

# The Beidorn Switchboard

## 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regimental Association

Volume 3 Edition 1 Fall 2022



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### AUF WIEDERSEHEN 2022!!!



Pat & Janet Malherek, Coeditors 28<sup>th</sup> FARA Newsletter

Welcome to the Fall 2022 edition of the 28th Field Artillery Regimental Association Newsletter. It's hard to believe that 2022 will be coming to a close soon. As we look forward to 2023, there is another reunion planned for October in the Northern Virginia/Washington, DC area. We hope many of you will be able to join us....it is sure to be another memorable one!!!

In this edition of the newsletter, we have our regular input from the association board members, the last part of Tommy Houston's Historians Corner - The "Go to War" Missions of 2/28 Field Artillery, interviews with John MacEnroe and Russell Adams, and much more. We are also excited to announce the first recipients of the **28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regimental Association Scholarship Program!!!**

We certainly hope ALL our 28th FARA Family are continuing to do well and are staying healthy. 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](mailto:Newsletter@28fara.org).

Pat and Janet Malherek 😊

28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regimental Association



**Presidents Corner  
Association Update**  
Tommy Houston



## **28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regimental Association Going Strong!!!**

Friends and fellow veterans of the 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery,

It is my sincere hope that this edition of our newsletter finds you and your families doing well. I am happy to report that our Association is doing very well in all respects, thanks to the efforts of your comrades on the board of directors who have been working hard over the last several months.

During the first years of the Association our purpose and objectives were focused on getting the Association established and getting our great monument in place at Fort Sill. Thanks to some hard work by many of your fellow veterans, this was accomplished with style, despite a global epidemic!!

As those of you know who were at our last reunion at Fort Sill, we set some new priorities for this term. These priorities are:

- To get our scholarship program up and running,
- To expand our membership by continuing to recruit veterans of the 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery from all eras of the units life (1968-1989), and
- To improve our communications (Internal) with our members.

I am happy to report that good progress has been made on all these priorities!

-Our 2VP, Dave Mohan (HHB 1980-1983), led an outstanding effort to put in place the process whereby we solicit and select candidates for our annual scholarships. Dave and his team were able to select two great candidates this year. Dwight Beach's (A Battery) daughter and Col (R) Ralph Ripley's (BN CDR 85-87) Grandson. Both will be attending college this fall with help from the veterans of the 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery.

-Our membership continues to grow! We are averaging two or three new members per month who are finding us and joining the Association. Our lifetime memberships also are growing. If you know and are in contact with any other veterans who are not members yet, please talk to them about it. If you aren't comfortable with doing that, email me with their contact information and I will talk to them. You can email me at [President@28fara.org](mailto:President@28fara.org)

-Scott Sumpter, our Director of Communications, has done simply an outstanding job with improving our information flow to our members. He often passes news of the Association personally to as many individual members as possible. He has taken a page from our past and resurrected the "Alert Roster". This is a way of us putting out information quickly to the entire membership as well as collecting information from all of our members. The process is currently in its "Test" phase and is being conducted by each Battery. Our goal is to make sure that every member is contacted every month. This is to make sure we have buddy checks as well as passing out news about the Association.

I am also very happy to report that we have started the planning process for our next reunion in 2023 under the very capable leadership of Dave Mohan. Our primary location for the next reunion will be in the Washington, DC/Northern Virginia area, if we can secure lodging at a reasonable price. Knowing the price of things in that area of the country, this will be a challenge but I have complete faith that Dave will find a way. However, we will not have the reunion there unless we can find a hotel venue that we all can afford. It does us no good to have a reunion that very few of our members can afford to attend. One of our primary motivations for going to the Northern Virginia/DC area is that we will be able to visit the Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir. We will also be able to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of the 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery.

Reunions are not easy to put on and there is a lot of work that needs to be done. I am sure Dave will join me in saying that we could use your help on the reunion committee. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Dave at [2VP@28fara.org](mailto:2VP@28fara.org) and get signed up. We all would appreciate it.

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

**GUNSHOT!**

Tommy Houston



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
**28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Monument Update**  
Bill Dunham

**Greetings!**

Much has happened since our last newsletter. We awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to a daughter and grandson of two of our members. Kudos to Dave Mohan for his incredible work in putting all of this together. This activity is one of the main reasons for this organization.

We are in the planning stages of our biennial reunion. Tentatively, we plan to meet in Northern Virginia next fall. Again, Dave Mohan is spearheading this effort and I am certain he will fill in the details. This is another one of the main reasons for this organization: To meet and have fellowship. Hopefully you can attend.

We will be voting for new board members at the reunion. The main vacancy we have to fill is that of our President. Like our national president he can only serve two consecutive terms. Personally, I have no desire to fill his shoes but would gladly stay on as 1<sup>st</sup> VP if you will have me. Please think about all of our members and consider who you would like to see as our next leader. It is a difficult job but will be much easier considering all of the hard work Tommy has put forth.

We will also need to consider a new treasurer. Ralph Ripley bravely stepped in when our current treasure resigned earlier this year. This is an incredibly important position but again it is made easier with all of the work Ralph has put into this. Consider your nomination to replace him.

I don't know if any other positions will be open, but I am sure Dave Dehnel will fill us in.

This organization exists to serve our members. If you have contact information for anyone else who served at Bleidorn Kaserne, please send it to me. The more members we have the better our association will be!

**Bill Dunham**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Reunion Planning Moving Forward!**  
Dave Mohan

Greetings, Members!

I'm very pleased to share news about our Scholarship Program's inaugural cycle and some tentative information about our 2023 Reunion.

**2022 Scholarship Program:** The Association's Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors are proud to announce that we have awarded \$1,000 scholarship grants to two applicants for the 2022-23 academic year. Both applicants were evaluated on their academic achievement, service to their communities, and extracurricular activities. They are Josiah Fulk, grandson of Ralph Ripley (Battalion Commander), and Leah Beach, daughter of Dwight Beach (A Btry FDO and XO, and Bn S2).

Josiah is currently a rising sophomore at Oregon Tech University where he is studying Mechanical Engineering. Leah is a graduate of St. John's School in Houston, TX, and will be attending the University of Chicago in the fall, where she plans to double-major in applied mathematics and molecular engineering. You can read more about our scholarship recipients at <https://28fara.org/Membership/Scholarship.html>.

Both students demonstrated outstanding academic and extracurricular achievement, and they are richly deserving of our inaugural scholarship grants. Congratulations to Leah and Josiah, their families, and their sponsoring 28th Field Artillery veterans!



The **2023 Scholarship Program** will kick off on **January 1, 2023!** Please help us get the word out, and if you have an eligible applicant in the family, encourage them to apply! See the Scholarship Program page on our website for information about eligibility and application procedures: <https://28fara.org/Membership/Scholarship.html>



**2023 Reunion:** I want to bring you up to date on the status of the planning process, but the information is still *mostly tentative* at this point, so don't go buying your airplane tickets or packing your duffel bag just yet.

The Association's Board of Directors approved the Reunion Planning Committee's recommendation, using the selection criteria from our Reunion Policy Letter, that we hold the reunion in the Fall of 2023 in the Northern Virginia/National Capitol region.

Right now, we are looking at hotel and convention center properties in Springfield, Virginia, for late September or early October 2023. Unfortunately, due to economic uncertainties about the future, the hotels we've contacted have been unwilling to extend a firm price for dates more than a year out. Because keeping the reunion affordable for all members is one of our selection criteria, we can't commit fully to the dates or location until we have a firm price offer. I'm working to settle this question as soon as possible so the Board can make a final decision and get the news out to you.

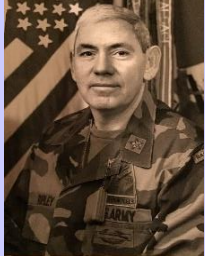
Just as a teaser, we hope to include visits to the recently opened National Museum of the US Army at Fort Belvoir, Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Mall & Memorial Parks (Vietnam, Korean, and WWII Memorials, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Smithsonian Museums, and many other historic sites). It should be a great location to celebrate getting together again as an Association.



As always, we can use your help with the many individual events that make up the reunion. I'm grateful for the many general offers to pitch in where needed, but what I really need are OICs or NCOICs who are willing to be in charge of an event and take primary responsibility for its planning and execution. The Reunion Committee will of course provide whatever guidance and support you'll need. Contact me directly, and we can talk about how to put your talents to work, to help us make it a great reunion for everyone.

Best wishes for the rest of 2022!

Dave Mohan717-542-4630  
[2ndVP28thFARA@gmail.com](mailto:2ndVP28thFARA@gmail.com)



**Treasurer**  
**Report as of September 2022**  
Ralph Ripley

The Association is nearing the end of the fiscal year. We have a few things to clean up before the end of the year, but money has been reserved to meet those obligations. This year the Association awarded two \$1000 scholarships to deserving scholars. We plan to continue that program into the future. Look at the qualifications, perhaps you have a young scholar who would qualify.

Next year is the reunion. There will be some expenses associated with that and will be considered in next year's budget. The committee is working hard on that highly anticipated event. We hope you will plan to attend.

A summary of 2022 financials year to date is as follows:

<b>Beginning Cash</b>		<b>\$18,164.95</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		<b>\$3,035.33</b>
Dues	\$2925.33	
Contributions	\$80.00	
Other	\$30.00	
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>\$2375.39</b>
Technology	\$161.42	
General	\$73.42	
Scholarship	\$1000.00 (paid with 1 pending)	
Fees	\$223.95	
Monument Exp.	\$916.60	
<b>Current Cash</b>		<b>\$18,824.89</b>
<b>Restricted Cash</b>		<b>\$5,478.00</b>
<b>Unrestricted cash</b>		<b>\$13,346.89</b>

Photo from  
the earlier  
days  
coming  
soon!!! 😊



**Senior NCO of the Board  
Everybody Fall IN!!!**

Keith Young



To My 2-28 Brothers....

I am honored to serve as the Senior NCO for our organization. I have publicly said that over my 40 Year career in the Army, two of my assignments stand out above all others: My time in 2-28 FA and my assignment as a Drill Sergeant. The 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery is in my blood.

I truly appreciate my predecessor, 1SG(Retired) Charlie Moretz for doing such a great job during his term as the Senior NCO for the 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regimental Association.

It was great to see everyone at Lawton/Fort Sill for our reunion and the dedication of our monument. For those of you who couldn't make it, you missed a great time. It was so great to see all of you again, time just seemed to roll back to when we were all together at Bleidorn.

I hope we have even more people who are able to make our next reunion!!!

Just like in the Army, I see that the most important part of my job as the Sergeant Major on the Board of Directors is representing the NCOs and Enlisted soldiers. In accomplishing this task, I want to hear from you, and you can contact me any time at my 28FA Association email which is [CSM@28fara.org](mailto:CSM@28fara.org).

We are reorganizing our membership committee with a goal of improving our communications to you members as well as getting 100 more veterans to join the Association by our next reunion. The Member Committee have a cadre consisting of Scott Sumpter, Mike Johnson, Frank McCook, and Ron Lindgren. We will reorganize the membership around the Batteries with each battery having a Battery Coordinator or "BC" who will help to make sure we communicate with all members monthly as well as helping us to meet the goal of 100 new members by the next reunion.

We could really use your help with membership. If you enjoy looking for old friends and colleagues or could help us as a Battery Coordinator, please contact me ASAP.

Again, I look forward to the future and reaching out to all of you.

**Rock Steady!  
GUNSHOT!**

**CSM Keith Young**

Photo from  
the earlier  
days coming  
soon!!! 😊

Current photo  
coming soon!!!  
😊

Rod Lindgren

### **Enlisted Members of the Board at Large**



Frank McCook

## **Fellow Redlegs!**

We are proud to be members of the 2/28 FARA Board!

The Board is committed to keeping the legacy of 2/28 BN alive and relevant. We are committed to finding our fellow Redlegs and growing our membership.

We are equally committed to assisting our brothers who may need some help. If any of you know of a brother or family who may need some assistance, please contact any of us at anytime. We will be here.

As the Enlisted Members on the Board, we will be working to represent and assist members who were E-4 and below during their time at Bleidorn. We will also be the chairs of the Awards Committee for our biennial reunion award presentations.

WE are committed to you, our families, and our shared pasts and futures! Please contact us if we can assist you with anything.





**Adjutant/Secretary**

Tom Stecher

**Adjutant/Secretary**

Hello, I'm Tom and I'm your Adjutant. I was elected at the Lawton/Fort Sill Reunion on June 3-6, 2021. A lot of fun and historical things occurred at this Reunion. On June 3, the old and new Board of Directors discussed where the Association had been successful since our organization in 2018 and where we needed to improve during the next two years. The results were great. We have prioritized missions, goals, and committees to help us grow, make our reunions better and to get more to attend our reunions. After registration, we held a reception, meet and greet and uncased of our unit's colors. On June 4, we dedicated our Unit Memorial at Centennial Park, located beside the Field Artillery Museum on Fort Sill. It was truly a touching service for those of us that attended. AND, it was the first time that an active-duty soldier carried our Battalion Colors in over 30 years. Afterward, we ate in a state of the art, new mess hall. To be honest, ours at Bleidorn beat it, hands down. Then we took a tour, set up by our host unit, the 428<sup>th</sup> FA Brigade. And to end the night we ate at a German Restaurant. To be honest, the hospitality and selection of food just wasn't the same as eating at an old Ansbach Gasthaus. On June 5, the day started with our Association's General Membership Meeting. A lot of areas were discussed to improve our Association and Reunions. After the meeting and all the required discussions, it was free time to golf, sight see, ride motorcycles, relax, or sit around the lobby and try to out lie each other. That last night we held our 2/28 FA Reunion, Cocktail Reception & Awards Banquet. This was the first time that awards were presented. Make sure you watch the videos, taken by George Hardin of the three ceremonies. In closing, I beg you all to please consider coming to the next Reunion, if you missed this one, we missed you too! I'll be sending out an email to the membership once I get my feet on the ground as your Adjutant.

**2-28 FA Association WELCOMES the following  
NEW MEMBERS:**

Paul	De La Hoya
David	Dolan
Glenn	Harris
Todd	Riddle
Roger	Welsh

*+Indicates Lifetime Membership*

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





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



We value your membership, and you are the reason we exist. We hope that you have reunited with some of your 28 FARA brothers from the past and are enjoying all that this membership has to offer. We are into our third year as an Association and it's the Association's mission to increase our membership to 150, active paying members, before our 2023 Reunion! With that in mind, if you joined the Association before October, your \$45.00 fee will pay for your membership until January of the next year. If you paid the \$45.00 after October 1<sup>st</sup>, your annual dues of \$25.00 will be due in the January, 12 to 15 months later and then every January thereafter. A Lifetime Membership however is paid once, and the annual payments are no longer required. Please see the information below that was sent out in a letter about Membership Renewal.

*Membership renewal is due in January of every year after your first year of membership paying your initial \$45.00 Fee. The renewal fee is \$25 each year thereafter. We also have a lifetime membership which is prorated by your age (less than 60 years of age: \$350; 60-69 years of age: \$250; those 70 years and above: \$150). **This option allows you to pay the lifetime fee one time and you don't have to pay the annual renewal fee again.** Many of us have selected the lifetime membership option.*

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

*Please advise us of your intentions of renewing your membership to the Association. If you have attempted to make a payment and experienced technical issues, let us know and we can get someone to assist. Thank you in advance for being attentive to address this issue no later than 1 October 2021. We appreciate your interest in continued membership with the 28 Field Artillery Regiment Association.*

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

**[www.28FARA.ORG](http://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 \$45 for your first year of membership.
- b) Membership **renewal** for 1 year is \$25.

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

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

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

## MEMBERSHIP

Total Membership: 108

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



36



14



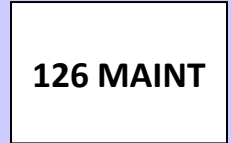
11



38



8



1

(HHB includes the Battalion Staff)

### Please join our Association!!!

We had a great time at the past Reunions, and hope to have more people joining us at our Reunion in 2023. We want you and yours to carry on our legacy. We once made a difference! Our Association now needs to continue carrying on your memories, our stories, and our great legacy. But most of all, we want to reunite and share that military comradery that only a soldier understands.

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





## Chaplain's Corner

COL(R) Chaplain Danny Marksberry

ON HUNTER'S, OUR GRANDSON'S, 9TH BIRTHDAY (July 12) WE WENT TO COLUMBUS, OH TO CELEBRATE WITH HIM. WE NOT ONLY CELEBRATED HIS 9<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, BUT WITNESSED HIS BIRTH INTO CHRIST BY BAPTISM.

AS WE WITNESSED HIS BIRTH INTO CHRIST AND HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM, A REFLECTIVE MOOD HIT ME. I REMEMBERED THAT I WAS BAPTIZED AT THE AGE OF 9 AND THAT I WOULD BE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY IN JULY ALSO BUT WELL PAST 9!

I ALSO REFLECTED ON A SERMON SERIES OF 'AHA' MOMENTS AND BEGAN TO THINK OF THOSE TIMES IN MY LIFE EXPERIENCE. I REFLECTED ON HOW GOD USED THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR HIS GOOD EVEN THOUGH AT THE TIME I QUESTIONED WHY OR WHAT WAS HAPPENING. THEN I THOUGHT OF ROM. 8:28 THAT SAYS "ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR HIS GOOD" AND PROV 16:9 THAT SAYS "IN HIS HEART A MAN PLANS HIS COURSE; BUT THE LORD DETERMINES HIS STEPS."

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THREE OF THESE MANY 'AHA' EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE WITH YOU IN THE CONTEXT OF PROV 16:9 AS A TESTIMONY OF HOW GOD CAN WORK IN OUR LIVES IF WE ARE AWAKENED, HONEST, AND TAKE ACTION (AHA) ON HIS GUIDANCE AND LEADING, EVEN THOUGH WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE BIG PICTURE OF HOW GOD TAKES THESE SITUATIONS AND TURNS THEM INTO HIS GOOD AND OURS.

I THINK THESE 3 WILL EMPHIZE THE POINT I WANT TO SHARE.

THE FIRST HAPPENED THE SUMMER I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL. I HAD DECIDED (PLANNED IN MY HEART) TO GO TO EKU AND BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER. LATER IN THE SUMMER I ATTENDED MY LAST TIME AS A CAMPER AT NORTHWARD CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY (CHURCH CAMP). DURING THAT WEEK THROUGH THE WITNESS OF ONE OF THE FACULTY WHO WAS A STUDENT AT CBS, GOD IMPRESSED (DETERMINED MY STEPS) ON ME TO ATTEND BIBLE COLLEGE. I HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED AT EKU, PAID MY REGISTRATION FEE—REMEMBER "IN A MAN'S HEART HE PLANS HIS COURSE, BUT THE LORD DETERMINES HIS STEPS". SO REALIZING GOD'S CALL, (AWAKENED) I HUMBLING MY SELF TO TELL MY PARENTS ABOUT THE CHANGE (ACTION). THEY WERE NOT THRILLED!! BUT I WAS ABLE TO GET THE DEPOSIT RETURN AND REGISTER AT CBS—GOD'S STEPS FOR ME.

JUMP AHEAD 4YRS TO GRADUATION FROM BIBLE COLLEGE WITH MY BA DEGREE IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES. ALSO, ANOTHER IMPORTANT AHA HAPPENS DURING COLLEGE I WON'T TAKE TIME TO

DISCUSS, MARRIAGE!! NOW WE ARE READY TO FIND A CHURCH AND BEGIN MY PREACHING CAREER, SO WE BEGIN TO SEARCH FOR THE CONGREGATION GOD WOULD HAVE US MINISTER—BECAUSE I KNOW THIS IS THE COURSE HE WANTS ME TO TAKE, A HEART PLAN.

ON A VISIT TO MY PARENTS LATE THAT SUMMER OF 1970 MY MOM TOLD ME I HAD SOME KIND OF IMPORTANT LOOKING LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN THE CABINET WHERE SHE KEPT MAIL. THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY WAS THE SELECTIVE SERVICE! SOME OF YOU OLD GUYS PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW WHAT I AM GOING TO SAY NEXT. YES, IT WAS MY DRAFT NOTICE THAT HAD BEEN SITTING THERE FOR AT LEAST A MONTH AND I HAD TO REPORT TO THE SELECTIVE SERVICE OFFICE IN TWO WEEKS.

GOD WHAT'S GOING ON? HERE I AM FOLLOWING YOUR CALL, WILLING TO PREACH, AND YOU'RE LETTING ME BE DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY? GOD, YOU DO REALIZE A WAR IS GOING ON DON'T YOU? "BUT GOD DETERMINES HIS STEPS". ALTHOUGH MY MOTHER URGED ME TO GO TO CANADA, I WAS DRAFTED ON OCT 4, 1970, INTO THE US ARMY. I WAS CONFUSED BUT ALSO PATRIOTIC AND WOULD SERVE MY COUNTRY AS DID MY FATHER, HIS FIVE BROTHERS, AND ONE OF MY MOTHER'S BROTHERS ALL IN WWII. I WAS NOT GOING TO CANADA, EVEN THOUGH I COULD NOT SEE GOD'S PURPOSE WAS ALLOWING THIS TO HAPPEN. SO BEING NEWLY MARRIED (2YRS), LEFT WIFE AND FAMILY AND FLEW TO FT. ORD, CA FOR BASIC COMBAT TRNG BUT GOD WAS GUIDING MY STEPS AS I WAS CHOSEN TO BE A CHAPLAIN'S ASSISTANT. AFTER THE INITIAL TRNG I WAS ASSIGNED TO FT, RUCKER, AL., WE SERVED WITH SOME GREAT CHAPLAINS AND ASSISTANTS AND HAD GREAT FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS. GOD HAD BLESSED US AS WE FOLLOWED THE STEPS HE PLANNED FOR US. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS THE BLESSING OF OUR FIRST CHILD. SO, I GUESS GOD DID KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING!! MY 2YRS WAS UP AND WE CAME BACK TO KY AND STARTED PREACHING AT A SMALL COUNTRY CHURCH WHILE WORKING FULL TIME. HOWEVER, WORKING WITH CHAPLAINS AND SOLDIERS LEFT A DESIRE TO INVESTIGATE THE ARMY CHAPLAINCY. AFTER MUCH PRAYER AND SEEKING GOD'S GUIDANCE, I ENROLLED IN GRADUATE SCHOOL TO EARN A MDiv, WHICH WAS REQUIRED TO BECOME A CHAPLAIN. WHILE IN SEMINARY, I BECAME A CHAPLAIN CANDIDATE AND WAS COMMISSIONED AS A 2LT IN THE US ARMY RESERVES. TO MY SURPRISE, AFTER THREE YEARS GOING TO SCHOOL, PREACHING, AND WORKING PART-TIME FOR A GENERAL CONTRACTOR, I WAS FINISHING MY DEGREE AND ALL THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO GO ON ACTIVE DUTY AS AN ARMY CHAPLAIN! ON JAN 6<sup>TH</sup>, 1980, I LEFT FOR MY CHAPLAINS OFFICER BASIC COURSE. "A MAN PLANS IN HIS HEART HIS COURSE" AND AGAIN I GUESS GOD KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING BY HAVING ME EXPERIENCE THE MILITARY LIFE. DURING THE NEXT 10YRS I SERVED AS CHAPLAIN FOR THE LEC AT FT. POLK, LA; BRIGADE CHAPLAIN FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> BRIGADE, 5<sup>TH</sup> INF DIV, FORT POLK, LA; BATTALION CHAPLAIN FOR THE BELOVED 2/28<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY

IN ANSBACH, GERMANY; AND THE DEPOT CHAPLAIN FOR THE LEXINGTON BLUEGRASS ARMY DEPOT. AGAIN, THE LORD WAS BLESSING US WITH GREAT MINISTRY AND FRIENDS AND I KNEW THIS WAS GOD'S PLAN FOR KAY AND OUR FAMILY NOW WITH 2 TEENAGE SONS AND AN ELEMENTARY AGE DAUGHTER.

THEN AHA #3 HIT WHICH WAS PROBABLY THE MOST DIFFICULT FOR ME. I WAS PASSED OVER FOR PROMOTION TO MAJOR, WHICH MEANT I WOULD BE RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY!

GOD WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT'S HAPPENING? I THOUGHT THIS WAS YOUR WILL FOR ME. "IN MY HEART I PLANNED THIS COURSE", NOW NO CAREER, NO 20YRS OF SERVICE FOR RETIREMENT AND EVEN GREATER THAN ALL THAT, WHAT ABOUT THE MINISTRY TO SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES? WASN'T THIS WHAT YOU PREPARED AND CALLED ME TO DO? WHAT'S GOING ON? NO JOB, 40YRS OLD, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO NOW? TO SAY THE LEAST, I DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING, "BUT GOD DETERMINES HIS STEPS".

SO, ON DEC 1<sup>ST</sup> 1988, I WAS RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY; HOWEVER, GOD WAS DIRECTING MY STEPS THAT SAME DAY TO A LTC RICHARDSON WHO WAS THE ARMY RESERVE RECRUITER FOR FT KNOX; HE SIGNED ME UP IMMEDIATELY. IN THE RESERVES I RECEIVED MY PROMOTION TO MAJOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH AND JOINED THE 100<sup>TH</sup> TNG DIV WHERE I SPENT THE NEXTS 20 YRS SERVING AND MINISTERING TO SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES AS A BRIGADE CHAPLAIN, AND ENDING MY CAREER AS THE COMMAND CHAPLAIN FOR THE 100<sup>TH</sup> DIV AS A COL.

AGAIN, I GUESS GOD KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING AND IT WAS UP TO ME TO BE AWAKENED TO HIS GUIDANCE, HUMBLE MYSELF TO HIS WILL, AND BE WILLING TO TAKE THE STEPS HE WAS DETERMINING FOR ME.

I TELL YOU ALL THIS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THERE WILL BE TIMES YOU QUESTION GOD AND WHAT HE IS DOING—I SURE DID—YOU MAY EVEN GET ANGRY AT HIM—I DID THIS TOO. THERE WILL BE TIMES YOU JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE WHY AND CAN'T SEE THE OUTCOME GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOU, BUT AS I REFLECT AND LOOK BACK ON MY HEART PLANS AS LONG AS I WAS WILLING (AWARENESS) AND ACCEPTING (BE HONEST WITH MYSELF) TO DO HIS WILL AND STEP (ACT) IN HIS LEADING, IT ALL MAKES SENSE.

I'M SURE I WILL HAVE MORE AHA EXPERIENCES AND SO WILL YOU, SO LET US PRAY THAT WE WILL REMEMBER THAT "IN HIS HEART A MAN PLANS HIS COURSE BUT THE LORD DETERMINES HIS STEPS". AHA!



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

**Chaplain Danny Marksberry**

### 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.*

**\*Harry Broaddus - Medical Issues**

**\*Paul Lange - Medical Issues**

**\*Willy Salary - Medical Issues**

**\*Ralph Ripley - Medical Issues**

**\*Tom Stecher - Medical Issues**

### Honors To Those Who Have Passed On

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

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



**Sergeant First Class  
Wayne Williams**

HHB



## 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Berevement Duty Officer once we are notified of the passing of one of our members:

Casualty Officer Check list for death of member of 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Association:

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



**Veterans Assistance**  
**Here to help!**  
Doyle Watters



**VA Disability Claims Information Sheet**

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Doyle Watters*  
CSM (R)





### Chief Information Officer & Webmaster

George Hardin

Hi 28Fara Members,

I wanted to give you a quick rundown of some features on our website [www.28fara.org](http://www.28fara.org). There are several pages on our website that can be accessed without creating a login ID. However, to get access to a lot of the content on our website you will need to create a login ID. You can access the members only content by clicking on Membership, Members Only, and you can then log in to Members Only content or sign up for a new account. After signing up for a new account I will send you an email letting you know that your account is activated. You may then view the 2-28 roster, membership map showing location of members in the US, membership pictures that were submitted during the application process, various picture folders and a link to upload pictures to our website. We are always looking for 2-28 pictures to add to our website. You can also see prior issues of the Bleidorn Switchboard. If for some reason you have forgotten your password, click on membership, member password management, and this will allow you to change your password or recover your forgotten password.

If you ever have any problems with our website or forum, please contact me at [CIO@28fara.org](mailto:CIO@28fara.org) or 916-581-2899. George Hardin



### Special Assistant to the President

Dave Dehnel



### Judge Advocate,

Bill Savage

The people listed below were elected to the Board of Directors or appointed to positions during our Reunion in June 2021:

### Board of Directors

*These positions are for a two-year term:*

President - Tommy Houston

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Bill Dunham

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Dave Mohan

Adjutant - Tom Stecher

Treasurer - John Williams

Senior NCO - CSM Keith Young

1<sup>st</sup> Enlisted Member - Rod Lindgren

2<sup>nd</sup> Enlisted Member - Frank McCook

### Appointed Positions

Chaplain - Danny Marksberry

Chief Accounting Officer - Madonna Stecher

Chief Information Officer - George Hardin

Veterans Assistance - Doyle Watters

Judge Advocate - Bill Savage

Quartermaster - Vacant

Historian - Tommy Houston

Special Assistant to the President - Dave Dehnel

Newsletter Editors - Pat & Janet Malherek

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

Contact Information: Dave Dehnel / [daviddehnel2@gmail.com](mailto:daviddehnel2@gmail.com) / 919-523-2542 (mobile) leave a message.

Bill Savage / [getsavage1@me.com](mailto:getsavage1@me.com) / 719-332-7166

We want to hear from you!!!  
We want to hear your ideas and suggestions!!!

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

President and Chairman of the Board: **Tommy Houston** - [President@28fara.org](mailto:President@28fara.org)

1st Vice President/XO: **Bill Dunham** - [1stVP@28fara.org](mailto:1stVP@28fara.org)

2nd Vice President/OPS: **Dave Mohan** - [2ndVP@28fara.org](mailto:2ndVP@28fara.org)

Treasurer: **Ralph Ripley** - [Treasurer@28fara.org](mailto:Treasurer@28fara.org)

Chief Accounting Officer: **Madonna Stecher** - [Finance@28fara.org](mailto:Finance@28fara.org)

Adjutant/Secretary: **Tom Stecher** - [Secretary@28fara.org](mailto:Secretary@28fara.org)

SR NCO Member of the Board at Large: **CSM Keith Young** - [CSM@28fara.org](mailto:CSM@28fara.org)

Chief Information Officer: **George Hardin** - [CIO@28fara.org](mailto:CIO@28fara.org)

1<sup>st</sup> Enlisted Member of the Board at Large: **Rod Lindgren** - [Enlisted1@28fara.org](mailto:Enlisted1@28fara.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> Enlisted Member of the Board at Large: **Frank McCook** - [Enlisted2@28fara.org](mailto:Enlisted2@28fara.org)

Veterans Assistance: **Doyle Watters** - [VA@28fara.org](mailto:VA@28fara.org)

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

Judge Advocate: **Bill Savage** - [JAG@28fara.org](mailto:JAG@28fara.org)

Chaplin: **Danny Marksberry** - [Chaplain@28fara.org](mailto:Chaplain@28fara.org)

Newsletter Editors: **Pat and Janet Malherek** - [Newsletter@28fara.org](mailto:Newsletter@28fara.org)

**Just a few notes on How to Use Our Website:**

**Access the Members Only pages of our website:** Go to Membership, Members Only, then Login or “sign up for a new account here”. New accounts are activated once paid membership is verified (3-5 days). The Members Only page gives you full access to the membership roster, pictures and the 28FARA Newsletters. The roster is updated monthly.

**Pay Dues:** Go to Membership, Membership Dues, then choose the appropriate yearly renewal or lifetime membership purchase. You can either use PayPal or mail a check to **Treasurer, PO Box 4596, Rio Rancho, NM 87174.**

**Access the 28FARA Forum:** Go to <https://login.proboards.com/register/7064633> and create a new login account. New accounts are activated once paid membership is verified.

**Login-Password Reset:** If you forgot your Members Only password, or want to change it, go to Membership, Login-Password Services, and follow the instructions.

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

## **Trivia Questions**

**EVERYBODY LOVES TRIVIA.....Especially when it is MILITARY TRIVIA!!!**

Trivia questions are a great way to bring back so many memories of the time we spent in 2-28, the military, and Ansbach, Germany!!! A huge **THANK YOU** and **SHOUT OUT** to Tommy Houston who usually provides 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. Pat Malherek provided the Trivia Questions in this newsletter!!! The answers can be found in a different part of the newsletter for those who like to challenge themselves!!! 😊 **ENJOY!!!**



## **Military Trivia**



1. What was the term used by US Army Europe to initiate a unit recall for an alert?
2. What divisions were assigned to VII Corps in the 1980s?
3. What does the acronym FUBAR stand for?
4. The M561 military vehicle was also known by this name.
5. Where was the headquarters for VII Corps Artillery during the 1980s?
6. What was the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany?
7. The term CUCV was short for what vehicle description?
8. What was the nomenclature of the kitchen trailers used by the battery mess sections?
9. What was the name of the vehicle that replaced the GOER?
10. What does HEMTT stand for?

**\*\*Answers can be found on Page 31...**

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) John MacEnroe and SP4 Russell Adams.



**Interview with Major (Retired) John MacEnroe  
Battalion Adjutant**

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

I came to the Battalion in November 1983 after a command in 1ID(F). I was assigned as LNO to my old Regiment, 2D ACR/ Asst. S-3. Subsequently, after extending to be the S-2, I was appointed Bn Adjutant.

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

I was married, let's not go there... and lived in Katterbach. I am remarried to a wonderful, and sane woman, and life is good.

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

I worked for Tom Stecher almost the entire time. He was a capable officer, but a mediocre skier!

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

The exceptional training, and the fun and joy of soldiering... ultimately being rear detachment commander at the end of my tour sucked the fun and soul out of it. Soldering is and was immensely fun, whether it was in a battery, or far better, adjusting fire from a tank turret, right seat of an OH 58, or slogging on the ground. The Officers Club was also the scene of fond memories, having dinner with a former boss as both of us commanders, he of a squadron, me of a battery, but colleagues nevertheless.

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

When my (now former) wife had a complete nervous/emotional breakdown.

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

Being in the field with the 2nd ACR, the fluidity of the operations required flexible responses and allowed for creative and dynamic thinking to solve multiple and complex challenges. In Garrison, ski trips to Solden, Austria were always a highlight.

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

I remember a slew of people for a variety of reasons, there is no one person. Peter Volin for bringing calm and order to the TOC, Bill Dunham for successfully herding the cats that comprised HHB, officers whose' egos outstripped their capabilities, lieutenants who predictably did the lieutenant thing, and Tommy Houston, who I collaborated with to bring innovative training to his battery. But, I often think of the Regimental FSO, a CPT Martinez, who was horribly injured in a car accident and was in a coma for months, discharged and awoken on Christmas morning later that year, gotta be a message there somewhere!

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

Unquestionably, my wife Susan. She still struggles to reignite a spark of humanity in me.

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

When I left Ansbach, I did a brief stint at Fort Sill, prior to being assigned as a Readiness Group Assistor, with reserve component client units throughout the six New England states. I left the active Army in 1988, to pursue a civilian career; initially as an engineer for NYNEX, evolving into regulatory relations and ultimately government affairs. I lobbied in higher education, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, garnering millions for biotechnology, nanotechnology, augmented reality, and other highly technical research projects. I led an economic development corporation, consulted in the manufacturing sector, and ultimately led an equine assisted therapy center, focused on developmental disabilities and soldiers attempting to overcome traumatic stressors.

My ex and I had two children, John Patrick, now 30 and severely autistic; and Meghan, now 27 and successfully doing development work in Westchester. Susan and I got married in December 2001 and she brought Adam into the mix, now married to Lauren, and the father of our first granddaughter, Scarlett, and the expectant father of a grandson anticipated to arrive in September.

Following my active Army career I returned to New York, where we still live, and completed my remaining time in the Reserve Components, retiring 2001 as a Major. After nearly a decade and a half, I am doing less direct provisioning of services to veterans, but continue to raise money for several organizations that are direct service providers.

Ironically, I am the adjutant of the Second Cavalry Association, and publish its bimonthly newsletter. In that capacity, I suspect that I am the one of us most recently at Graf having participated in the regimental change of command this past June.

In the last six years, Susan and I have traveled through Alaska, Germany, France, Austria, Czechia, Hungary, Ireland, and Iceland. Hell, I've even taken her on a Border tour to Hof and Mogdlareuth! We are heading to Oberammergau and Italy in September.

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

I would like to see less focus on the Batteries, and more on comradeship, history, healing, and tradition.



**Interview with SP4 Russell Adams  
C Battery  
Mess Hall Driver**

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

I was assigned to the battalion from August 1981 - March 1983. I was assigned to C Battery. I was a 64C truck driver assigned to the mess hall as the driver of the C Battery mess truck, C-8. I held the rank of Specialist 4.

***\*What was your marital status when assigned to the Battalion 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?***

The individuals I remember most are SFC Young who was the NCOIC of the mess hall and the C Battery first sergeant, 1SG Willie Salary. I still keep in touch with 1SG Salary.

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

I actually enjoyed the trips to Graf. If my memory serves me correctly, I believe that the mess sections were consolidated with Service Battery. I was deployed to Iraq as a member of the Florida National Guard many years later and my experience there reminded me of the time we spent at Graf.

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

I enjoyed my entire time in 2/28 and Ansbach so I don't recall any tough times while I was there.

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

I really enjoyed meeting the people of Ansbach and Germany overall. I wasn't the typical enlisted soldier who spent a lot of free time just hanging around the billets. I made a point to get out and take advantage of what living in Germany had to offer. I was an active member of the local Volksmarch club and participated in many Volksmarches. That's why I say I don't remember any tough times. I really enjoyed my assignment in 2/28.

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

In addition to 1SG Salary and SFC Young whom I already mentioned, I remember SSG Spruill, who was the assistant dining facility NCOIC and SPCs Duckett and Bailey, who were cooks assigned to C Battery.

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

I left active duty shortly after my assignment in 2/28, settled in New Jersey, and started a landscape business. While in New Jersey, I enlisted in the 50<sup>th</sup> Armored Division of the New Jersey National Guard as an 88M, motor transport operator. In 1998, I moved to Kentucky and started another landscape business. I eventually left the landscape business and obtained my commercial driver's license (CDL) and began a career as a long haul trucker. I was also a member of several other National Guard units while in Kentucky. In 2008, I moved to Florida, joined the 868th Engineer Company, and eventually deployed to Iraq with the 779th Engineer Battalion from June 2009 - June 2010.

I enjoy collecting and working on vintage military vehicles. I recently obtained a mobile kitchen trailer which I plan to restore to make it similar to the one I was assigned to while in C Battery of 2/28. I also participate in military reenactments. I recently participated in a parade where I dressed as COL Paul Tibbets, the command pilot of the Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.



Russ Adams dressed up as COL Paul Tibbets in a military reenactment.



The Mobile Kitchen Trailer, M128 12-ton trailer, Russ picked up recently that he plans to restore.

**\*This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and FINAL PART of a series  
on the history of Bleidorn Kaserne.**

## **The History of Bleidorn Kaserne**

By Tommy Houston

### **The Growth of Bleidorn**

The 70<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery Battalion was assigned to Bleidorn in 1952. This was a 155 SP unit and had its Headquarters in the A/SVC Battery Building with the firing batteries located in the other buildings on the Kaserne. In 1960, the 18<sup>th</sup> FA Group and the 70<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery moved to Hindenburg Kaserne in downtown Ansbach. They were replaced at Bleidorn by two Field Artillery missile units, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 40<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery was a Corporal Missile unit and the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery which was a Lacrosse Missile unit. The 4/28 FA occupied the HHB and the B/C Buildings while the 2/40 FA occupied the A/SVC Building as well as the Band/MP Building. It was also in 1960 that the building that had been used as a headquarters building was converted to use as a mess hall to feed both Battalions. Sometime in 1963 the 2/40 FA was deactivated when the Army retired the Corporal Missile, and the 4/28 FA became the primary occupant of the Kaserne until late 1964 when it was also deactivated when the Army retired the Lacrosse missile system.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s numerous other Artillery units called Bleidorn home for brief periods of time these including the 979<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion which was a

Michigan National Guard unit that was federalized and sent to Germany during the Berlin Crisis. Another was the 3<sup>rd</sup> FA Battalion which was an Honest John Rocket unit which was housed on the Kaserne for a short time.

Prior to the arrival of new occupants at Bleidorn in the 1960s, the Army issued contracts to refurbish most of the buildings. This work included new roofs over all the barracks buildings as well as the mess hall, modernization of the latrines in the barracks buildings as well as a modern steam heating system (the previous system had been coal fired) along with a host of smaller projects. One of these smaller projects was the construction of arms rooms in each of the buildings. Previously, weapons had been secured in racks in the hallways of the barracks buildings. Another small project was the replacement of doors and windows in all the buildings. All this work was completed in 1966 and the Kaserne was ready for its new occupants.



### **I-75 Field Artillery on Hindenburg Kaserne**

*Photo courtesy of USARMYEUROPE.COM*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 75<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery was an 8-inch SP Unit (M-55) located on Hindenburg Kaserne. In 1966 this unit was reflagged as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery and was the first unit in Europe to receive the 175MM M-107 SP Gun. In December of 1966 this unit was relocated to

Bleidorn along with the Division Band and MP company for the 4<sup>th</sup> (later 1<sup>st</sup>) Armored Division. Here the Battalion remained for the next 22 years until it was reflagged as the 3-17<sup>th</sup> FA.



**Bleidorn Housing Area today**

*Photo from USAG Ansbach*

In 1966 the housing area, which was only 10 years old, began a major upgrade of kitchens and bathrooms. Also in 1966, a contract was awarded for the construction of a Department of Defense School System Elementary school as well as the NCO Club along with several playgrounds in the Housing Area.

Normal upkeep of the Kaserne continued until the next major contract in 1985. A 3 Million dollar contract was awarded to revamp the heating system in the barracks in the form of heat risers as well as refurbishment of the exterior of the buildings on the Kaserne. Those of us who were stationed there in the 80s can remember the scaffolding that seemed to be on the outside of the building the entire time that we were stationed there.

In 1990, the Battalion, now reflagged as the 3-17 FA, was deployed to Desert Shield/Desert Storm. After the war, the soldiers returned to Bleidorn, but the equipment remained in the



Middle East. This was because in the post Desert Storm plan the Battalion was to be deactivated but this was changed, and the decision was made to keep the Battalion in the Army's force structure and to move it to Fort Sill to be part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade.

Bleidorn Kaserne was determined to be excess to the Army's needs and would be given back, less the housing area, to the German Government. The final Commander of Bleidorn, then LTC Jeff McCausland, lowered the US flag for the final time in 1991 and returned the Kaserne to the Germans.

Since the Kaserne has been returned to German control, it has been utilized by special training units of the German National Police, the Bundesgrunshutz Politzi and the Bavarian Police. The Germans have renovated the Mess Hall and returned it to use as an administrative building as well as the HHB Barracks.

The Kaserne has been utilized to house refugees from time to time since its return to the German Government. At the time of this research, the A/SVC building as well as the Band MP Building are being utilized to house approximately 300 Syrian Refugees. The Parade ground has been turned into a parking lot as well as a location for modular buildings and the motor pool has been converted to a driver's training course. The Germans have torn down a number of buildings on the Kaserne including the Gym, the S-4/Battalion Maintenance, and a number of buildings in the motor pool.

In the last 10 years, for unknown reasons, the B/C Battery building was torn down and a new building was constructed in its place, which looks a lot like the original building. The housing area remains under the control of the U.S. Army and has been remodeled several times over the years.

## !!!MILITARY TRIVIA ANSWERS!!!

1. Lariat Advance
2. 1st Armored Division and 3rd Infantry Division
3. F'd Up Beyond All Recognition
4. Gamma Goat
5. Augsburg, Federal Republic of Germany
6. Bonn
7. Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle
8. MKT 85
9. M977 HEMTT
10. Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck

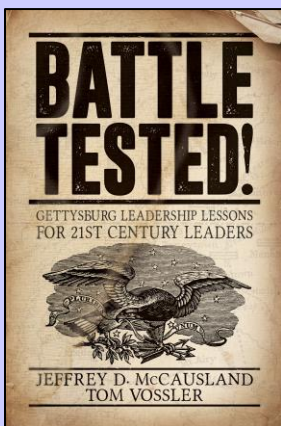


The 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regimental Association is proud to announce that one of our members, COL Jeffrey D. McCausland, US Army (Retired), has co-written a book called

***BATTLE TESTED!***



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



***Summary of the Approach of the Book:***

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

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

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

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

The book, *Battle Tested!*, is available on Amazon: [bit.ly/D6battletested](https://bit.ly/D6battletested)

**CONGRATULATIONS JEFF!!!**

With each Edition of the Newsletter, we want to share news and pictures (*past and/or present*) from members of the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Family!!! Please email them to us at...

[Newsletter@28fara.org](mailto:Newsletter@28fara.org)

## SITREP - A Visit with Major (R) Paul Lange

*By George Hardin*

In October of 2022, Tommy Houston and I (George Hardin) went to Santa Fe New Mexico to visit Major (R) Paul Lange, the former Battalion XO at 2-28. He is currently battling Parkinson's disease. He has not lost his sarcastic wit; we enjoyed hanging out with him and gave him a hard time because all he had in his fridge was Coors Light.



*Continued on next page...*

While we were there, Tommy took the opportunity to fly the L39 Albatross at the Warbird Center. The Albatross is a Czech built aircraft and is the most widely used military trainer in the world. After a 1-hour ground school, he strapped into the front cockpit, with the instructor in the rear, and took off for a 1-hour flight performing touch and go, steep dives and a 360 roll. Even though I am a pilot, I did not have the cash this time around to fly as I have just moved to Oregon.



Wednesday night Paul, Tommy and I got together with Madonna Stecher (Tom was not feeling well) and my friend Sylvia (She dated my roommate back in the 80s and we have been friends ever since). We had a great time and a lot of laughs, some at Tom's expense since he was not there to defend himself.

During this trip, I also took the opportunity to do a video interview of Paul for the Veterans History Project, Library of Congress. This organization publishes the interviews and service records of veterans on their website where they are available to the public and searchable by historians. You do not have to have fought in a war to enter your information into the Veterans History Project. During the interview, Paul recounted his first fight with his battalion commander while stationed in Vietnam. The Commander was incensed with Paul because he refused an illegal order to call in an artillery strike in Cambodia. The Santa Fe area is beautiful with unlimited skies and mountains in all directions. Paul says hi to everyone in the Association. Tommy and I plan to go back to see Paul soon.





**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
CALL FOR  
ARTILLERY**