was better than my Deutsch. So, he loaded me in his Mercedes, carried me to the dispensary, and said farewell. The medics sewed me up (5 stitches) and sent me on my way. I made it back to Belidorn and on Monday morning, with bandages all over my head, 1SG Kiernan looked at me and said, “Good Lord, BC, what the hell happened to you?”

And so, the saga began.



!!!TRIVIA ANSWERS!!!

1. Primer, Propellant, Projectile, Fuze
2. Destroy, Neutralize or Suppress the enemy by Cannon, Rocket and missile fires and to integrate fires into combined arms operations.
3. A Primer
4. False- The Stronger the propellant the higher the elevation needed.
5. Department of Defense Activity Code-A code for all property. For example, the DODAC for an M-109A2 is D 101.11:9-2350-311-34-1/999.
6. False. The term MT means Mechanical Time. A type of Fuse where the fuse functions at a set time of flight.
7. M-739 is a point detonating fuse (PD) with a delay setting function.
8. Trails, Lay, Aiming Reference, Boresight Verification, Safety Circle, Prefire Check, Ammo Prep, Position Improvement
9. 2- Gunner and Ammo Sergeant
10. The accumulator "Accumulates" all the nitrogen that is displaced during recoil of the Howitzer.

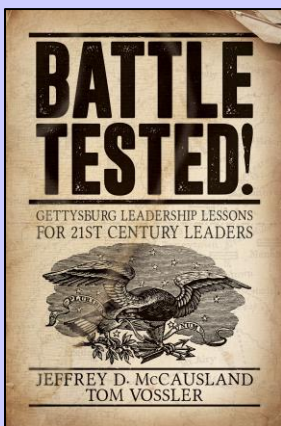


A 28th Field Artillery Regiment Association member,
COL Jeffrey D. McCausland, US Army (Retired),
has co-written a book called

BATTLE TESTED!



Jeff served as the Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer in the 2nd Battalion 28th Field Artillery. He also served as the Battalion Commander of the 3rd Battalion 17th Field Artillery during Operation Desert Storm!!!



Summary of the Approach of the Book:

Gettysburg was the largest battle ever fought on the North American continent. Over 170,000 Union and Confederate soldiers engaged in this struggle and roughly 25 percent were casualties after three days. Union victory at Gettysburg was vital to end the rebellion, preserve the nation, and set a course for the future. Lincoln later honored Union soldiers for giving “the last full measure of devotion” to the nation, and its memory is deeply embedded in the American psyche.

This iconic event provides contemporary leaders a superb opportunity to examine enduring leadership principles, including:

- How leaders and organizations operate under enormous stress
- How leaders make the hard decisions
- How the leadership skills of several well-known military officers such as Lee, Stuart, Meade, and many others, can provide insights for modern leaders

You may never visit the Gettysburg battlefield, but understanding historic lessons from *Battle Tested!* will have a profound influence on not only your leadership abilities, but also your life, organizations, and career.

The book, *Battle Tested!*, is available on Amazon: bit.ly/D6battletested

CONGRATULATIONS JEFF!!!

With each Edition of the Newsletter, we want to share memories, news, and pictures (*past and/or present*) from members of the 28th Field Artillery Association. If you have anything significant in your life like the birth of a child/grandchild, a child graduating from college, entering the military, things your families are doing, trips you have taken, reunions, etc....please send them our way!!! We want to share them with our 28th Field Artillery Family!!!

Please email them to...

Newsletter@28fara.org

**2023 Reunion - Washington, DC
Arlington National Cemetery, National Mall, Army History Museum and
Association Banquet**

(Additional reunion pictures can be found on the 28th FARA website!!!)





2nd Battalion 28th Field Artillery Monument (Ft. Sill, Oklahoma)





**KEEP
CALM
AND
CALL FOR
ARTILLERY**