

The Beidorn Switchboard

28th Field Artillery Regimental Association

Volume 1 Edition 4 Fall 2020



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2020...Coming to a Close!!!



Pat & Janet Malherek, Coeditors 28th FARA Newsletter

Welcome to the Fall 2020 edition of the 28th Field Artillery Association Newsletter. It's hard to believe that 2020 will be coming to a close in a few months. What a year it's been! When we all look back at 2020, we may have some fond memories but by and large it will probably be a year to forget.

You can definitely start feeling that fall is in the air. Hopefully, you all have been able to take some time to get out and enjoy some fresh air outdoors...socially distancing of course. 😊

In this edition of the newsletter we have our regular input from the association board members, the last installment of Bill Dunham's Grafenwoehr recollections, the last part of Tommy Houston's Historians Corner - *The "Go to War" Missions of 2/28 Field Artillery*, and interviews with Wayne Donaldson, George Hardin, Dave Mohan, Shari Reinemann, and Ed Walz.

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

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

Pat and Janet Malherek 😊

28th Field Artillery Regimental Association



**Presidents Corner
Association Update**
Tommy Houston



I don't know about you, but I am more than ready to get 2020 over with and get started on a new year, hopefully without COVID-19!!

First off, I would like to take a second to send a personal message of thanks to all of you that have sent me best wishes and prayers as I go through my struggle with cancer. The good news is that the doctors believe that they got all the cancer out when I had the surgery back in the Spring. However, to make sure there isn't any cancer cells in my system, I am undergoing Chemo for 6 months. For those of you that either have been through chemo or have been around someone who has undergone the therapy, you know that it isn't a whole lot of fun. For me at least, going through Chemo it feels like a perpetual "tequila hangover". But it is certainly better than the alternative.

To make sure nothing slipped through the cracks while I am undergoing Chemo, I asked Bill Dunham who is our First Vice President to take over running the board this Summer. Please join me in thanking Bill for his leadership and service to all of us. Although my treatment will continue into December, I hope to be able to get to the point that I can once again focus on the Association business in September.

One of the reasons I am so excited about stepping back into the Association President's role is because 2021 will be an exciting year for our Association. We have started the planning for our reunion next year as well as the dedication of our monument at Fort Sill. The Reunion and monument dedication, along with the startup of our scholarship program, are some important milestones for our Association and I can't wait to for both of them.

As you might know, our 2nd VP, Colonel (Ret) Tim Gorrell, had to step down due to conflicts with his time in service to the state of Ohio. I want to personally thank Tim and Lisa for all they have done to get our Association stood up and moving over the last two years. We look forward to seeing Tim and Lisa at our next reunion.

To fill the role of 2nd Vice President, Dave Mohan has volunteered to step in and I have happily appointed him to the position of 2VP until our election of new officers next year. The role of Second Vice President is focused on coordinating our reunions (both our formal Bi-Annual reunion and local less formal reunions) as well setting up and running our scholarship program. Dave is uniquely qualified for both jobs, having recently retired as a school system Guidance counselor. Dave served in the Battalion in the late 70s and early 80s as a signal officer and has the unique history of commanding Headquarters Battery for a year. He is the only Signal Officer that I know that commanded a Field Artillery unit. Please join me in welcoming Dave and his bride Lisa to our Board of Directors, he is going to just be super.

Now about the monument and the Reunion. The Board and I believe we have reached a point financially where we can begin planning and begin the process of procurement of the Monument as well as our Reunion at Lawton/Fort Sill. We do not have all of the funding that we think we need but we have enough that I think we can get started with the procurement of the monument as well as planning our reunion.

Our greatest risk perhaps is the notion that the COVID-19 crisis will be over or at least under enough control to allow us to travel by next Spring. Our target dates for the Reunion will be the last week in April/first week in May of 2021. The specific days will depend on when the Public Affairs Office at Fort Sill schedules the dedication ceremony. Dave Mohan is putting together the planning committee for the Reunion, but we could use some more sets of hands to help plan and eventually execute the Reunion. Please contact Dave at his board email if you think you could give us a hand. Please look under the 2VP's section of this newsletter for additional information about what help is needed. Thank you in advance for your support!!!

Please enjoy reading our newsletter. I think you will agree with me that the Malherek team of Pat and Janet are doing an absolute superb job and we couldn't ask for better.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone once again for the positive wishes and messages of encouragement as well as the prayers during my personal time of challenges with Cancer. I also hope you are all being safe and hope that we will be out of this COVID-19 mess very soon.

GUNSHOT!

Tommy Houston



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

To date we have sold 48 bricks that will help fund the monument. We need to sell as many as we can. The design for the walkway around our monument calls for 192 total bricks. So we have plenty of vacancies.

Our paperwork for the approval (a typical government action) requires many moving parts. This process is exacerbated by the fact that we are doing all of it long distance. Fort Sill's Facilities and Maintenance must approve the engineering plan for the actual installation of the monument and walkway. Our landscaper prepared all of the paperwork and submitted it. But then the pandemic hit, and everything is proceeding at a snail's pace. Our POC at Fort Sill has contacted F&M and the paperwork should be approved in the very near future.

Then we have to send a letter to the CG expressing our intent to donate a \$25,000 monument to the post. Well, Tommy did that in January, but we should have sent it to our POC instead. We have straightened that out and the packet is complete.

The CG then must have the JAG approve the donation. Once that is done the request has to go to Fort Sam Houston for approval. Once that is done then we can proceed.

Our design was approved by the Garrison Commander in October 2019.

Our POC has assured us that all is now in order and formal approval should be forthcoming.

The board of directors has set a 1 September deadline to order the granite from Elberton, GA, the granite capital of the world. We could possibly delay that to as late as 1 October. The board will not approve the purchase until we have adequate funds to pay for the entire process, about \$25,000. We are very close to that goal.

Be assured that the board will not place the organization in any financial liability without having adequate funds on hand first.

The organization needs your help by soliciting memberships and brick purchases. Every little bit helps. Once this is done, we can then begin working on our scholarships.

1st Vice President...continued

**GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF TIMELINE
FOR MONUMENT**

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!

Dave Mohan

Association President Tommy Houston and I have begun planning for our reunion next spring at Fort Sill, and we're looking for help. The reunion dates are either April 29-May 2, or May 2-5, depending on the date chosen by Fort Sill for the dedication of the monument to the 28th FA Regiment. We have a draft schedule of events, and we're in the process of staffing each event with volunteers to help with planning and oversee execution. Specifically, we're looking for help with these events:

- Meet & Greet Session and registration of attendees on the day of arrival
- Uncasing of the Colors ceremony at the Meet & Greet
- Monument Dedication Ceremony on post
- Red Solo Cup golf outing
- Old Fort SQT Test
- Banquet Dinner and Awards Ceremony
- Spouses' Activities

Depending on your level of interest and amount of time you have available, we need help at all levels, from event OIC/NCOIC to worker-bees. We're excited about getting together and seeing everybody, but in order to put on a great event, we'd like to get as many members involved as possible. If you're interested in helping out with any of the above events, or you'd like to do *something else* to help make everything run smoothly, or you have any questions, please contact me at the phone number or email below.

Dave Mohan
717-542-4630
2ndVP28thFARA@gmail.com



Treasurer
Report as of August 2020
Ralph Ripley

The Association works on a fiscal year that runs from 1 October to 30 September each year. We are currently in our fourth quarter of 2020. We continue to grow incrementally and are in a solid financial position. Memberships continue to trickle in as do brick sales. We have received some generous corporate donations of \$3,000 in August. There is more committed by year end.

Our cash flow since inception is as follows:

Revenue		\$28,162
Memberships	\$6,205	
Contributions	\$14,737	
Memorial Bricks	\$7,220	
Expenses		\$1,754
Startup / Reg	\$679	
General	\$76	
Online Fees	\$999	
Current Cash Balance		\$26,408

We have some liabilities. There is a fee associated with making the bricks when the time comes. We have to hedge that money. The current brick liability is \$1,454. In addition, there will be approximately \$400 for brick placement and roughly \$350 associated with blank bricks. For Lifetime memberships, the board decided that we should recognize 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 \$2,975 of cash on hand that we have not yet recognized.

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. Consider buying a brick if you have not already done that. It will recognize your service or someone you want to honor.



Secretary ***NO NEW UPDATE***
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”

The months are passing by so fast with another year almost to close. The Associations membership continues to grow. We added an additional three members in July. So good to see that fellow 2-28 soldiers are still picking up the torch and carrying on.

As you may or may not have heard, two of our own have had surgery, Tommy Houston and Ernie Romero. We wish them both God speed in healing and recovery.

Unfortunately, along with age comes illness and sickness. We are not as young as we were and surely cannot keep up with some of the rigorous tasks we once handled. We need to ensure that we are doing our annual physical checkups with our primary physicians’ or the VA. They are there to help us. So do not neglect that part of the preventive maintenance. We only have this old body for a while, so maintenance is important.

I was able to reach out to a few of our fellow veterans and had some interesting conversations and an insight to various notorious activities in the Battalion before, during, and after my tour with the Battalion. This was great. I have set Thursday evenings aside for calls to former battalion soldiers. To me this was a great time. Maybe you will have the time to set aside and just make a call. You do not know how glad the voice on the other end is to hear from you. Try it; you will be glad you did.

We are all still in the planning and preparation phase for the reunion next year. That will be a great time again to reminisce of old times and the war stories will have gotten better. You know as like with cheese, the more aged the better.

For all you Redlegs that have passed through Ft Sill on your journey, you probably would not recognize the place. New state of the art building and barracks dot the post. New housing developments both on and off post for family dwellings. As for the town, of course the “IMPACT” area has been cleaned both outside the gate and downtown. However, as most small communities, the financial impact from businesses can be seen and felt due to effects of the virus. Not to say that all is gloom, the tribes have built those gambling casinos for those adventurous ones and some great eating venues. You can see for yourself when you attend the reunion next year!!!

Well I will sign off for now. I just do not have that knack of going on and on as some I know, although there were probably a few soldiers in the unit that would disagree with me on that.

Do not forget to call a former soldier or spouse. The recruitment never ends.

REDLEG

Top Moretz (retired)



1st Enlisted Member of the Board/Webmaster

George Hardin

Website Statistics Since January 2019

Unique Users: 1.37K
Website Sessions: 2.14K
Website Clicks: 12,208
Website Visitors by Country:
U.S. - 1.26K, China - 27, Germany - 21, Turkey - 10, Japan - 5

I made some board approved changes to our website recently. Please let me know if you have any questions at enlisted1@28fara.org. Here are the changes:

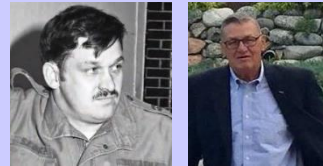
The membership roster, army pictures, reunion pictures and the Bleidorn Switchboard newsletters are now accessible only by secure login. On the homepage, click on Membership, Members Only. This will take you to the login page, where you can login or sign up for a new login if you don't have one already.

We have activated a 2021 Fort Sill Reunion Registration page. By registering yourself and your spouse, we will have an idea of how many members anticipate going. We will later follow up later with those registering now with additional information and verification that they still plan on attending.



**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 now being planned for April - May 2021. We do not have mail-in options for the elections but are exploring online election solutions so the election results can be finalized during the reunion. To identify candidates for the open positions we will notify members initially via email (January 2021) and then follow up with interview (February 2021) to confirm interest, skills and experience.

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 davidehnel2@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 / davidehnel2@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

No new update for this edition

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,

Isaiah 5:20&21 says, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness. Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight"

What an accurate description of the time we are living in right now! The media shows us daily of evil being defined as good and the good and Godly being described as bad and evil. We see the disrespect for authority, violent protest which in reality is rioting, stealing, destroying and even murdering.

Pastor Tony Foster said, "First we overlook evil. Then we permit evil. Then we legalize evil. Then we promote evil. Then we celebrate evil." And Isaiah's words ring in our ears! I think it is crucial for us who love our Lord, our country, and our freedom, to take a courageous stand against evil. So that God may have mercy and save us. I Chronicles 7:14 gives us that hope as God proclaims, "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked way, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

This is a time for fervent prayer for our leaders, our enemies, our fellow Christians, our churches, and our fellow citizens that good will overcome evil. It is not only a time for fervent prayer, it is a time for Godly action to stand for the right and the good. We need to be messengers of God's judgement on evil and share the good news of His love, mercy and forgiveness. When we repent and turn back to Him, then He will heal our land.

May God Bless you and keep you healthy and safe,

Chaplain Danny Marksberry

The
CHAPLAIN'S
Corner



Grafenwöhr

Bill Dunham

INTRODUCTION

Grafenwöhr 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 3** 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 **THIRD PART of a three-part series. (Please see the 28th FARA Newsletter - FEB 2020 for PART 1 and JUNE 2020 for PART 2.)**

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.

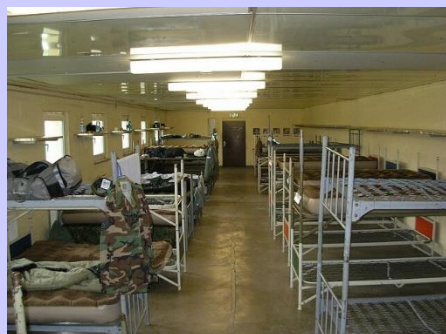
This is the third and last part in a series of articles about Graf. Today we will deal with:
The Long Trip Home!!!

Grafenwöhr continued...*The Long Trip Home!!!*

After spending several months in preparation to go to Graf then finally getting there, eventually it was time to go home.

For a period of time we occupied a cantonment area on main post Graf. From there we would house everyone and have a motor pool for our vehicles. We would deploy directly there, spend a day or two getting ready, and then go to the maneuver area for a week or so. Then we would return to the cantonment, rinse, then repeat. After all of our maneuver stuff was done we would occupy the cantonment area one final time.

We would generally open a beer hall for the soldiers and the officers and NCOs would have the opportunity to spend time at their respective clubs. You should ask Tom Stecher about Margaret and the O Club. That's a sermon for a different day.



When it was finally time to leave Graf the process was demanding. Our motor pool would have to be completely clean with absolutely no oil spills. The barracks and mess hall would have to be immaculate. We usually left a detail of several soldiers and some NCO supervisors to complete that task.

Meanwhile, all of the tracked vehicles (howitzers, ammo carriers, and FDCs) would have to be loaded on a train for the return trip. Once they got to Katterbach they would convoy through Ansbach back to Bleidorn.



All of the wheeled vehicles would convoy on the autobahn back to Bleidorn. You just have not lived until you are in your M151A1 jeep doing a robust 70kph while being passed by all German traffic doing 120kph and more. Poor Service Battery would bring up the rear and haul back all of the break downs. Sometimes we would have vehicles spread out all over the countryside.

Grafenwöhr continued....



Ooops!!!



Only once we got back to the kaserne did the fun begin. Everything had to be cleaned: All vehicles, all weapons, all tents, all camouflage nets, all mess equipment. You name it, it had to be cleaned - even if it had not been taken to Graf. Some of the biggest concerns were the weapons (M16s, M203s, M2s, M1911s, etc.) not only being clean but accounted for. A missing weapon (not to mention any names, A Battery) would put the entire battalion on lock down until found. It was eventually found in a dumpster. I don't know the Paul Harvey Rest of the Story of how it got there but I'm sure someone does. Also of concern were the KY58s - our secure commo gear for our radios. They, and the CEOs, had to be inventoried, accounted for, and locked in the S-2s safe. I don't believe we ever had a problem with them.

We only had one wash rack for the vehicles so it was in great demand. Howitzers would be lined up like people searching for toilet paper a few weeks ago. The bad thing was that everyone was tired and anxious to sleep in their own bed for the first time in weeks.



I don't know how they did it but the cooks had to not only clean all of their stuff they had to prepare meals in the dining facility for the soldiers.

Grafenwöhr continued....

When a howitzer section or commo section or whomever believed their stuff was finally clean then the inspections would begin. The NCO would look at everything. Then officers and the battery commanders would inspect it. Finally, when the battery commander was satisfied that his unit was completely clean, he would notify the battalion XO who would conduct the final inspection.



Tom Stecher was notoriously difficult to please. I recall one return trip when all of the inspections had been done and all of the BCs were assembled in the Gunslinger's (LTC Michaud) office for the report. I can vividly recall Tom's words, "Sir, your battalion is still dirty." So, it was back to the wash rack, arms room, motor pool, etc., to go over everything again. This would continue until everything was clean, serviceable, and stowed away properly. Only then could we stand down, relax, get a shower, and get in our own beds.

The following Monday, MSG Volin would be off to Graf to begin the process for our next rotation.

Despite the hard work and long hours involved in every aspect of Graf it was immensely fulfilling. We got to practice our war-time mission and do manly-man things. There were many memorable events.

During one occupation HHB experienced an absolutely torrential downpour. ISG Carmichael and I were doing our very best to dig a trench around our tent but to no avail. Everything was absolutely soaked. For that experience I was awarded a plaque with a toy tugboat on it. I believe I still have it somewhere, George Hardin.



Grafenwöhr continued....

The nights at the O Club were always a hoot, especially when Margaret was around to dance. She still probably has the teeth marks on her backside from one of our officers. The radio transmission from T86 (LTC Michaud) to V86 (one of our battery commanders): “Pull your convoy over so I can chew your ass.”

The rumble between us and the officers of 3/5th FA at the O Club.

The mud, the dust, the snow, the rain - all of them sometimes in the same day it seemed like.

All in all the Graf experience was an enigma. You dreaded the long, freezing hours. You relished the ability to do your job and do it well. You dreaded the food from the marmite cans and the MREs. Yet you know that the many experiences bonded you together in ways that civilians will never understand. You really get to know someone when you are sharing a 3-holer outhouse with him.

I believe I speak for all of us when I say that we would all like to re-live the experience just one more time. One more occupation, laying the battery, putting steel on target, eating cold scrambled eggs in the rain sitting on the hood of your jeep, finally crawling in your sleeping bag for a few hours but then dreading getting out of it because it was so cold outside, and ultimately getting a go on all of the ARTEP missions.

Graf - a four letter word that means so many different things to all of us but is still near and dear to our hearts.

GRAF

If you have any additional recollections and stories you would like to share about GRAF that we can include in the newsletter, please send them 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. At what range (distance in meters) do you zero and M-16?
2. At what distances from the Howitzer are you supposed to emplace aiming posts?
3. What is the memory aide when taking up a howitzer site picture on aiming posts using a 100 series sight?
4. What does the term TLASBAP mean? Hint Howitzer Occupation.
5. What are the combat firing positions when qualifying with the M-16 Rifle?
6. What was the first aid for a nerve agent victim? (hint what was the shots we carried and would be administered)
7. What was the form name for the duty roster kept by the First Sergeant and the Adjutant?
8. What was our Pay Slip called?
9. What was the standard weight of a 155 HE M-107 projectile?
10. What was the expected yield of a 155 Nuclear Projectile?

****Answers can be found on Page 42...**

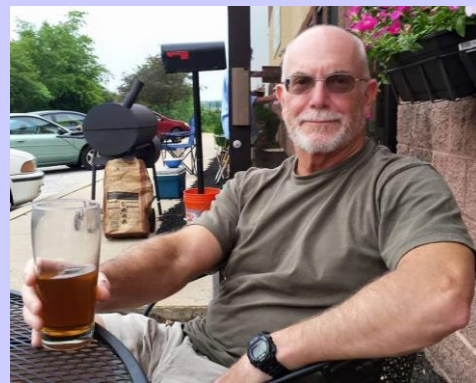
2-28 Trivia

Community Related

1. What day did fresh meat arrive and was for sale at the Ansbach Commissary at Katterbach?
2. By USAEUR regulation, what two things were mandatory to be carried by any vehicle registered to a US soldier or civilian?
3. On what Kaserne was USAEUR Drivers training conducted and who was responsible for giving it?
4. On what Kaserne was the Judge Advocate General's office?
5. What was the German Travel/Automobile Club called?
6. On what Kaserne was Burger King located and what year did it open?
7. Name three bars/Gasthauses most frequented by soldiers of 2-28?
8. What was the "red light district" in Nuremburg commonly called?
9. What was the American TV network and radio station called?
10. What was the name of the Renaissance Palace in downtown Ansbach?



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: Major (Retired) Dave Mohan, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Wayne Donaldson, Edward Walz, George Hardin, and Shari Reinemann.



**Interview with Major (Retired) Dave Mohan
2LT, Signal Corps
Commo Platoon Leader - HHB / XO - B Battery / Commander - HHB**

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

Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps. Assigned to HHB as the Commo Platoon Leader/Btry XO in Dec 80. Assumed command of HHB in Sep 81. Promoted to First Lieutenant in Feb 82. Relinquished command and assigned as Bn CESO in Dec 82. DEROSed in Dec 83

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

I was unmarried. Lived initially in the Katterbach BOQ, awaiting a room in the Bleidorn BOQ. Moved to Bleidorn BOQ. About 18 months into my tour, moved into an apartment on the economy that I shared with another officer from the battalion, Jeff Myers. When I DEROSed, 1LT Mike Fortanbary moved in.

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

When I first arrived, my HHB Cdr was Tom Guthrie, a West Pointer. He was a great example to follow and I learned a lot from him about maintenance and PLL. He was largely responsible for me getting command of HHB so he could take command of a firing battery. While in command, LTC Rick Swain was the Bn Cdr. He took a big risk appointing a Signal officer as a battery commander over more senior Artillery lieutenants who needed a command, and I'm grateful for the opportunity he gave me and the faith he placed in me. As CESO, I worked for the S-3, first CPT Wayne Madewell (who had been a lieutenant's nightmare as a battery commander, but was an okay guy to work for when he was S-3), then MAJ Tommy Stecher. MAJ Paul Lange was the Bn XO. LTC Michaud assumed command in Nov 83, less than a month before I DEROSed.

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

Mud or dust, depending on the season. As HHB commander, about all I had to worry about was siting and relocating the TOC, and logistical support for the Bn HQ. Other than being in the field without the conveniences of a garrison, it was pretty easy duty. As CESO, I was kept pretty busy making sure the radios were working and swapping them around according to the Cdr's priorities. The firing batteries were almost always too far from the OP and the TOC to run wire, but if they were close enough we did. If we couldn't talk, we couldn't shoot.

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

In no particular order, when the Battalion underwent an IG inspection when I was HHB Cdr, a Bn ARTEP when I was HHB Cdr, and an NRAS physical insecurity event when I was CESO. That last one consumed my life for about 4 months while we worked to pass a reinspection by the VII Corps COMSEC Custodian (the first CW5 I'd ever laid eyes on).

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

The people I served with. The sense of purpose and mission. The field exercises like CAPSTONE on the German countryside or at the GDP.

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

Too many to list. As a single lieutenant, the other lieutenants I spent most of my off-duty time with: Mike Fortanbary, Gary Kropkowski, Jay Hartman, Tim Gorrell, Steve Sanchez. On-duty, the officers and NCOs I worked with every day: MSG Russ Meinke (my Commo Plt Sgt), SSG Spain (Bn COMSEC Custodian), 1SG Pat Kiernan (my last 1SG as HHB Cdr), CW2 Bill Savage, MAJ Stecher, MAJ Lange, LTC Swain.

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

I got married in May 86. Enough said. And I left the Active Army to serve on active duty in the Maryland Army National Guard for the remainder of my career.

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

I'm struggling with this one. I remember plenty of good times (mostly off-duty, traveling, gasthauses, Hail & Farewells, bierfests), but nothing explicitly funny comes to mind.

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

Attended Signal OAC at Ft Gordon, GA, and Telecommunications Systems Staff Officer Course (TSSOC) at Keesler AFB, MS, then assigned to Readiness Group Meade in Maryland, where I met my wife and married. In Dec 88, I resigned my RA commission and accepted a USAR commission and an Active Guard-Reserve (AGR) assignment in the MD Army National Guard. I served in the DISCOM of the 29th ID (Light) as the Intel/Security Officer (S-2), the S-2/3 of the 229th Supply & Transport Bn, the Bn XO of the 229th Main Support Battalion, and the S-1 of the DISCOM. I branch-transfer to Quartermaster while I was S-2/3 of the S&T Bn so I could get promoted to Major in 1990. In 1994, I was assigned as the Deputy Inspector General for the Maryland National Guard and served in that assignment until I retired in August 98.

After retirement, we moved to south-central Pennsylvania, and I got a Masters degree in School Counseling at Johns Hopkins and worked as an elementary school counselor in York County, PA. After 18 years of school counseling, I retired this past June. My wife Lisa and I have been married for 34 years and have two children. Our son Tim is 29 and works as a CADD draftsman for a steel fabrication company in York, PA. Our daughter Katie is 27 and works as a commercial real estate lease management analyst in Pittsburgh.

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

I'd like to see a community where we can connect with and support the people we served with, and help it grow. I look forward to helping create a lasting legacy for our members and their families in the form of a scholarship program.

“Smoke” Donaldson in
1984 as Charlie Steel
Chief of Firing Battery



“Smoke” and wife Olivia
Receiving the Order of
Saint Barbara at the 2018
Reunion

**Interview with SFC (Retired) Wayne Donaldson
Chief of Firing Battery - C Battery**

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

I was a 13B40 Senior Field Artillery Sergeant. I was assigned to 2-28 FA the Summer of 1982 and was assigned as the Chief of Firing Battery for Charlie Battery. I stayed in Charlie Steel as the Chief of Firing Battery my whole time at 2-28.

Who were your bosses while you were there?

Well, technically I guess it was the Battery XO's for Charlie Battery which were Lieutenant Brandt, Lieutenant Fallen and then Lieutenant Gorrell for a short time. But First Sergeant Salary was also my boss as well as the Charlie Battery Commanders, Captain Bo Martin and Captain Tommy Houston.

What was your marital status and where did you live while you were there?

I was married and my wife Olivia and I lived in the Katterbach Housing area. Olivia also worked at Bleidorn. She was the civilian KP supervisor for the Dining Facility.

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

- Mud, mud, more mud. The tank trail and traffic jams of all the units trying to move at one time.
- That feeling you got when driving on the place for a rotation that you never really left.
- The “Veilseck Cheeseburger” that you ate at the rail head when you were loading up to go home. There wasn't anything special about the AFEE's cheeseburger except it meant you were going home and that is what made it special!
- The best was firing the guns and getting to do what we were actually trained to do, despite all the range control shenanigans.
- Night moves in the freezing pitch-black night.
- Getting up in the freezing cold before the sun comes up to check the lay of the guns
- Having all 4 seasons all in one day
- Going to the top 5 club at the mid rotation break

What was your toughest time while you were there?

Back in Garrison where all we did was go to the motor pool and try to pull maintenance on stuff that hadn't moved in a month. It was boring. It was really hard to train back at Bleidorn. We could go to the Local Deployment area once in a while, but the real training happened at Graf and when we went out on the economy.

What was your best times while you were there, what were your favorite things to do after duty hours?

We really enjoyed the Battery Trips and the other trips that were available.

We enjoyed our time out at the Katterbach housing area with the Thornton's and the other families. We had parties and bar-b-ques; we were all senior NCOs from the different units in Ansbach, so we all had something in common. Despite the fact there were a lot of different units, everyone seemed to know everyone else.

I also want to mention Charlie Battery. We had some great NCOs, particularly the gun chief's they were well trained, and we had a mutual respect. I didn't care if they liked me or not, but they were damn sure going to respect me as Chief of Firing Battery. We had no problems there, again, great well-trained gun chiefs.



*Captain Houston and "Smoke" Donaldson
on Brigade Bash 84*

What was the funniest thing you can remember from your time in the battalion?

Well there were a lot of funny things that happened, but one thing in particular that I remember centered around the Battery Commander, Captain Houston. We had just occupied a position at Graf, and I was making my way out to the aiming circle where the XO and I would lay and safe the battery. When I got out to the aiming circle, I found the BC, Captain Houston on the aiming circle, doing what I normally would do when the battery occupied.

Evidently, he decided to see if he still knew how to work the circle and lay the battery. He had removed his steel pot and LBE and set it off to one side to use the circle which is what you are supposed to do.

So, I just went over and exchanged my helmet for his then went over and sat in the BC's jeep. After the battery was laid and safe he came stomping over to the jeep complaining that I had stolen his helmet and he asked me what the hell did I think I was doing sitting in the BCs jeep with his steel pot on. I replied well, "if you decided to do my job, I may as well do your job and be the Battery Commander!!!"

We all laughed but the point was made. We had just that kind of relationship that meant we could have a little fun, but it was only because we were well trained. Don't get me wrong, he respected my role as Chief of Firing Battery. He would always let me know he was headed to my gun line. He might be the Battery Commander, but he knew it was my gun line. I appreciated that. He knew what he was doing as a Battery Commander, and he knew I knew what I was doing as Chief of Firing Battery. It was a great combination, that seldom happens in units unfortunately.

Give us an idea about what happened to you after Bleidorn?

I left Bleidorn in 85 and was assigned to Fort Bliss to the 3rd Armored Cavalry where I was in a HOW Battery. After a couple of years, I came back to Germany and the 210th Brigade, again, but this time up at Merrill Barracks where I was a First Sergeant for Service Battery 3-5 FA. After that assignment I retired back to El Paso where I worked for the City of El Paso for 9 years. We then moved to Dallas where I worked in a plant for a couple of years then moved back to El Paso where I worked for a Bus Company as a supervisor and retired a few years ago. Now I am fully retired and still living in El Paso.

What would you like to see with our Association?

Keep doing what you are doing, find everybody and get them to join up. Hurry and have the next reunion because we are not all getting any younger!!

CHARLIE STEEL!



**Interview with Edward Walz
Private, Cannon Crew Member / Unit Armorer, A Battery**

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

I arrived at Bliedorn Kaserne in October 1983 while the unit was at Graf. I was assigned to Alpha Battery as a 13B10 with the rank of Pvt E-1. I worked in a gun section (forgot which one, I believe SSG Parker was chief), I later became the unit armorer until I PCS'd to Ft Benning.

What was your marital status and where did you live?

I was a single 17-year-old High School dropout from Queens N.Y., I went to school at night at Barton Barracks and received my High school diploma and some college courses.

Who were your bosses while you were there?

The Battery Commander was CPT Snitker, 1SGT (acting) SFC Baumgardner (101 airborne Vietnam), Smoke was SSG. Roper (101 airborne Vietnam) and section chief SSG Parker. CPT Snitker was hard to figure out, you couldn't tell if he liked or hated you LOL. SFC Baumgardner was the role model of a leader, he taught me how to be advance party along with SSG Roper. They sent me to small arms repair school in Vilsack and Field sanitation class.

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

When I hear the word "Graf" I think of many things: cold, dusty, dirty, and muddy. But I also remember getting to know the guys in the unit better because when you are in the field you were with them 24/7.

What was your toughest time while you were there?

The toughest time in Battalion was working during the day and going to school at night. Studying and reading assignments while still being responsible for your military duties.

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

The thing I liked best about being in the Battalion was learning and exploring the German culture. Being able to see the history and also going on the volksmarches through the ITT (international tours and travel).

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

The NCO that had the most impact on me was SSG Dugger (Supply Sgt). He was my supervisor when I became unit armorer. He treated me as family along with his wife. (I wish I were able to contact him now!) Fond memories!!!

What had the greatest impact on your life after your assignment to the Battalion?

Being in the Battalion had the greatest impact on me. I came there as a 17-year-old kid and left there with the confidence and knowledge to become an NCO. I became an NCO shortly after arriving at my next duty station, Ft Benning. I also became Brigade Soldier of the Quarter at Ft Benning. I tribute that to my experience at 2/28 FA.



Give us an idea about what happened to you after Bleidorn?

I ETS'd out of the Army in 1986 and joined the Army Reserves until I ETS'd as a SSG in 1999. I also had the opportunity to serve in Operation Desert Shield / Storm in 1991 with a transportation unit. We transported troops arriving in Country and the EPOWs to EPOW camps. I joined the New York City Police Dept in 1988 and had a great career. I worked many different units and had many experiences including the planes crashing into the World Trade Center in Manhattan in 2001. I retired from the NYPD and worked as a Dept of Army Police Officer for 2 years until I became an accident investigator for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (buses) for 9 years. I currently work in security at a High School on Long Island.

I am married 28 years to my wife Christine and have 3 grown children (2 boys and a girl). The boys followed in my footsteps, one in Federal law enforcement and the other a SGT in the U.S. Marines. I also have 4 grandchildren (all girls) and currently live in Long Island, New York.

What would you like to see with our Association?

I would like to see the association expand and continue to grow. I always say the Army gave me the opportunity to become who I am today, and the Battalion had a big role in that. I think other questions that could be asked would be hobbies and whatever else guys are doing now with themselves. You never know when you're vacationing/traveling if you may be near a fellow 2/28 FA Brother and you can have a beer or a coffee with him. It's a small world.



Interview with George Hardin

Private/Specialist, Howitzer Driver - B Battery / Driver for MAJ Lange - HHB Battery

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

I was a two-year enlisted soldier, 13B, starting as an E1 and leaving as an E4. Originally, I was a Howitzer driver in B Battery. At a Reforger Exercise, I met Major Paul Lange, and moved over to HHQ Battery as his driver. I spoke German, so I ended up doing some translation for our BC Colonel Michaud. Major Lange already spoke pretty good German, so I didn't need to translate for him. When not working on my own Jeep I was also assisting other drivers in the motor pool in maintaining their vehicles.

What was your marital status and where did you live?

I was single and lived in the barracks.

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

I worked for Major Lange, but also interacted a lot with CSM Stewart, Captain Dunham, and Colonel Michaud. They were all great soldiers to work for and they treated me well.

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

I went to Graf both as a howitzer driver and a jeep driver. I worked much harder as a howitzer driver but working on the line was pretty cool when the Sergeant yelled "Fire mission!" The only thing I didn't like about Graf was getting one shower per week.

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

My toughest time was Basic Training in Oklahoma in the winter. I caught pneumonia and spent 5 days in the hospital. Life at Bleidorn was easy in comparison.

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

I had studied three years of German in high school and was determined to make German friends and learn to speak German. The first night out I met some young Germans and they were my best friends for the two years I was in Germany (See pic below). They invited me to parties, Christmas gatherings and church. My German friends' parents treated me like a son. I could write a book on all the great experiences I had with the German people and their beautiful country. I even met a princess who lived in a castle (See Pic Below). Agi Hohenlohe was a direct descendant of the princes of the Prussian Empire.

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

Major Lange, of course. He was a great boss with a great, sarcastic sense of humor. We have been friends ever since. My biggest mistake was telling him I hadn't taken a shit in a week when we went to Graf. Much to my dismay, he started sharing this classified intel with everyone at Graf.

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

A couple of years after leaving the Army I was working on my business degree when a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer talked me into submitting an application. I passed all the tests and entered the academy in 1988. The first day I was there it felt like I was back in the military again and I liked it. A month before graduation I was on the second of three-mandatory ride-alongs. I was asked to put down flares at an accident on an overpass. A truck lost control on the black ice-covered overpass and hit the guardrail where I was standing. A Sheriff Officer and I jumped over the guardrail to avoid being hit and it was a 40-foot fall. I shattered my entire left arm, broke several ribs, and broke my left hip. After 5 surgeries (10 hours the first day on my arm) and a two-year recuperation, I asked the CHP to return to the academy. They said no, but then offered me a job in their Telecom Department managing telephone, radio, microwave and satellite communication systems. However, this required me to move from the Bay Area to Sacramento and leave my friends and family behind. It only took me a few years to fall in love with Sacramento due to its proximity to rivers, lakes, mountains and snow skiing. I completed 25 years with the state and retired in 2014.

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

Major Lange sent me over to the maintenance battery at Graf late one night because they were not answering their radios. When I got out of my Jeep, I found an M16 leaning up against a tree and threw it in my jeep. I delivered my message to the Warrant Officer, who always gave me a hard time whenever he saw me. I told him that if he treated me really good from now on, I would give him back the M16 I had just found. He agreed, and after that he was really nice to me.

Give us an overview of your life after Bleidorn (marriage, kids, jobs, locations, career)?

I married my Wife Lisa at 41, my son Garrett was born when I was 45 (he is 17 now). I worked for the State managing telecommunications and networking systems in the Sacramento area for 25 years. Since my retirement I obtained my pilot's license, bought an airplane and have been posting many videos on YouTube (Link below). I design and make custom furniture and teach woodworking to teenagers. I have been a member of the Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol for 22 years. I built my first website in 2000 to share wedding photos and have since built a website for my woodworking and for the 28FARA.

What would you like to see with our Association?

Hopefully, the association will continue growing in membership so more and more retired veterans who served together will continue to meet and share their memories of our life at Bleidorn Kaserne, Germany.

If you ever have any information technology issues just shoot me an email and I will help you out.

[My YouTube Channel](#)

[Hardin Wood](#)

[Hardin Family Website](#)



**Interview with Shari Reinemann
HHB Spouse**

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

We were assigned to 2-28 FA from November 1983-November 1985. My husband was LTC Bob Michaud, the 2-28 FA battalion commander.

What did you like most about your time in Germany?

I often think about my time in Germany and know it was some of the happiest days of my life. Vacation trips with the battalion (staying at Hotel Zum Turken in Berchtesgaden and golfing in the rain, London trip, skiing trips) to name a few and of course crystal shopping with the wives, were memorable moments.

What was your toughest time while you were a part of the battalion?

I think the hardest time for me was leaving the battalion and going back to the US. All the friendships that I made in the battalion were truly like family to me. The day we left to go back to the US, I cried most of the way to the Frankfurt Airport.

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

I currently live in Hailey, Idaho. I work full time in Radiology but plan on cutting that back soon. My daughter Eryn and her husband Daniel have blessed me with a 2yr old grandson Axel and another one on the way. They live in Ketchum so I get to see them often. My son Marc is married to Kat and they have 2 dogs and live in Utah. Joel and I just celebrated 4 years of marriage. We have a 5th wheel trailer which takes us to Montana every year (Yellowstone area) to fly fish and golf.

***This is the THIRD PART of a three-part series. (Please see the 28th FARA Newsletter - FEB 2020 for PART 1 and JUN 2020 for PART 2.)**

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

By Tommy Houston

Lariat Advance

The sequence of events for the Battalion’s “go to war” plan for the Battalion changed very little about what it had to do before it moved up to support the Cav. We rehearsed alerts constantly and everyone was very familiar with what to do when the phone rang in the middle of the night and the voice on the other end had two simple words, “Lariat Advance”.



B Battery Gun moving through the Housing area on an Alert



Ammo Upload

After being alerted, the Battalion had 2 hours to clear the Kaserne. Once they cleared the gate several elements of the Battalion moved to different locations around Ansbach and beyond to prepare for war.

The Battalion’s ammunition vehicles consisting of all the M-548s (later CATS), 5-ton trucks (later HEMETTS) along with some support vehicles would move to the Urlass Class V, Prepositioned Supply Point (PSP) and would load the Battalion’s basic load of ammunition, a process that would take several hours since it consisted of several thousand rounds. Most of the remaining vehicles that did not go to the PSP, except for a very few, would move out of the Kaserne and move to a local deployment area.

Five of the Battalion’s 5-Ton trucks were designated as Special Weapons trucks they would move, with the Battery Special Weapons teams to the NATO Nuclear Weapons storage Depot near Feucht (called NATO-23) to await instructions to load our Nuclear projectiles. One of the smaller elements of the Battalion was the Retrans vehicle which would deploy to a point between Ansbach and Herzo base so that the Battalion could have FM radio communications with Brigade.



Headquarters Battery Local Deployment Area

Once the ammunition was loaded, the ammo convoy would move to the LDA and link up with the rest of the battalion. In the LDA some of the Ammo would be transferred to the guns. Once the ammo to the guns loaded, the Battalion awaited the orders to move to our GDP area.

Our route to the 2nd Cavalry's sector was a distance of over 160 miles up the A-9 Autobahn passing Nurenburg and Bayreuth. This was a route we knew well for it was the route we took to go to the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Once in the GDP area we would occupy a Forward Assembly Area near Munchberg, refuel and await further orders.

The actual battle plan for the 2nd Cav in the GDP changed many, many times over the years with different squadrons doing different things and the ever-changing plan had a lot to do with the 2nd Regimental Commander's personality. During the late 70s and most of the 80's the plan generally had 1st and 2nd Squadrons defending with third squadron in reserve and as the counterattack force. The Regiments defense was centered around of a series of obstacle belts well forward and around the city of Hof. 2-28, along with the 1st Howitzer Battery had he mission of Direct Support of 1st Squadron. 3-5 FA (203MM SP), along with 2nd How Battery, was direct support to 2nd Squadron.

When the Warsaw Pact crossed the border and the fight began, the Battalion's plan was to move from our forward assembly area to our initial battery positions. From there we would fight and leap backwards to three fall back positions until we ended up somewhere South of Bindlach and Bayreuth.

Every leader in the Battalion was well familiar with these GDP positions and every section Chief was required visit these positions every year and would see exactly where his particular section would go, if we went to war. All the positions were surveyed in by the Battalion Survey section and the survey cards and Operations orders were contained in each Battery's Battle Book. Service Battery's initial battle position was co-located with the Regimental Support Area RSSA in a location near Bindlach.



***A M-48MOD 1 155
Nuclear Projectile***

The Battalion was Nuclear Capable which meant that, at some point, our special weapons teams which had deployed to NATO-23 to await the order to transport the projectiles to the Battalion. According to the VII Nuclear Prescribed Nuclear Load, 2-28 was authorized 18 (6 per Battery) of the W-48 Linear Implosion Weapons which had a yield of .72 Kilotons.

The covering force mission for the 2nd ACR was estimated to take 4-5 days. Then, with the Regiment, the 210th Brigade would fall back through the Main battle area of the 1st Armored Division and the 3rd Infantry Division through selected passage points in the obstacle belts. Once the passage was complete, the Regiment would move to the Corps rear area where it would be reconstituted. The 210th Brigade would then take on the mission of General Support to the 1st Armored Division for the Main Battle Area fight.

The Regiment vs the Warsaw Pact

It has been speculated and discussed countless times about the outcome of a Warsaw Pact invasion of West Germany. There have been countless wargames over the years that have had many different results. One thing for sure is that it would be a tough fight just because of the Ratio of Forces.

With the fall of the Soviet Union, some of the Warsaw Pact plans for the invasion of Western Europe have come to light. One of the most likely plans revealed that the 2nd ACR, along with the 210th Brigade and our Battalion would have most likely been up against some major elements of the Warsaw Pack's 1st Tank Army, whose Cold War Headquarters was in Dresden and was composed of both Russian and Czech units. The 1st Tank Army would have attacked into the VII Corps sector with 9 Divisions with 5 of them being tank divisions and 4 being Motorized Rifle Divisions. In the Hof Corridor we would have faced at least two divisions in the first echelon. The combat ratios in Main Battle Tanks would have been 5 Russian tanks to our one. Field Artillery assets would have been much worse with a ratio of eight Warsaw Pact tubes to our one.

Could we have won? I guess we will never know but for sure our battalion, 2-28 FA would have played our part. We were well trained, well led, well equipped and knew our business of Field Artillery.

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 - Medical Issues, recuperating**

***Harry Broaddus - Medical Issues**

***Jerry Taylor - Recuperating**

***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) ***NO NEW UPDATE***

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. 25 Meters
2. 50 and 100 Meters
3. "NFL"Near, Far, Line
4. Priority of occupation-Trails, Lay, Aiming point identified, boresight, Safety, Ammunition prepared, Position Improvement
5. Prone Not supported, Prone Supported, kneeling not supported, Kneeing supported, Standing Position, Foxhole position
6. Atropine and Two Pam Chloride
7. DA Form 6
8. "LES" Leave and Earning Statement
9. 97.5 Pounds
10. 0.5 Kiloton

Community Trivia Answers...

1. Meat would arrive every Wednesday except on Holiday weeks and was inspected by the Vet. It was put on sale on Thursday every week except Holiday Weeks where it was put on sale on Wednesday
2. Warning triangle and a USAEUR approved First aid kit
3. Hindenburg Kaserne. Conducted by the 1st Armored Division provost marshal
4. Hindenburg Kaserne
5. Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil-Club (ADAC)
6. Katterbach, 1984
7. Liberty Bell, Rock Around the Clock, Kitty Bar
8. The Wall
9. "AFN" or Armed Forces Network
10. La Orangerie

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!!!



SFC(R) Bob Smith came out to see Tommy Houston from Michigan over the 4th of July Holiday. He was one of Tommy's Gun Chief's, Gunnery Sergeant and the Smoke who took Donaldson's place when he PCS'd. They had a great time just telling old stories. They both needed the time to reminisce since Bob's wife Linda passed away only a couple of months ago from Cancer.



Tommy is glad he had an aiming circle so he could take a "then" and "now" photo. Such an awesome picture. The black and white photo is of Bob in 1985 when he was the Charlie Steel Smoke!



It's a good thing Tommy still has that aiming circle!!! As Tommy would say.....It is never too early to start training!!!

Tommy's 3-year-old granddaughter who is training to be a future Chief of Firing Battery of C Battery somewhere!!!

“Take the Fire out of the Old Lady, Upper, lower, upper....”

“BATTERY ADJUST AIMING POINT THIS INSTRUMENT!”

Tommy's new tire cover for his jeep!!!



Pat and Janet Malherek's daughter, Jennifer Hayes, is in the Navy and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander by her husband, Randy Hayes. Pat and Janet were proud to be able to pin on her new rank!!!

**Please send us YOUR pictures....
Everyone enjoys seeing what is going on in everyone's lives!!!**



**KEEP
CALM
AND
CALL FOR
ARTILLERY**