

The Beidorn Switchboard

28th Field Artillery Regimental Association

Volume 1 Edition 3 June 2020



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A New Normal!!!



Pat & Janet Malherek, Coeditors 28th FARA Newsletter

Welcome to the June 2020 edition of the 28th Field Artillery Regimental Association newsletter. A lot has happened in the world and country since the last edition was published and we are all now having to find a **"New Normal"**. Coronavirus, COVID-19, and social distancing are now common words in our vocabulary. We have to wear a mask anytime we're out in public. We have to stand 6 feet apart. People have been unable to travel. We are finding unique ways to celebrate milestones. Children, parents, and grandparents are experiencing the joys of homeschooling. Many Americans are out of work. Many small business owners are losing their businesses. People are applying for unemployment and figuring out ways to pay their bills. Those fortunate enough to still be working are doing so under a different environment.

We certainly hope ALL of our 28th FARA Family are doing well and staying healthy. We are all in this together and here to help and support each other as we get through these challenging times.

Hopefully this newsletter allows you to reminisce about your time in the 2/28 FA. We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we enjoy putting it together. If you have any suggestions or comments feel free to contact us at Newsletter@28fara.org.

Pat and Janet Malherek 😊

28th Field Artillery Regimental Association



Presidents Corner
Association Update
Tommy Houston



First off, I hope everyone is safe during this crisis. I don't know about you, but the frustrating thing to me is that our only recourse in fighting back against this COVID-19 enemy is to do nothing and to stay home. If we do venture out, to stay away from other people! Humans, like dogs, are pack animals and we are certainly uncomfortable without human contact. It reminds me of what you read in the Bible about lepers and being "unclean"!

I am happy to report that your Association is doing very well, and what I want to say it that our "health" goes beyond just our financials. I get emails and talk to members who are very excited to re-connect with old friends and comrades from Bleidorn again. Why this should make us happy is that this was the primary goal of our Association that we established when we started this at the reunion in NOLA.

As you probably have seen in the monthly updates, your board of directors has been struggling with our financials and the money that we need to raise to fund the monument, the reunion and our eventual scholarship fund. Thanks to our members several others outside the membership who have donated, we are in much better shape financially than we were in December. Although we are better off than we were, we still need to raise a just a bit more to do what we need to do.

As you may have seen from the monthly updates, the board voted unanimously in February to delay the reunion. Our new target date is sometime next April or May. In hindsight, if we had not decided to delay in February, we would probably have had to delay anyway because of the COVID-19 crisis. We are in the process of re-planning the Reunion so we will provide specific dates as soon as we have them. Col(R) Tim Gorrell is our 2nd VP and is responsible to oversee planning our reunions. Please reach out to Tim if you have thoughts, suggestions or even are willing to help with pulling off our major event.

I do want to send out a public apology concerning your membership credentials. I have been the one making up and mailing them out and just simply got behind. I offer no excuse other than I seem to have a lot on the plate lately and this task ended up down the list. I have used this "sequester" of the crisis to get caught up. If you have not gotten your lifetime or renewal credential in the US Mail by the time you read this, please drop me a note. You may have just fallen through the cracks. I promise to do better in the future.

Every day that I think about the 28th Field Artillery Association, my mind goes to the efforts of the members of the Board of Directors that you elected to office. Truthfully, it wasn't much of an election but more of volunteers stepping up to commit their time to the service of their friends. All of them should be commended, however, I would like to publicly call out and thank two specific members of your board that have had such a huge impact on our success so far. This is no slight to the other members of the board who are also working hard, they also have our thanks. But I just want to take this opportunity to talk about these two particular board members for what they have done.

Bill Dunham has always been passionate about the Association. Before we stood up our current, "official" association, Bill and I would swap off on planning our reunions, he always did a great job. Bill is our 1st Vice President and by our constitution and Bi Laws serves as the Deputy to the President and Chief of Staff for the Board of Directors. But what Bill has really done is to take on the task of creating our monument as well as setting up and executing the brick/paver program. Bill started with nothing more than an idea for the monument and has transformed that into reality for all of us. Just like our days when we were all wearing green, Bill has made it happen with a very tough task. Please join me in thanking Bill Dunham for his passion, dedication and what he does every day for our Association.

The second person I want to publicly say thanks to is Ralph Ripley who serves as our treasurer. I have to admit that because Ralph was my boss when he had the Battalion and then again he was my "big boss" when he commanded the 5th Infantry DIVARTY, I was a bit nervous about how all this would work out. But the truth is my nervousness was totally unfounded. Ralph has rolled up his sleeves and most importantly has put the things in place that gives us a solid financial base to work from, not just now, but in the future. Ralph, most importantly, serves as the Association's "financial conscious", making sure we think through how to do the right things with the money that we all have invested in the Association. Going back to my "nervousness", I think I have figured out why this has worked out so well with Ralph as our treasurer. It worked out because of Ralph's professionalism and knowing how to be both a leader and a follower, but most importantly, because he knows how to be a friend to all of us. Also, please join me in thanking Ralph Ripley.

I am sure our newsletter editors, Pat and Janet Malherek have scolded me for making this too long, but, being the President, maybe I just get to do just a few things different than the others!

But they are, of course, right and I need to close here other than saying that I want to thank each of you for being a member of OUR Association and that I hope you and your families are safe during these times of crisis.

GUNSHOT!

Tommy Houston



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

Who could have known that the decision made by our Board of Directors in late February to delay the monument dedication and reunion could have been so fortuitous? With the shutdown of our economy and government due to the COVID-19 Pandemic I don't see how we could have possibly pulled off a reunion in September. It seems there would have been no possible way for all of the paperwork from Fort Sam Houston and Fort Sill to have been processed in a timely manner.

So, we have delayed everything until April/May 2021. Here's the new plan and timeline.

The granite will be ordered on or about 1 September. It will take about 5 months for it to arrive from the quarry to the engravers where it will take about 1 month to complete all of the artwork. We have decided to leave the edges rough and not polished - saving us about \$450. Aesthetically I don't believe it will make much difference.

Upon completion of the engraving Russ Adams will drive his restored 5-ton complete with Service Battery markings from his home in Orlando, Florida to Elberton, Georgia. I will meet him there on or about 1 March 2021 in my POV and he will drive the monument to Fort Sill with me in his wake.

It appears that many of our brothers-in-arms have gotten their *Easy Rider* meme going and regularly take to the road on their Hogs. The preliminary plan is for some of them from Indiana and others from Lawton to meet us on the road and escort the monument to Fort Sill. We just might have a C.W. McCall convoy going on.

The purchased bricks will be shipped to the landscaper in Lawton on or about 1 February 2021. That will give the landscaper about 1 month to get everything prepared. It will take Russ and me about 3 days to make the trip. The plan is for the monument to be completely installed by the first weekend in March 2021.

Once completed Russ and I will return to Orlando and Augusta, respectively.

The total price is going to be approximately \$21,500. The price will fluctuate depending on our economic recovery and the price of diesel.

This will involve many moving parts and will require some meticulous planning. Hopefully, with Top Moretz being on-site and willing to oversee parts of this process we will be able to orchestrate it and get 'er done in a timely manner.

1st Vice President...continued

**GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF TIMELINE
FOR MONUMENT**

Pending -	DA Form 4283 from Fort Sill Facilities and Engineering
	Gift Letter from 28 FARA to CG, Fort Sill thru INSCOM, Fort Sam Houston (Letter has been sent to INSCOM)
≈ 1 Sep 2020	Order granite from Galen Mills, Elberton, GA \$ 4,000
≈ 1 Feb 2021	Ship brick from 4EverBricks, Pittsburgh to 4D Landscapers, Lawton, OK
≈ 1 Feb-1 Mar	Landscapers install bricks and prepare site for the monument \$13,946
≈ 1 Mar	Granite completed \$ 4,000
	Begin transport from Elberton through Tunica, MS to Fort Sill
	Motorcycle escort
≈ 4-5 Mar	Meet with National Guard unit and landscapers to install monument
Apr/May	Reunion and dedication



2nd Vice President

Reunion Planned for April/May 2021!

Tim Gorrell

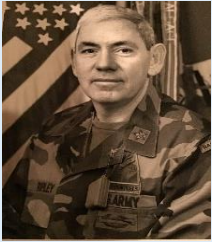
Although the next 28th Field Artillery Regimental Association Reunion has been postponed, it will definitely happen!!! At this time, we are planning to have the reunion in April/May 2021. The exact dates still need to be decided; however, please make sure you mark your calendars now and keep an eye out for the exact dates so you can make plans to attend!!!

It is sure to be a very
“monumentous” occasion!!!

So as for now it’s a.....



Thank you for your patience. We will get information and details out to everyone as soon as we have it!!!



Treasurer
Report as of April 2020
Ralph Ripley

The Association continues to grow financially. We are currently in the season of membership renewals and it is important to continue to grow our participation. For those who have not yet renewed, please give that some attention. This year the Association is offering a lifetime membership at a reasonably nominal cost. A number of members have taken advantage of that option. For those who want to make a one-time payment and not be concerned about renewal in the future, Lifetime Membership is a great alternative. Memberships are contributions to a 501C3 so they are tax friendly.

Our cash flow since inception is as follows:

Revenue		\$24,182
Memberships	\$5,665	
Contributions	\$11,737	
Memorial Bricks	\$6,780	
Expenses		\$1,596
Startup / Reg	\$679	
General	\$76	
Online Fees	\$841	
Current Cash Balance		\$22,586

We have some liabilities associated with the current cash picture. There is a fee associated with making the bricks when the time comes. We have to hedge that money. The current brick liability is \$1,415. For Lifetime memberships, the board decided that we should recognize, or amortize, that revenue over a 5 year period to maintain cash flow. That means we recognize 20% of the revenue each year over 5 years. Currently we have \$2,780 of cash on hand that we have not yet recognized. Since all Artillerymen are good at doing the math, you have probably already figured out that of the \$22,586 that we have on hand only \$18,391 is available for spending.

The board is in the planning process for monument placement and reunion next spring. There remains a good bit of work to be done. We have a way yet to go financially to reach that goal. We have done some preliminary forecasting to determine how we can meet all the financial gates necessary to make the spring events possible. Each member can help by doing some simple things. First is renew your membership. Participation is very important to the Association. Consider a Lifetime membership as a simple way to help the team and not worry about renewal again. For those that have not purchased a brick, please give that serious consideration. A brick will place your name beside all your fellow soldiers who served. This is a lasting remembrance that we were all soldiers once. We continue to work on corporate sponsorship. The extraordinary circumstances of the Virus crisis have delayed most of those decisions for companies.

Madonna Stecher continues to do a wonderful job of keeping the books, managing reporting and responding to financial administrative matters. We all owe her a vote of thanks.



Secretary

Keeping 2-28 Alive!!!

Barbara Pollock

Greetings 2-28 FA Association Family!

We continue to further organize as an association. Unfortunately, our World has been tossed upside down with the COVID-19 Epidemic. With this we have been able to take a pause in our life. As an Association, it has allowed for your volunteer board to spend additional time fine tuning some of our records. Below are a few of our **Highlighted Accomplishments** since our previous newsletter:

- Approved our 28 Field Artillery Regiment Association Constitution
- Welcomed 8 (4 of 8 pending) member Families to the Association since our previous newsletter
- Continued Solicitations for Donations for our Monument
- Kicked off our Lifetime Membership and Membership Renewal Drive
- Welcomed 16 Lifetime Member Families to 28 FARA

2-28 FA Association WELCOMES the following NEW MEMBERS since our Previous Newsletter:

Alaux	John*
Burdette	Larry and Brenda*
Carroll	Thomas
Madewell	Wayne and Kay+
McCook	Frank and Dawn
Taylor	Larry and Carolyn*
Walz	Edward and Christine <i>Walz's joined 17 June 2019</i>
Whigham	Robert and Marga+
Young	Keith*

****Indicates we are awaiting membership dues.
+Indicates Lifetime Membership.***

Just in case you were not aware, like back in the day, this is a competition. **LET THE RACES BEGIN!!!**

The Stats for the Win, Place and Show:

WIN: **HHB** is in first place with 24 Association Member/Families.

PLACE: **Charlie Battery** is in second place with 23 Association Member/Families

SHOW: **Bravo Battery** is in third place with 10 Association Member/Families

(NOTE: Some members claimed multiple Battery Assignments so we gave them credit.)

Now that you know that we are **"Off to the Races"**, what are you waiting for??? **RECRUIT** your former 2-28 FA brothers and their families to join the Association!



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



Membership

Due to the circumstances of the coronavirus epidemic the world has been hit with, we have extended our membership renewal efforts. Prior members and individuals pending may receive a letter informing you of your current membership status and options. Listed below are our current options for membership. You may go to the Association's website to join or renew your membership at:

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:

- 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

We celebrate those who have chosen a **lifetime membership**. We feel more secure as an Association knowing that you will be a part of the 28 FARA for the long haul.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

*David Dehnel
Jim Dubinsky
Bill Dunham
Robert Greene
George Hardin
Tommy Houston
Wayne Madewell
Patrick Malherek*

*Danny Marksberry
Charles Moretz
Robert Pollock
Ralph Ripley
Ernie Romero
Thomas Stecher
Jerry Taylor
Robert Whigham*

**The Association thanks all who have renewed their membership or become lifetime members!!!
Each of you are APPRECIATED!!!**



Senior NCO of the Board Everybody Fall IN!!!

Charlie Moretz



“Greetings”

I hope you and yours are healthy and safe as we work through this unprecedented crisis to combat this pandemic. The board members have been calling around to our members checking on their health status. It is great to report that all who have been contacted are in good health. Those that have been contacted have related a story or two from their days in the battalion. So while you are not at work and hunkered down, pick up the phone, check the membership roster and give a friend a call. He is not on the roster, google or search the social sites for him. I know he would like the call. Who knows you may have just recruited another member and reconnected with a friend to share a few memories with.

When we ventured out on this mission of forming the association, the vision of our fore fathers comes to mind. Setting down to draft a document that was for the development of a new nation. In many ways, this is what the association members did. We crafted the foundation of the association, how we would make our initial contacts and sustain the growth of the association. Most importantly how we were going to preserve the honor of those who served and their families. The by-laws that were written put that stamp of approval on how we were going to organize, recruit and sustain the

growth of this group of family members and military veterans from all walks of life. Granted after leaving the battalion we all went to different units and some different career fields, but our hearts remained with the battalion.

Well here, we are today with a membership of over 60 active veterans and growing day by day. A working charter and planning another reunion. A Big “Thank you” goes out to all who have joined this great association of veterans. Seeing the future members have purchased lifetime memberships and many have renewed dues to continue to support the association.

Who would have thought that we would have come this far in such a short time. This goes to show you the strength and bondman ship that we created while in this unit. I do not think there were too many units consisting of the officers, NCO’s enlisted members and family members that had such a tight bond as was found in the battalion. Yes, we had competition within the batteries, but that was what bound us together. Strong leadership from above and a solid corps in the trenches.

Our membership is growing through veterans reaching out to one another again. Supporting causes that the association has set sights on. No one can say that we have forgotten where we came from. We may not be up to all that new and fancy abbreviations but we all remember FIRE MISSION, MESS HALL FEEDING IN FIVE, MAINTENANCE TO NUMBER -----, and that dreaded “CHECK FIRE ,FREEZE” Even though that was not too common in the Battalion as a hole but it sure made us recheck real quick. . The Association wants to thank each one of you for the great job you have done so far.

We are almost there with the funds needed to purchase the monument and pay tribute to all who have come and gone. You can do this by purchasing a brick or paver in memorial for a fallen comrade or yourself just purchasing one in recognition of your service.

So as we close this chapter, remember, pickup up the phone, iPad, or computer, call a friend and; **RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT.**

REDLEG



1st Enlisted Member of the Board/Webmaster

George Hardin

Website Statistics 1-1-2019 to 4-12-2020

Unique Users: 1,023

Page Views: 2,823

Individual Sessions: 1,600

Site Clicks: 9,842

Technology is a double edged sword, sometimes you love it and sometimes you hate it. I mostly love it but have had a few @\$%# moments. I want to talk about getting your 28Fara pictures onto our website. I know most of you probably have paper pictures you could contribute, but don't know where to start. Here are some options for digitizing your pictures and getting them to us: 1. Scan your pics on an office scanner Pros: Relatively easy and cheap Cons: Time consuming, especially if you have many pictures. Pictures may need cropping and will need to be compressed to a smaller size for uploading to our website. 2. Photo scanning service Pros: Easy to use. Mail all your photos/negatives to a service who will scan all photos/negatives, provide photo touch-up such as color, exposure and cropping, return your paper photos/negatives to you and provide your photos to you on a disk or remote (online) folder. Once photos are digitized, they are easy to share. Cons: Can be costly, depending on number of photos you want scanned.

Once you have your pics digitized, they may need to be compressed to a useable file size (Anywhere from 50-250KB). If you are like most people you have a Window based computer (Sorry apple people!). Make a copy of your pictures in Windows Explorer in case you have problems. Download a free utility such as PixResizer at <https://bluefive.pairsite.com/pixresizer.htm> . (Windows Office has a built in picture tool that will also compress photos). PixResizer is a fairly easy-to-use tool and will batch edit your pictures into a more useable size. For example, a picture that is 3MB (3,000KB) will compress down to about 75KB. Once you have saved the pics to a more useable size, it is time to upload them to the 28Fara folder. You can contact David Davenport at Enlisted2@28fara.org for a link to the folder you can copy and paste your pictures (Google account not necessary). As always, if you have any problems doing this process please contact me or David for help. I can be reached at enlisted1@28fara.org. Once your pics are in the online folder, I can upload them to our website.

Chief Information Officer, Special Assistant

Dave Dehnel



Judge Advocate, Bill Savage

The upcoming 28th Field Artillery Regimental Association election is normally conducted during the bi-annual reunion. You may have read in the newsletter that this year's reunion is postponed and is being planned for some time in the Spring. We do not have mail-in options for the elections, so the election will now occur in the Spring during the reunion. We will begin our notification to all members six months prior to the new reunion date as we had discussed before.

As a reminder the positions coming to the end of the two-year term are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Senior NCO, 1st EM, and 2nd EM. There are also other positions that are appointed positions: Chaplain, Chief Accounting Officer, Chief Information Officer, Veterans Assistance Officer, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster and Historian.

If you would like a copy of the bylaws for description of the positions, please email daviddehnel2@gmail.com.

So, if you are interested in a position, would like to make a nomination or just have questions, please contact Dave Dehnel or Bill Savage.

Although the Secretary and Treasurer are four-year terms and not up for election this cycle, if you have expertise or desire to assist these officers please contact us via email.

Contact Information:

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

Bill Savage / getsavage1@me.com / 719-332-7166



Veterans Assistance

Unlike the IG, I am really here to help!

Frank Phillips

Expanded On-base Shopping for Many US Veterans Faces Hurdles Overseas

(Original article printed in [Stars and Stripes](#) on [February 28, 2020](#).)



By Jennifer H. Svan | For Updates and Corrections, visit [Stars and Stripes](#)

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The new rules that extend on-base shopping privileges to an additional 4.1 million U.S. veterans can't be applied in some countries and face restrictions in others, officials said.

So far, outside of the United States, the exchange and commissary benefits are only available in Germany, through a process that includes getting a Veteran Health Identification Card in the U.S., being vetted for base access and then registering with U.S. and German customs offices.

Though on-base products are free from U.S. taxes, veterans will have to report what they buy and pay German taxes.

At least 24 veterans have been approved to use the shopping benefit at U.S. bases in Germany since Jan. 1, said Frank Phillips, a Veterans Affairs service officer for Europe who works from U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach.

Continued...

Those who qualify include disabled veterans with a service-connected condition, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and designated primary family caregivers of eligible veterans.

About 28,000 veterans and their dependents reside in Germany, though it's unknown how many are eligible for on-base shopping privileges under the new law, Phillips said.

The military is also trying to expand the program to other countries in Europe, he said.

In Asia, the South Korean government is reviewing whether to authorize expanded access on a case-by-case basis, said Jim Guzior, a spokesman with U.S. Army Installation Management Command-Pacific.

The benefit will not be granted in Japan, he said. Use of base facilities by veterans who aren't covered by the status of forces agreement would require a negotiated exception to SOFA, he said.

The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act expanded veteran eligibility for shopping at military exchanges and commissaries starting Jan. 1.

The law also gives these veterans access to Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, such as golf courses and bowling centers.

Before the expansion, only veterans with 100% service-connected disabilities could shop on base, in addition to military retirees.

To qualify under the expanded law, disabled veterans need to have a VA claim decision letter stating a service-connected disability of any level.

One of the hurdles to using the benefit overseas is obtaining a Veteran Health Identification Card, which is only issued by the VA in the United States. The card displays the veteran's eligibility status.

Phillips said officials are working on getting an exception letter approved for veterans who cannot visit the States.

In Germany, veterans without base access must pass a background check before getting an installation pass.

The pass will allow veterans access to a single base and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Registration with German customs is also required to get a customs form.

Once a month, veterans must present the card to customs along with all original receipts for purchases made the previous month, to pay applicable German taxes and import fees.

Purchase of rationed items, including liquor, coffee and cigarettes, isn't allowed.

Eligible veterans can sign in up to four visitors on base, Army officials said.





Chaplain's Corner
COL(R) Chaplain Danny Marksberry

Greetings,

Hope this message finds you well and safe. It's been about two months since we have been dealing with the COVID-19 virus. The impact has been different to many individuals and families. Some have suffered tremendous loss in multiple areas- life, health, finances, social contact and emotional challenges. For some of us it has had less of an impact on our daily lives, but everyone has been affected to some degree. So here are some Scriptures I pray will be a comfort and will provide strength and hope to you as we strive to get through these challenging times.

Deuteronomy 3:18 The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Psalms 56:3-4 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise--in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalms 29:11 The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses His people with peace.

Philippians 4: 6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving make your request known to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid.

Psalms 19:8 But God will never forget the needy: The hope of the afflicted will never perish.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God goes with you wherever you go.

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

Dear God, may these words of Yours give us hope and strength in these scary times. Father, we lift up to You those who have lost loved ones, those who suffer alone, those who give of themselves to help and care for others. Bless and protect them. I pray that healing may come through treatment and care. We claim Your presence. Protect us, forgive us and keep us in your loving arms. Amen.

May God Bless,

Chaplain Danny Marksberry



Grafenwöhr

Bill Dunham

INTRODUCTION

Grafenwoehr was such an important part of our lives back in 2-28. It seemed our whole year revolved around when we were going to Graf and how long we would be there. The impact was not only felt by the soldiers, but also had a significant impact on the wives and families. Wives had to take care of the kids, pay the bills and do all of those things to keep the home fires burning. There are many a story about a soldier who showed up with wife and kids in a strange country, found out as soon as he signed in that the unit was at Graf. As soon as he drew his TA-50, he was on the van to Graf, leaving wife and kids in a guesthouse to fend for themselves in a strange country where they didn't speak the language and knew next to nothing about where to go to get things done.

This article is **PART 2** of a 3 part series about getting ready to go to Graf, what we typically did while we were there and then coming home and recovery. What is remarkable about all of this is that after talking to some of the spouses at the reunions, many of them didn't realize what exactly took place on these Graf rotations other than their spouse was out in the field and live firing. It is our hope that this series of articles not only helps our wives to understand what Graf was all about, but will provide the opportunity for soldiers to remember the times (some good, some not so good) they spent at Graf

ARTICLE - *This is the SECOND PART of a three-part series. (Please see the 28th FARA Newsletter - FEB 2020 for PART 1)

Graf. That 4-letter word that provided all of us so many different feelings. For most of us it provided us the opportunity, in today's vernacular, to hone our craft. Back in the day it simply gave us the chance to put steel on target.

Graf is the largest NATO training facility in Europe encompassing 232 square kilometers. It provides units live fire and maneuver ranges that support everything from small arms to tanks, artillery, aerial gunnery, and close air support. It has 43 artillery-firing positions and two impact areas.

This is the second part in a series of articles about Graf. Today we will deal with: ***What did the battalion typically do while they were at Graf?***

Grafenwöhr continued....

Once the battalion arrived at Graf we could begin what we all wanted to do: Delivery of fast and accurate fires. The ability to do that has been a mystery to most people for centuries.

The process begins with being able to accurately locate everyone's position on a map.

The first part of the process is the forward observer (FO) or fire support team (FIST). These artillerymen are usually with the maneuver unit (infantry or armor) that the battalion supports. In our case that was the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. We would also at times "borrow" FISTs from the 1st Armored Division and in a pinch, our own Liaison section in HHB would play the role of FIST or FOs. Before the middle 80s, these Forward Observers and FISTs would ride around in Jeeps or M-113 APC and their method of target location was accomplished as it had been for 100 years with Binoculars, Compass and a "calibrated eyeball". Beginning in the Middle 80s they transitioned to the FIST-V (Indirect Fire Support Team Vehicle) which utilized a Laser designator and Range finder.

At Graf the observers are located away from the gun batteries and battalion headquarters, normally at Bleidorn Tower's observation post. Each FO has to transmit his location to the battalion and battery Fire Direction Centers (FDCs).

The second part of the process is the base piece of each battery. This is the best gun section of the six in each battery. Their location is accurately plotted and transmitted to the FDCs. IN both cases the more accurate the location the more accurate the delivery of fires.

The third part is the meteorological data received from the Air Force detachment's weather station at Graf or one of the artillery METRO stations from the Divisions or the Field Artillery Brigades that happened to be training at Graf at the same time we were there. About every 2 hours they would launch a weather balloon that would transmit data to each FDC. This data includes winds aloft (direction and speed) at different along with temperature, humidity, and barometric pressure. All of this is used to calculate the effects of the different layers of weather that each projectile would pass through for the nearly 30 seconds it is in the air.

The delivery of fires begins with the FO identifying a target. Again, the more accurate the location of the target the more accurate the fires. The FO would call the battalion FDC via radio and transmit the target's location. The battalion FDC would then decide which battery to use to engage the target. Then the target information would be sent to the battery FDC. Now the Penn and Teller, David Blaine, and David Copperfield magic begins.

Grafenwöhr continued....

Using a firing chart pins are placed representing the location of the base piece, the FO, and the target. Using a range-deflection protractor (RDP) the distance to the target from base piece is determined.

Table 6-8. Determining and Announcing Chart Data (Continued).

STEP	ACTION
11	Determine the number of mils between the head of the arrow on the target grid and the upper left-hand edge of the RDP or the tail of the arrow on the target grid and the lower left-hand edge of the RDP (Figure 6-22). Angle T is determined to the nearest 10 mils.

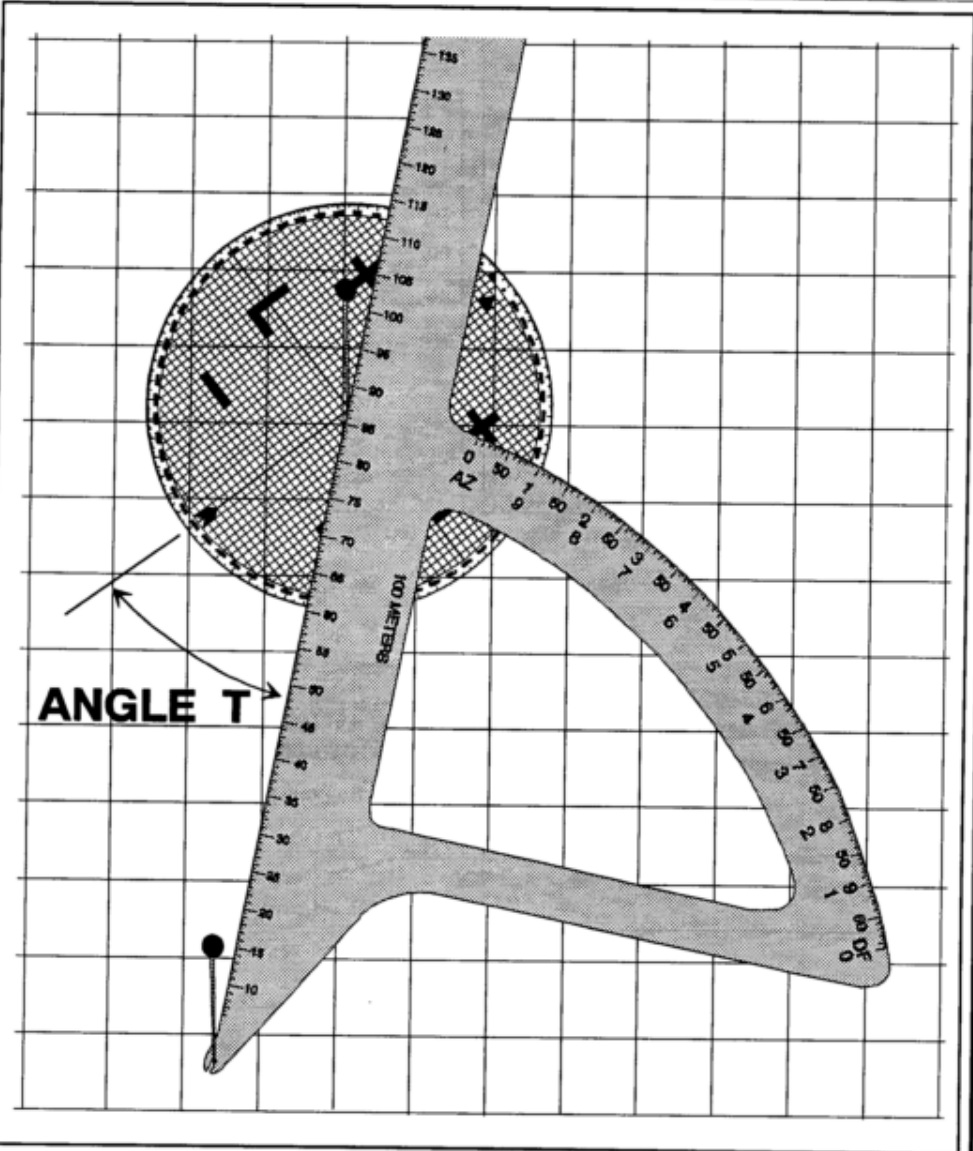
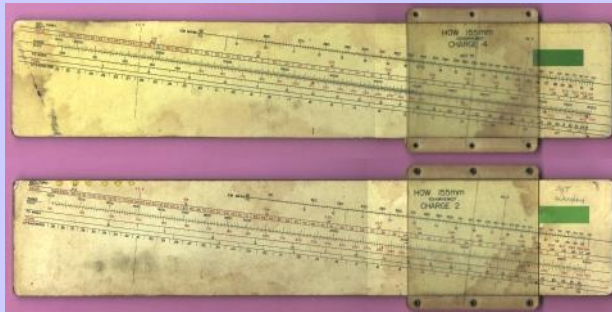


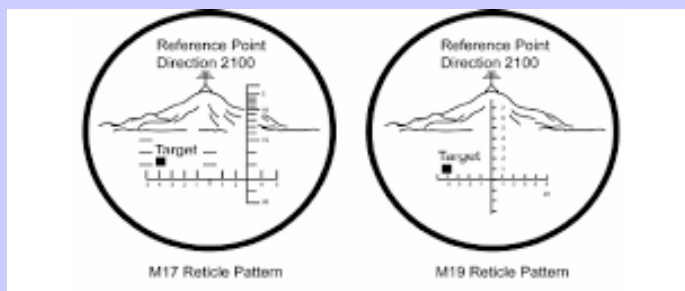
Figure 6-22. Angle T (Tail-To-Tail).

Then its deflection (angle in mils with there being 6,400 mils in a circle) from the howitzer to the target is calculated. With this data slide rules are used to calculate how much powder to use to propel the 98 pound projectile the given distance.

Grafenwöhr continued....



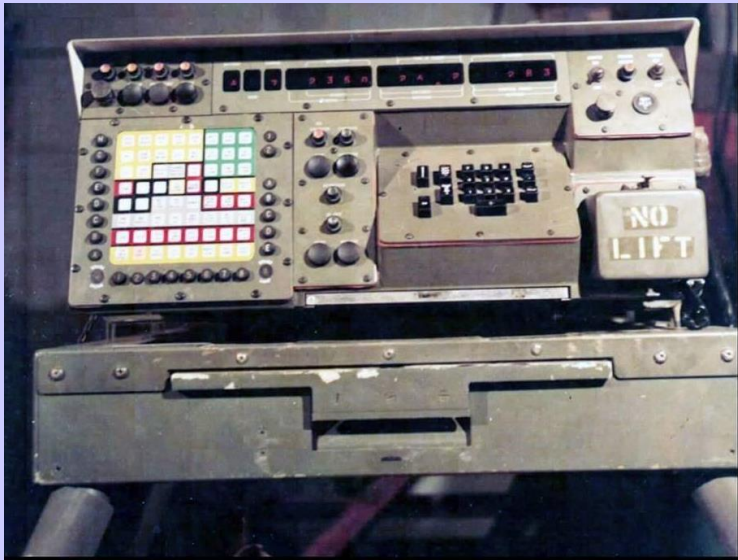
The slide rule also calculates the quadrant (elevation of the tube) for the howitzer. This information is relayed to the howitzer in a very specific firing order. The slide rule takes into account the many variables involved: Drift - the effect of the rotation of the earth while the projectile is in the air; the yaw effect - which I still don't understand; the time of flight (TOF); humidity; temperature; how many coats of paint are on the projectile; and absolutely anything imaginable. When the projectile is fired a stopwatch begins and the FO is notified. At 5 seconds before impact the FO is warned by the code word, "Splash." The FO then begins looking at the target with his binoculars at the ready. Upon impact he looks through the binoculars and determines how far left or right of the target the impact was. His binoculars have a reticle pattern to help him with that calculation.



He must know how far he is from the target because the reticle pattern is scaled in mils. One mil is one meter wide at a distance of 1,000 meters. So, if he is 2,000 meters from the target and his calculations indicate that the impact was 150 mils left of the target he makes a quick mental calculation that he must shift the impact 300 meters right. He makes a SWAG (scientific-wild-ass-guess) as to how far short or long the impact was from the target. In the matter of seconds he informs the FDC of the adjustment necessary to bring the next impact even closer to the target. This is called bracketing. If the initial impact was short of the target he wants to be certain that the next impact is long from the target. If his adjustment is right 300, add 200 and the next impact is right of the target and long then mathematically he is within 300 and 200 meters of the target. A good FO can bracket the target to within 50 meters in just two or three shots. The killing radius of the projectile is 50 meters so that is our goal.

In the 1960s this process evolved with the introduction of the M18 FADAC (FA Digital Automatic Computer). It was a behemoth in its size and weight. It was 5 cubic feet in size and weighed 175 pounds.

Grafenwöhr continued....



Using vacuum tubes technology, with its memory being temporarily saved on a rotating disk like a record album. The operator would input the met data then the range to the target, direction to the target, and the firing data would be produced. In theory, FADDAC was supposed to be quicker and more accurate. When everything worked to perfection. But perfection is elusive. Most of our FDC guys really hated using FADAC and would always argue that they could compute the data faster manually than the machine. Most of the time they were right!

In the 1970s the Tactical Fire System (TACFIRE) was introduced. Computers had changed tremendously so some of the firing computer components were much smaller. The FO had a Digital Message Device (DMD) that sped up their part of the process.



The main advantage is that the information was sent by a digital burst of radio signals. This meant that the transmission of information could not be understood by anyone outside the secure network. This information then went to the million dollar, climate-controlled TACFIRE van. The battalion FDO would then decide who got the mission and would transmit the information to them. The battery FDC would then send the information to the base piece. When everything operated as designed this process now took a fraction of the charts and darts time and was secure. Unfortunately, things didn't always work properly and the battalion communications officer (CESO) was always in trouble.

Grafenwöhr continued....



We all found that TACFIRE really took some getting used to down on the gunline. For example, before TACFIRE, when a Fire Mission came to the Battery, one could hear the Battery Fire Direction center shouting over the Land line "FIRE MISSION!" followed by announcing the firing data for the gun. After fielding TACFIRE, the missions were sent to the gun and received on a device called a Gun Display Unit which was about the size of a lunch box. The electrifying words "FIRE MISSION!" were now replaced with a ringing bell like with a telephone and then silence as the data was displayed on the device.

The mystery and complexity of computing firing data is truly remarkable. By today's standards these methods are extremely antiquated and nearly medieval.

Next time: Laying the battery and gun procedures at Graf.

To assist in the writing please send me your recollections and stories so that I can incorporate them into the newsletter. Send the information to bdunham53@yahoo.com. I expect to hear a lot of untold/forgotten stories to appear. Please remember that the statute of limitations has long since expired so we are all safe.

2-28 Trivia

EVERYBODY LOVES TRIVIA.....Especially when it is 2-28 TRIVIA!!!

Trivia questions are a great way to bring back so many memories of the time we spent in 2-28 and in Ansbach, Germany!!! A huge **THANK YOU** and **SHOUT OUT** to Tommy Houston for providing the Trivia questions/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!!!



2-28 Trivia Military Related



1. 2-28 FA was part of the 210th Field Artillery Brigade which was located at Herzo Artillery Base near Nurenburg. The 210 Brigade was part of VII Corps Artillery. Where was the Headquarters for VII Corps Artillery located?
2. In V Corps they defended West Germany in the famous Fulda Gap. What was the name of the same type of terrain feature in the VII Corps GDP where 2-28 would fight if WW3 happened?
3. What was the official name of our Ammo Storage area at URLAS?
4. What name was given to the soldiers who had the duty of manning the front gate at Bleidron?
5. How many charge increments are in a Green Bag Powder?
6. How many charge increments are in a "Red Bag" powder?
7. As a howitzer gunner, after the gun was laid, you were supposed to establish three external aiming points. What were they?
8. What level of MOPP is where you have on all your chemical gear except gloves?
9. Most often hot chow was brought to the firing point from Service battery in what type of container.
10. Why were soldiers not required to pull KP at the Bleidron Mess Hall during the 80s?

****Answers can be found on Page 46...**

2-28 Trivia Community Related

1. Name one of the gas stations where you could use Gas coupons on the economy?
2. The Germans had their own form of Marti Gras or carnival season. It starts on the 11th day of November at exactly 11minutes after 11am and ends at the stroke of midnight on Shroud Tuesday - often referred to as Fat Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). What was this season called?
3. We did not have a Hospital in the Ansbach Community. Anything of any seriousness was sent to the Hospital in Nurenburg. May of our children were born at that Hospital. What was the name of the US Army Hospital in Nurenburg?
4. On what Kaserne was the "BIG PX" in Nurenburg?
5. What was the name of the German community pool facilities?
6. In most small German Gausthauses, one table, normally in a corner, was reserved for locals who regularly visited the Gausthaus. What was the name given to this table?
7. What the first phrase of German that most of us learned in Head Start?
8. On what Kaserne was the Class VI store in the Ansbach Military Community?
9. In the event of General War in Europe, the dependent families would be evacuated back to the States. What was the name of that process?
10. On what Kaserne was the Ansbach Community Chapel located?



With each issue of the Newsletter, the Editorial Staff will highlight members of the Association. To gather 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 interviews are with: Colonel (Retired) Richard Swain, Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Larry Taylor, Wayne E. Pfeffer, and Kay Marksberry.



**Interview with Colonel (Retired) Richard Swain and Wife Nancy
Battalion Commander 1981-1983
Interviewed by Tommy Houston**

When were you assigned to the Battalion, What was your MOS/Jobs?

I believe it was May 1981 when I took command. I had arrived in Germany in August or September 1980, from the History Department at West Point. I came to the 2/28th from the VII Corps IG Office in Stuttgart. Prior to that, I had served only in light towed artillery, twice in the First Cavalry Division in Vietnam, and twice in the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. NOV 84 to Mar 87 - FDO and XO Bravo before departing to be the Aide to VII Corps Artillery Commander.

Who was your boss(s)?

Col, later LTG, Jerry Granrud. He was the commander of the 210th Brigade at Herzo Artillery Base. I remain a fan. I always was confident he had my back.

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

The tank trail -- I have often said that Graf was an existential experience. The moment you hit the tank trail, it was like you had never left one continuous deployment. I went to Graf after the Gulf War at the invitation of the 11th ACR to talk about my observations as Third Army Historian. There were two battalions on Graf. The tank trail was empty. The Maintenance Shops that USAREUR had built in the mid 80s were abandoned. It was my first recognition that I was an artifact from another era.

What was your toughest time when you were in the Battalion?

I have three.

-In one of the Batteries there was a rape of a local German girl by five soldiers in the barracks. It happened just after I took command and was the occasion of my first meeting with the new Corps Artillery Commander who had his headquarters in Augsburg. The Corps Artillery Commander ‘recommended’ I relieve the battery commander ‘as an example for the others’. (No kidding.) I declined to do that, but acknowledged he had authority to order the relief if he believed it necessary--of the battery commander or me for that matter. He told me he would let me know. I told my wife Nancy not to put up any more pictures. The soldiers were court martialed and went to the prison at Leavenworth. I never really established good communications with the Corps Artillery Commander, or his successor, which was really dumb on my part. Protocol required I notify him of bad news. It never occurred to me to let him know about the good things we did.

Concerning the C Battery rape: it was clear to me that there was a problem with control of the barracks. In my inquiries, I was told that heretofore the Corps Artillery had operated under the post-Vietnam notion that bad behavior by soldiers was a leadership failure, as was administrative separation of unproductive soldiers. I set out to do something about that, to try and make the Battery Commander’s job easier by unloading unproductive soldiers. The Army policies were evolving then, and almost immediately thereafter it became fairly easy to use incidents involving repetitive alcohol abuse as grounds for administrative separation. I did just that.

-That led to my second toughest time, the administrative discharge of an NCO who had been with me in the 82d Airborne Division six years before for whom I had real respect and affection. His MOS was 13F Fire support, and having been in light Artillery his whole career he was like a fish out of water with 155 Mechanized Artillery--and he drank too much. I really thought the world of him, but did not feel able to make a special case based on prior experience, and he went away to discharge. Still breaks my heart. He should have ended up a sergeant major. Really smart talented guy.

-The lost A Battery Rifle - not its loss, but telling my wife I wouldn’t be home for Christmas, because I had to send A Battery back to the field near Munich to look for it and, if I had troops in the field for Christmas, that was where I belonged. As it happened, the rifle was found by the time I got to Munich.

What did you like most about your time in the Battalion?

1. The officers, NCOs, and the men.
2. Service in Germany.
3. Service in the 210th Brigade with Col Granrud and LTC Bill Ott who was Bde XO and later commanded one of the other Battalions. For my money, Bill Ott was the greatest Field Artillery officer of my generation. A thorough professional and role model. An officer I still look up to today. He passed away some years ago and is buried at Fort Sill, in the Post Cemetery.

What did you do after Duty Hours:

Tried to keep the family happy.

Who is the person you remember most from your assignment there?

No individual. It would be a parade. But probably this Parade would be led by the two Chief Warrant Officers, Pat Patty and Bill Savage, I served with during the majority of my tour.

What is the most enjoyable thing you can remember from your assignment there?

Taking the family to Ansbach for dinner on the economy.

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

I tried to stay in Germany after command, but personnel guys sent me to the Pentagon to the DAIG. Punishment for my accumulated sins. Thankfully I was picked up for Senior Service College after 18 months, and went to the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) at CGSC for SSC and instructor duty.

I Stayed at Leavenworth. I was promoted to COL in 1987, and became Director of Combat Studies Institute in 1988, then the College history department.

I was Third Army Historian for the Gulf War and authored the book "Lucky War, the Third Army in Desert Storm".

I retired from the Army in 1994. I worked as a civilian instructor at SAMS for five years running the SSC Program from 94-99 and I worked as contract historian for USAREUR/SFOR Commander (Monty Meigs) doing a leadership study on the role of USAREUR Commanders in Bosnia (99-01). Next I went to West Point from 2002-2007 as Professor of Officership on invitation of General Fred Franks. Finally, I worked on a project for TRADOC teaching Operational Design from 2007 to 2012.

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

Former commanders should be honorary members of unit associations and nothing else. Commanders come and go. Unit Associations are for the unit members who suffer through the best intentions and inadequacies of the commanders of the moment.



**Interview with CSM (Retired) Larry Taylor
Gunnery Sergeant - A and B Battery / Chief of Firing Battery - B Battery**

Message from Larry Taylor:

I was proud when asked to tell/write times for the May 2020, 28th FA Association Newsletter. When I was asked; I had doubts and really had to think about it, it has been 38 years since leaving Ansbach Community, Bleidorn Kaserne and 2nd Battalion 28th FAR aka 228 FA. After talking with Pat Malherek and reviewing the questions I was going to be asked, I said yes, I would love to. What a privilege and opportunity it is to tell my story of my time in 2/28 FA and Bleidorn Kaserne and the city of Ansbach. I hope I do not offend anyone with bad or incorrect pronouncement of their names, but remember it has been 38 plus years ago. I say this; this is a brotherhood/friendship (28th FA Association) for life, good friends, and old soldiering with a mission to enjoy what it was in the 1980s. When I say mission, I am talking about 28th FA Association that you/we have, and all the battery Red Legs. I hope I will articulate this well from my time in 2/28.

When were you assigned to the Battalion, what was your Battery, MOS, and Job assignments?

I was already in Germany for thirteen months as a member of the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR), when I was reassigned to the battalion in January 1981. I was assigned to A Battery from January -September 1981 then reassigned to B Battery from September 1981-January 1984. My rank at the time was Sergeant First Class (SFC). My primary MOS was 13B40 with a secondary as a 13F40. I was a Gunnery Sergeant and Chief of Firing Battery.

What was your marital status and where did you live?

My wife Carolyn and I had one son while in Germany, Eric, we lived in the Obereichenbach community of Ansbach. Eric followed my footsteps in the Army and we both served on the street together at Fort Bragg. He served in 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, 3/319th FA, with four combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division and USASOC and U.S. Special Forces Command.

Who were your bosses and what do you remember about them?

The battalion leadership while I was in the battalion consisted of LTC Richard Swain and CSM Bobby Salt. My most vivid memory of LTC Swain was the time he chewed me out while I was in A Battery due to the misbehavior of some of our soldiers. I came to realize that LTC Swain was correct and appreciated his insight as a leader. CSM Salt, what is there to say about the Battalion Command Sergeant Major. He was one of a kind. He was hard as nails and rocks! CSM Salt called me Airborne; we served on the street together at Fort Bragg in the 82nd Airborne Division and 20th Engineer Brigade. He was a Combat Engineer by trade/MOS. This was a time in the Army when a Command Sergeant Major could serve in another Branch/MOS if needed. The battalion needed a CSM and 2/28 FA had a Combat Engineer Battalion CSM. I have a funny story about CSM Salt. During PT, he would find a spot to stand and wait on the units while they were running and when he saw the unit running/coming towards him, he would start double timing in place like he had just completed his run. He would greet and motivate the unit and soldiers as they run past his position. Then he would stop and light up a cigarette and wait on the next unit.

When I was assigned to A Battery, I worked with the following soldiers. The battery commander was 1LT Jeff Myers. I remember him as a great soldier who demanded discipline in the battery. He loved to discuss how the New Army Standardization program was coming on board in the Army. He was a big fan of rugby.

The battery executive officer (XO) was 1LT Romney. One thing I remember about LT Romney was that A Battery had the fastest time during a battalion ammo upload exercise and he had bragging rights within the battalion. He was so proud of that! LT Romney was a fan of planes and flying. The USAF F-15 Eagle was his thing, there was something about that F-15 Eagle. I think Lt Romney really wanted to fly or be a pilot.

The fire direction officer (FDO) was LT Mike Defferding. He was a very straight forward type of a guy, a well disciplined young West Point officer. Years later in 1995, I was talking with one of my battalion commanders who told me that Mike Defferding was a classmate of his at West Point.

When I was transferred to B Battery, the commander was CPT Eulis Madewell, Aka: Madwell. Coming from A Battery, it was a rude awakening. I was just getting our team together in A Battery. I moved to B Battery and after my sit down with CPT Madewell, 1SG Desmond O'Keeffe, the XO and Smoke, I was glad to be in B Battery. I saw a spark there that I wanted to be a part of.



***1SG Desmond O'Keeffe
B Battery***

CPT Madewell was tough, knowledgeable, 100% FM 22-100 old style military leadership (an authoritarian) and a great American, just the kind of commander I was used to, mean, tough as hell, and “Mad”. This was a true professional. I have another story to tell regarding CPT Madewell. After CPT Madewell gave up command and became the Battalion S3, he selected me to attend a course in Munich for an additional duty for the battalion. I asked my new battery commander, CPT John (I don’t remember his last name) and 1SG O’Keeffe why me, I am not a staff NCO. They didn’t know why but told me to stop complaining, that Munich in August is beautiful so go enjoy myself. I went to see CPT Madewell to find out why I was selected out of all others NCOs in the battalion. I told him I had a firing battery to train, and he replied with a smart and cool voice that the battery was well trained and wouldn’t “miss a beat”, and he needed someone young and full of “piss and vinegar” or words to that effect. I stopped and said thank you sir. That is the one example of the many things CPT Madewell did for me that positively impacted my career. Eulis (“Madwell”) Madewell, thank you Sir.

The B Battery XO was 1LT Steve Shaffer. He was my battle buddy/wingman. Steve Shaffer was one of a kind, smart, intelligent, clean-cut and very proficient. We were a good team together, very good at being good cop/bad cop with our firing battery teams, NCOs and soldiers. We were a team as the Firing Battery Headquarter Element. Steve Shaffer was an enlisted soldier and was selected to attend West Point. He must have burned that place out, and he was quite but deadly. A story I like to tell about LT Shaffer is when Bravo Battery was selected to have the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General John W. Vessey, visit our position at a firing point in Graf. We had to make sure the battery looked “pretty as a picture”, as we were about to get a “bucket load of brass” (chain of command) with him. General Vessey arrived and sure enough he had a “bucket load of brass” in tow.

General Vessey asked right off the bat where is the First Sergeant. He wanted 1SG O’Keeffe and I to take him through the firing line. General Vessey was a field artillery officer so he knew what he was looking at. We joked that 1SG O’Keeffe was one of his soldiers and both he and General Vessey were “old as dirt”. There was another joke that LT Shaffer liked to tell that I won’t repeat here. The visit went extremely well and LT Shaffer was really proud of the battery’s performance.

When I left B Battery the commander was CPT Tom Darnell. What can I say about this guy? A friend and great commander. He was doing things right, and I wish I could have stayed there to support his command. 1SG Walker was the first sergeant and 1LT Jay Hartmann was the XO.



***1LT Jay Hartmann
XO, B Battery***

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

Graf could be one of life’s traumatic experiences. Some units call it The Fields, or Down Range. There is no other words like Graf! Think of railhead, headaches and anything could go wrong in Graf. We could not wait to get back to Bleidorn Kaserne (just kidding)! Graf could be a life or death sentence to an NCOs or officers military career. Like I said, Graf was life or death, especially if your unit was untrained in field artillery gunnery skills. I’ll say this; there were butterflies in your stomach, praying that as that first round left the tube it hit the impact area. I would tell my section chiefs, your knees buckled until the first round is fired and fired safety. It could be a traumatic experience if things went south while training. After the rotation we’d find out how well you are trained. Once we had a mishap in Graf and the battalion commander took all my ammo and the rest of the time at Graf we just dry fired. We still made every movement, occupied every firing point as if we were still firing. One thing I can say, we got a lot of good training in. More than 85-90% of real-estate in Graf seemed to be used by field artillery units. I remember the firing point shuffle every morning between 0700-0800, how the tank trails were full of field artillery units changing firing points. I believe there was “fear” in every leader at some point while firing in Graf, fear of firing out of the impact area. One of the great things about Graf was heading back to the rear to base camp after training was completed, to Camp Kasserine, Algier , or Tent City to clean up and to get out of the of Grafenwoehr mud. The weather in Graf always seemed to be bad. It did not matter if it was summer, fall, winter or spring. Wait five minutes and you have a new season, sometimes in the same day. One of the most fun things about Grafenwoehr was when we went to base camp you may get to see old friends in other units from previous assignments. The worse was Courtesy Patrol and dealing with the drunk, lonely Graf soldiers.

What were the toughest times you remember in the Battalion?

The worse times were while assigned Courtesy Patrol at Graf dealing with the drunk, fighting soldiers when they came out of the training area. There was a club near the railhead which was the worse! Another tough time was the time we were at the NATO 23 site for certification prior to taking over as the guard element. During our certification to assume duties at NATO 23 site, the battery was called out for a training mission. SSG Kellum’s section was bringing up the rear squad (aka Rear Security Squad) and I was in the rear communication vehicle. The battery had taken all the M548 Ammo Carrier’s track skirting off for this tour of duty at NATO 23. SSG Kellum was using the vehicle tracks to step on to vehicle instead of the vehicle step and told his driver to drive. SSG Kellum’s foot moved along the track and was caught in the front sprockets. It pulled his foot in to the sprocket, pulling it half way off. The rest of the vehicle convoy had left except for SSG Kellum, the NCOIC of the NATO site, and me. When I saw what happened, we stopped my vehicle and I ran over to SSG Kellum’s vehicle. I had to hold and balance SSG Kellum alone with his security team force still on the M548. The crew helped support SSG Kellum and myself. His driver was in shock and could not move because of the screaming from SSG Kellum. With his crew and NATO NCOIC, we had to slowly back the M548 and drive while SSG Kellum was screaming from the pain. The battery continued to perform their duty in the securing of the NATO Site even during this incident. The battery was on

and had no idea what was happening at base camp. The NATO site NCOIC called in a MEDEVAC and we were able to save SSG Kellum's life, his foot, and his military career. It hurt to have had a soldier under my "watch" seriously injured.

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

What I enjoyed the most about our time in the battalion was Bleidorn Kaserne and the Ansbach community. Christmas time, going downtown for other events, and if it snowed, those were story book ales and memories. Our time in Ansbach was some of my best in Europe.

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

The people I remembered most are: 1LT Steve Shaffer, B Battery XO, CPT Madewell, B Battery BC, 1SG O'Keeffe, B Battery 1SG, SFC Sunny Baumgartner, SFC Donaldson, and 1SG Walker, friend and colleague and battle buddy. SFC Ret (PFC/SGT) Warren Fields, what a soldier colleague. I saw a lot of myself in this young soldier and we served in two other assignments after 2/28 FA . SSG Kermit Scott, SSG Hill, SSG Freddy Tovar, SFC Mike Dodds, SSG Kellum, SSG Leroy Anderson, SGT John Spellman, SGT Smith, SGT Henry Reese, FDC Chief Rodney Anderson, aka (SSG Smart Ass) best of best FDC Chiefs, SSG Jones aka (Pac Man), Specialist Reginald Willis, Ira Mack, SFC Al. Jeter, the Bn S4 NCOIC, Big SFC Young Mess Daddy and SPC Mason our battery Jokester, and SSG Troy and Gills from A Battery. SSG Kellum and SGT Reese followed me to the 24th ID, Fort Stewart and were assigned to the same battalion and battery. I also have fond memories of CPT Tommy Houston and 1LT Mike Fortanbary, a young lieutenant trying to be all he can be.

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

1SG Desmond O'Keeffe had the greatest impact on my life and career. He was always known as First Sergeant or Top O'Keeffe. 1SG O'Keeffe had a lot of trust and confidence in me; he told me that after he got to know me a little better and I became the B Battery Chief of Smoke. 1SG O'Keeffe challenged me daily, walked with me, talked with me, mentored me. He allowed me to do things beyond my skill level. 1SG O'Keeffe was a true, professional field artilleryman, a leader, soldier and teacher. He would challenge me daily on many of things, "What If", what if this would happen, what if you were XO, Commander or 1SG. He challenged me on my next steps of greater responsibilities in the military and for me to challenge the noncommissioned officers and soldiers in the same manner. One thing that I have never forgot was this; Procedures or Regulations and Perceptions, (perception is a way of regarding, understanding, or interpreting something). He emphasized that there had to be a proper balance between leadership, policies and procedures, but when in doubt, leadership was paramount. I took that information and knowledge with me for the rest of my Army career and life to this day, to challenge young leaders and my sons. 1SG O'Keeffe said that a challenge is a motivator and stimulus, for someone to do perform at a level beyond the normal expectations.

What is the funniest thing you can remember from your time there?

This could be a long story, but I will keep it short. It was a Graf rotation, spring time, beautiful days and nights. We had one of those fire missions that were a priority target DO NOT LOAD, a Cat 1 priority target mission. You fire other mission/targets and you come back to that priority mission/target. We sat on this priority target for a while, long enough for one of my sections to forget we did not have a HE round loaded but have the data set on a target. It was a beautiful warm and dark night, with no moon at all. Bottom line, the mission came down fire Priority Target #, and the gun crews were doing their thing, checking data and safety to fire the mission. All of the howitzers fired but one and reported back to FDC that they had done so. The section that did not had a big flash and flame of fire came out the tube that lit the sky like daylight over the firing point, and at that moment all you could hear and see was a mad dash of soldiers away from the howitzer. The section forgot to load a round when the data was announced and they fired the powder charge only, and that was what caused the flash and flames and fire in the sky. The funniest thing was all you could hear was the sound of feet running in the dark from that gun section towards the tree line. They sounded like a horse or cattle stampede coming towards. I knew just what had happened, been there before while testing the M198 at Fort Bragg. I ran toward the gun with a fire extinguisher to put the flames out because the camouflage net was on fire, and as I began putting the flames out, I could hear the section members and other crews saying in the back ground, "Smoke is the Man! Smoke is the Man!" for saving the equipment (the M109 A3, M548 Carrier and ammo, the personal equipment and weapons. I still get a chuckle remembering the stampede of soldiers running away from the howitzer.

Give us an overview of your life after Bleidorn?

After 2/28 FA and Bleidorn, I think I had only been in the Army about 12 years. I wanted to be a drill sergeant but this was my first overseas assignment. I submitted a DA Form 4187 Personnel Action and that is how I came to Germany. After my four years in Europe, I was now promotable; I knew there was no drill sergeant assignment now. I was assigned to 75th Infantry (Rangers) Regiment and with the 24th ID, (Mech), Hunter Army Airfield Savannah and Fort Stewart Georgia as a Battalion Fire Support Chief (FIST). After about three years with 1/75th and 1st 13th FA, I was assigned to V Corp Artillery, 42nd FA Bde, 3rd 79th FA, reflagged 2nd 32nd FA (Lance and MLRS) as an E-8 First Sergeant. From there I was selected to attend the Sergeants Major Academy in August 1989 and was assigned to US Army Sergeant Major Academy Class 34, Fort Bliss TX. After the Sergeants Major Academy, I was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC, first as an E8 First Sergeant and Master Sergeant before I was promoted to Sergeant Major. I was then assigned to 18th FA BDE Airborne (Steel Rain), 82nd Airborne Divarty, and deployed to Operations Desert Shield and Storm in August 1990. While at Fort Bragg I did a few inter-post transfers between XVIII Corp Arty, 18th FA Bde Abn, XVIII Airborne Corps HQ S-3 to heal from an injury from airborne operations. I was the battalion command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment (Air Assault) from 1997-1999. I was then assigned to the 18th FA BDE and XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery staff. In 2002 I retired from the US Army as a Command Sergeant Major with a little over 30 years of active military service. I continued my government service after retiring from the military as a civilian government employee, Operation Specialist with the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). After 28 months,

I moved to the XVIII Airborne Corps to work as a Strategist Operation Planner/Specialist. After about 15 years and a few months with the Corps I retired in April, 2019. I retired with a little over 46 years, almost five decades of my life dedicated to the US Army and my country. People always ask, and I would tell them, I was good at what I did, and that was soldiering! I have been retired from the government for the past year. Carolyn and I have been married for 49 years, and we have two sons and a daughter in law, Eric and Kim Taylor, and Aaron Taylor. Eric is a retired Army SFC and a full time student at East Carolina University and Aaron completed college and now is in the USAF assigned with USAF B 2 Bomb Squadron, still severing our country. I am enjoying my life with Carolyn and our family, with “no clocks or watches to worry about”. God has been good to me. I thank God for giving me this life, family, and you guys, my fellow soldiers. I am a regular at Golden Corral for their “Early Bird” special from 2-4pm. I am a good husband, father, church member, and a member of the Fort Bragg Chapter of the Sergeants Major Association and Church Male Choir.

What would you like to see with our Association?

I think the Association is a good thing. I say this because I am a member in about four or five other associations from my tenure in the Army and the male choir at church. I just can't keep up with them, but when we come together and see each other, there is nothing but joy, fun, lies and war stories! The camaraderie brings joy to hearts of these men and women. I enjoy the friendship and memories of people that made an impact on my life and career and I feel I have done the same to help others in their career. I say it was a blessing to put this Association together. Do not let it, The Association fall apart or die. I plan to attend the reunion and monument dedication at Fort Sill. I have not been there since 1997. It will be a great trip for Carolyn and I, especially since she has never been there. I look forward to seeing many of you at Fort Sill so we can swap war stories from our days in the 2/28 FA.

(Remember the Association is to build camaraderie, promote high morale and esprit-de-corps among its members and the bottom line, Enjoy God Blessing and have fun.)

The association is only good as Us/The Team make it.

******Camaraderie, a military term: Mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time Together***

In closing:

While stationed in Southern Germany during the Cold War, we, 2nd Bn 28th FA, and 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment had a Real World Mission daily, 24/7, 365 days, 24 hours a day. Our Graf (Grafenwoehr) Training was real world, war time training events. 228th FA, 210th FA Brigade and 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment was poised for contingency operation associated with the mission of the

US Army, VII Corps, VII Corps Artillery, 210th FA BDE
“We Support The Line”

Grafenwoehr/Graf, Hohenfels, Czechoslovakian/Czech Border, NATO 23, Hoff Border,
Real World Mission

One Team.



**Interview with Wayne E. Pfeffer
Specialist, Computer Operator, Fire Direction Center C Battery**

When were you assigned to the Battalion, what was your Battery, MOS, and Job assignments?

I was assigned to 2-28 in October of 1985 and left in October of 1987. My MOS was 13E and I worked in the Fire Direction Center of C Battery

What was your marital status and where did you live?

I was single and lived on base.

Who were your bosses and what do you remember about them?

Sgt. Graebel was my first section chief. He was the one who saw how good I was with the computer and put me behind it.

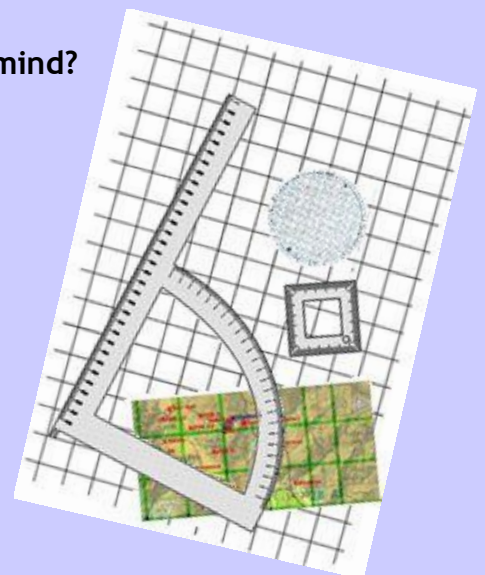
1SG Romero was the 1SG when I left, probably the toughest, but best, 1SG I had.

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

Mud and dust!!!

What did you like best about your assignment to the Battalion?

I enjoyed the times we had battalion competitions. It was always fun working to better yourself and having friendly competition among the batteries. I remember one time in particular. We were going through an ARTEP and there was a wager between the C Battery commander (my battery) and the A battery commander. I wound up losing that ARTEP to the A battery FDC computer guy by one point, one stupid point. I ended up doing push-ups for that.



**Fire Direction Center
Charts**

What did you do after duty hours and when you had time off?

- Toured parts of southern West Germany by rail.
- Went up to Nuremberg almost every weekend.
- Toured Paris
- Went Skiing in Austria

What person do you remember the most from your time in the Battalion?

SP4 Shaun Krautwurst



M577 Command Post Vehicle

Did your assignment to the Battalion have an impact on the rest of your life? If so How and What?

Yes. It taught me to take responsibility for my own actions, to own up to the mistakes I make and to the things that I do correctly. I learned how to deal with difficult situations as well as difficult people.

What was the funniest thing you can remember from your days in Ansbach?

It would probably have to be the day we held a battalion competition out on the quad. One of the games was throwing an iron skillet. I cannot remember his name, he was either chief of smoke or the gunnery sergeant wound up being allowed to rethrow the skillet because of how broken and beaten up it had become over the course of the day. Because of that rethrow, C Battery made a clean sweep of all the games that day.

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

A lot has happened since my days with 2/28. When I got out I went to school for a couple of semesters for computer programming. After that I went to work at a few fast food places and eventually moved up to Moorhead, MN with my girlfriend, Jacki, (now my wife) who went up there for college. Then in August of 1992 we had our son, Isaac. (Named after Newton and Asimov.) After he was born I went back to school for about 2 years and then began working as a computer repair

tech in Fargo, ND. After that we moved back to Alexandria, MN where I took a job as Webmaster for the local newspaper. After that we moved down to the Twin Cities where we bought a house; we stayed there for 19 years. During those years we raised our son and about 12 of his friends from 3rd grade all the way through to graduation. I have worked for many companies, doing various things with computers from software development to database development to data architecture. Currently we are living with my mother-in-law because she needs our assistance and because my health isn't the greatest either. Currently I am working for a company out of Marshall, MN as a database administrator and battling Cirrhosis (non-alcohol related) and a few other health issues that I go to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN for.

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

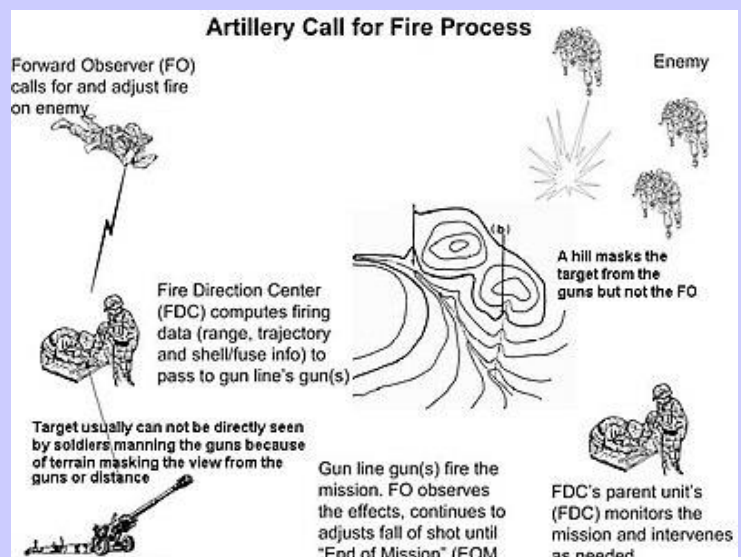
I believe it would be a good idea to have a fund of some sort to assist 2/28 FA soldiers who are in need of assistance. These are hard times, and sometimes confusing times, that we are currently living in and being able to help our fellow soldiers when they need it, I think, would be a good idea.

Cannon Fire Direction Specialist (13E)

A Cannon Fire Direction Specialist is a member of the Army's field artillery team. Artillery are weapons that fire large ammunition or missiles and are used by the Army to support infantry and tank units in combat, as well as protect land and sea forces from air attack. The Cannon Fire Direction Specialist is primarily responsible for leading, supervising or serving as a member of a field artillery cannon unit.

Here are some duties of a Cannon Fire Direction Specialist:

- Establish, maintain and operate communications systems
- Assist in the preparation of computer centers for operation
- Prepare field artillery tactical data systems for operation
- Determine target location using computers or manual calculations





**Interview with Kay Marksberry
Spouse of COL(R) Chaplain Danny Marksberry, HHB**

When were you and your family part of the 2-28 FA? What was your husband's assignment in the battalion?

We were stationed in Ansbach from June 1983-86. Dan was the battalion chaplain.

While in Ansbach, did you have a job? Were you involved with any volunteer activities?

While there, I did volunteer work with the American Red Cross. I was the chairperson of the school volunteers program for teacher aides in classrooms at the Ansbach American Elementary school. I volunteered at the community services, with youth sports, and at the health clinic in Katterbach. I helped coordinate Christmas, Easter, and Halloween parties for the battalion families. I was awarded the Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher on December 1984. I also volunteered in chapel activities, VBS, and various programs. My one hobby and enjoyment was volunteering at the community theater program and participating in several plays.

When you hear Grafenwoehr/Graf, what do you think about?

I would describe in one word: absence. During those training times I was alone in "holding down the fort" with three elementary aged children. Those times could seem endless and exhausting on the home front.

What was your toughest time while your husband was assigned to the battalion?

One memory stands out vividly! At an early morning watch for the school bus pick up, I heard our upstairs stairwell neighbor yelling, "No, no." I saw his young daughter on the stairs above me with a stunned look on her face. I asked if she was ok and she just uttered "my mom." Not knowing the situation, I raced up the stairs, into their apartment to find the mother had attempted suicide. The husband had returned from PT to find her in the bathtub with slits on her wrists and ankles. Before running up stairs, I had yelled to my children to wake Dan who had returned earlier that morning from being out most of the night dealing with a similar situation. The part that stood out was the school bus arriving just as the ambulance was taking the mother out of the building. The bus children staring at this sad scene and the 4 children watching as their mother was taken away was heartbreaking. The story does not end on a sad note. The mother received help and returned to the stairwell and her family. Yet this reinforced the realization of how important it was to establish friendships and connections when in a foreign country, away from extended family and the familiar.

What did you like most about your time in Germany?

The country, the older people who were so gracious to Americans, the food that I miss terribly, the castles, and beautiful churches in each small, individual village. Not to mention driving 100mph on the autobahn!!

What did you and your family do for rest and relaxation?

We enjoyed taking our children into surrounding villages to walk the cobblestone streets, shop in little unique stores, and eat Italian ice. Ice cream was the bribe to pry the kids away from the one AFN English TV station cartoons that were the same each week!! Our sons still talk about spaghetti ice which was found at a little place in Ansbach.

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

The director of the community theatre program, CA Conn. She was a pleasure to work with and I considered her more a friend than the “boss” of the plays.

What was the funniest thing you remember from your days in Ansbach?

One fun thing was the roast we gave Sherri Michaud when they were reassigned back to the states. I got to be the MC of the event and different ladies added their comments. I’ve never forgotten one of the jokes that when Robert saw her credit card bills, his comment would be “I owe, I owe, it’s off to work I go.” That’s when Sherri realized she was on the “hot seat.” I enjoyed tormenting Colonel Michaud. At their retirement party, I dressed in my rabbit costume and had made him a book that I read. His children called him “Robert the rabbit” I don’t remember why. But when I discovered that small nugget of information, I had to rub it in!! What fun!! Another fun time was putting on the “Little Black Dress” play for a luncheon.

Give us an overview of your life (marriage, kids, job, career, etc.) after leaving Ansbach.

After Ansbach, Dan was sent to New Jersey for the Chaplains Advance Course for 6 months, then we were stationed at the Lexington-Bluegrass Army Depot. There had never been a chaplain position at this installation. So Dan had to implement a Chapel space and fledgling program. I was able to assist with decor and some events. The Godsend of that assignment was being in our home state of Kentucky, close to our families. Once we were established, I began college classes in earnest and completed an undergraduate degree in Psychology. Then I completed a Specialist of Psychology degree and entered the workforce as a School Psychologist. I worked in a school district close to where we live for 20 years before retiring. In the meantime, children grew, left home and established families and life on their own.

What would you like to see in our new 28th Field Artillery Association?

I would like to see continued recognition of this battalion, the accomplishments they have made to our country, and maintained contact of the members by reunions and common goals.

***This is the SECOND PART of a three-part series. (Please see the 28th FARA Newsletter - FEB 2020 for PART 1.)**

The "Go to War" Missions of the 2nd Battalion 28th Field Artillery

By Tommy Houston

In Comes the 109



M-109A1 recognizable as an A-1 by not having a Balistic Shield over the Pantel

In the late 1970s the Army began to retire the 175MM Gun. 2-28 FA was then converted to a 155MM Self Propelled Battalion and issued the M-109A1 Howitzer. This conversion was sure a major endeavor for the Battalion for, besides converting to a totally new weapon system, the Battalion became Nuclear Capable along with a change in go to war mission. In the 1980s the M-109A1s were replaced with M-109A2s.



210th Field Artillery Brigade Patch

It was also during this time that the Army established Field Artillery Brigades from what had been Field Artillery Groups. This was more than just a name change because Field Artillery Brigades would now have FA Battalions permanently assigned to the Brigade. Thus, the Battalion took off its VII Corps Patches and sewed on the new 210th Brigade Patch.

**"Drink a little bit, smoke a little bit,
follow the CAV"**

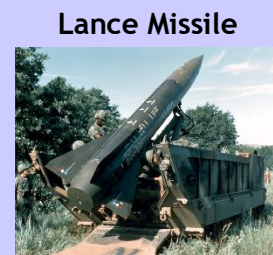


2nd Armored Cavalry Patch

The General Defense Plan of the VII Corps became more specific during the late 70s and 80s. It was common in the US Army doctrine at the time that each of the US Corps would use their Armored Cavalry Regiments to fight in what is known as a covering force mission. A covering force was charged with being the lead unit in the Corps and engaging the first echelon regiments and divisions of the Warsaw Pact in order to slow down and attrite them in order to give the Divisions in the main battle area of the Corps time to prepare a deliberate defense, trading terrain for time while still engaging Warsaw Pact Units.



M-110A2 8 inch SP
Howitzer



Lance Missile

In the case of VII Corps this covering force mission fell upon the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. To accomplish this mission the 210th Field Artillery Brigade, to which the 2-28 FA belonged, was allocated to the 2nd ACR. Other Battalions, besides the 2-28 FA in the Brigade at the time, was the 3-17 FA (Later 3-5 FA) which was a 203MM SP Battalion, the 3-37FA, also a 203MM SP BN and the 2-377th FA which was a Lance Missile Battalion. All these Battalions were Nuclear Capable.

“Battle Stations”, the 2nd ACR Plan

During those years the Cavalry referred to the General Defense Plan or OPLAN 33001 as “Battle Stations”. This plan included all the units supporting the Regiment in its covering force mission. As the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for the 2nd Cavalry, the 210th Brigade was responsible for allocating all Field Artillery assets in the 2nd ACR sector which included the Howitzer Batteries that were organic to the 2nd Armored Cavalry's subordinate squadrons.

Over the years, many different units, besides the 210th Brigade were assigned to support the 2nd ACR and their mission, most of these coming from Corps units. Over the years these included a Mechanized Task Force from 1st Armored Division, a Combat Engineer Battalion (82nd Engineers, the “Blue Babes”), Attack Helicopters from the Corps Aviation Brigades and Air Defense Units.



AH-1 Cobra from the
Aviation Squadron



The Regiment along with the 210th Brigade that included our Battalion was responsible for a sector of Germany known as the “Hof Corridor”. This was a Division level avenue of approach

which ran from the then border city of Hof south to Bayreuth, to Nuremburg and Stuttgart. The Hof Corridor was the smaller version of what was commonly referred to as the Fulda Gap.

How the Regiment would fight this battle changed many times over the years but basically the plan had two of the Regiment's ground squadrons (1st Squadron from Bindlach and 2nd Squadron from Bamberg) forward with the 3rd Squadron (based in Amberg) in reserve or as the counterattack force.

The Field Artillery Organization for combat changed many times over the years as well, but generally the Howitzer Batteries from the Cavalry were placed under the operational control of the subordinate Battalions of the 210th Brigade. For example, when the 2-28 Field Artillery was in Direct Support of 1st Squadron, the 1st HOW Battery was under the operational control of 2-28.

One strange mission that affected the Battalion, and A Battery 2-28 in particular, concerned a Regimental sized avenue of approach that came into the 2ACR's sector called the Kronach Valley approach. The mission to defend this avenue of approach was an on-order mission given to the Regiment's Combat Aviation Squadron. To support the Air Cavalry, A Battery 2-28 was assigned the mission. One of the former BC's of A Battery, Jim Snitker recalls that if war happened, he would be sitting on a Regimental avenue of approach with no ground forces in front of him. If there was weather bad enough that the helicopters could not fly, then it would be A Battery vs a Warsaw Pact Motorized Rifle Regiment!

Sick Call

The following Veterans or Family Members are/or have been infirmed.

Please contact the Chaplain if you know of any more.

We want to make sure they know we care and are thinking of them.

***Tommy Houston - Hospitalized, surgery, back home and recuperating**

***Harry Broaddus - Medical Issues**

***Jerry Taylor - Hospitalized**

***Willy Salary - 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.



**Command Sergeant
Major David Stewart**
Battalion Headquarters



Krista Stewart
Wife of
CSM David Stewart



**First Sergeant
"Sonny" Bumgardner**
A Battery and
Service Battery



Ann Salary
Wife of
First Sergeant Salary



SFC John Spellman
B Battery



**First Sergeant
Ed Carmichael**
Headquarters Battery



Barbara Ann Carmichael
Wife of First Sergeant
Ed Carmichael, HHB



**First Sergeant
Russel Meinke**
HHB and
Service Battery



**Sergeant First Class
Earl "Cornbread" Jones**
C Battery and
B Battery



Cathy Lange
Wife of Major
Paul Lange, HHB



Linda Smith
Wife of
Sergeant First Class
Bob Smith
C Battery



**Master Sergeant
Peter Volin**
HHB



**First Sergeant
Desmond O'Keefe**
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 Bereivement 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 attendign the service.
- Contact President of the Association to send a letter of condolence to the family.
- 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.

(HHB includes the Battalion Staff)

Total Membership: 60

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



24



4



10



23

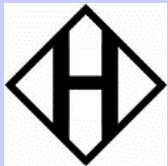


6

Corporate Donations

(Donations of \$1,000 or Greater)

Diamond H Timber LLC



Timber LLC

Together in Hope



Bar S Meats



General Dynamics Land Systems
Of Sterling Heights, Michigan



Individual Donations

Base Piece Donations

(Donations of \$500 or Greater)

*Tommy Houston

Flank Piece Donations

(Donations of Less than \$500)

*John Donahue

*John "The Box" Williams

Brick Fundraising



Customized Brick Sample

The 28 FARA is in the process of designing and installing a monument at Ft Sill commemorating our unit. When our monument is dedicated in the Fort Sill Centennial Park, it will be surrounded by brick mementos that will help, in part, to tell the story of our special unit and its soldiers. These customized bricks will ensure that the soldiers and family members of the 28th Field Artillery are honored through a lasting tribute that will be on the grounds of the home of the Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

More information about how to order a brick, can be found on the
28th Field Artillery Regiment Association website at <http://28fara.org/Donate.html>

Listed on the next page are the people who actually purchased bricks. The list does not necessarily represent who the bricks were purchased “for” or “in behalf of”.



28th FARA BRICK CLUB



Customized Brick Sample

More information about how to order a brick, can be found on the
28th Field Artillery Regiment Association website at <http://28fara.org/Donate.html>

Listed below are the people who actually purchased bricks. The list does not necessarily represent who the bricks were purchased “for” or “in behalf of”.

4/23/2019	Bill Dunham X 2
4/23/19	Bill Dunham
4/26/2019	Richard Swain
5/10/2019	Ricky Earleywine
5/13/2019	Martin Scheeher (BD)
5/13/2019	Martin W Scheeher
5/27/2019	John Williams
5/29/2019	Bill Dunham
7/21/2019	Ralph Ripley
7/22/2019	Thomas Houston
7/24/2019	George Hardin
8/3/2019	Thomas Thornton
8/12/2019	Stephen Elle
8/16/2019	James Snitker
8/18/2019	Richard Swain
9/2/2019	Mark Fairbotham
9/8/2019	Ralph Ripley
10/15/2019	Shari Reinemann
10/17/2019	John Snead
10/18/2019	John Hartman
10/26/2019	Patrick Malherek
10/26/2019	Earl Jones (PM)
11/8/2019	William Savage
11/16/2019	Allan Cupicciotti
12/11/2019	Gary Cheek
12/19/2019	Chris Dolan



1/2/2020	Charles Moretz X 2
1/7/2020	Thomas Houston
1/25/2020	Barbara Pollock
1/29/2020	Richard Swain
2/1/2020	William Dunham
2/2/2020	Danny Marksberry
2/6/2020	Danny Marksberry
2/6/2020	Madonna Stecher
2/7/2020	Duane Scarborough
2/14/2020	William Dunham
2/26/2020	Paul Lange Jr.
2/26/2020	Robert Greene
2/29/2020	Robert Greene
3/1/2020	Robert Scott Deal
3/9/2020	William Dunham
3/18/2020	Donald Davidson
6/1/2020	Sherman Takatori
6/2/2020	William Dunham

!!!TRIVIA ANSWERS!!!

Military Trivia Answers...

1. Sheridan Kaserne Augsburg
2. Hof Corridor
3. Prepositioned Storage Point (PSP)
4. Unit Police or “Ups”
5. 5, White Bag had 7
6. 1, the entire charge is Charge 8
7. Colometer, Aiming Posts, Distant Aiming Point
8. MOPP 3
9. A Mermite can
10. Because the Army contracted for Civilians to pull KP in Garrison. As a matter of fact, during the early 80's, Olivia Donaldson (wife of the C Battery Chief of Smoke) was the head of the civilian KPs.

Community Trivia Answers...

1. British Petroleum (BP) or Esso
2. Fashing
3. 98th General Hospital
4. William O Darby Kaserne
5. Schwim Bad
6. Stammtisch
7. Where is the Train Station or “Vo ist der Bohnhoff”
8. Katterbach
9. NEO-Non Combatant Evacuation Order
10. Barton Barracks. Home of the 141 Signal Battalion, the 57th ADA and Janet Malherek as the Adjutant for the Signal Battalion!

With each Edition of the Newsletter we want to share 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.....send them our way!!! We want to share them with our 28th Field Artillery Family!!! Please email them to us at...

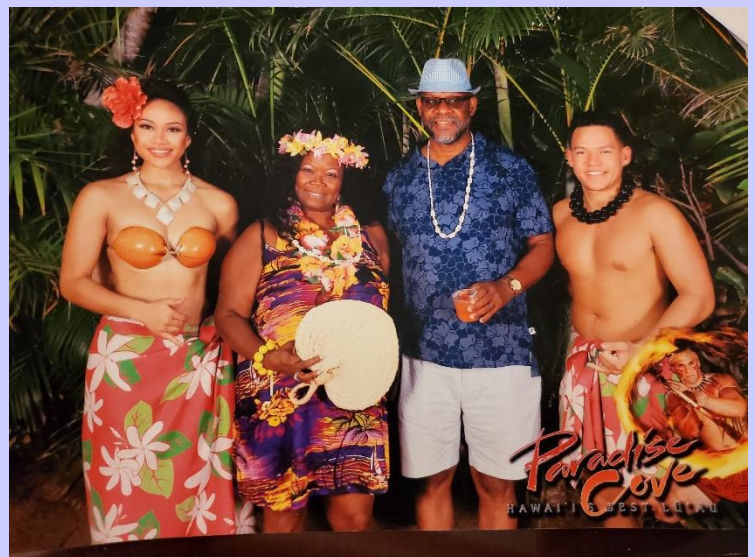
Newsletter@28fara.org

ENJOY!!!



Tommy Houston
As a Shriner, Tommy found the “solution” on how to continue to ride on his motorized scooter - even during a pandemic....
Let the Parade begin!!!

**The Pollocks (2/28 FA 1985-1989)
return to Hawaii!!!**





**Pat and Janet Malherek's son, Michael,
graduated from Virginia Tech
this year!!!**



Please send us your pictures....

we all enjoying seeing what is going on in everyone's lives!!!



**KEEP
CALM
AND
CALL FOR
ARTILLERY**