

# 1-321<sup>ST</sup> AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT



## HISTORICAL STUDY GUIDE

1917-2010

(2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION)



1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR Battalion Leadership June 2009 in front of the Battalion Head Quarters Building at Fort Bragg, NC

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## ~Battalion Coin~



The 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR Battalion coin was designed by LTC Richard Fenoli, the former 1-321<sup>st</sup> Battalion Commander and CSM Freddy Rivera as a representation of the organization's history. One side of the coin displays the 82nd Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division and 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Patches representing all the organizations the Battalion has been assigned to or attached to on a permanent basis.

The 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment was established in 1917 as one of the founding units of the 82nd and fought with the Division in WWI. In 1942 when the 82d Division was designated as the United States first Airborne Division, it was also directed to establish the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division by releasing half of its assigned units. It was decided that the 321<sup>st</sup> would be assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> giving the 321<sup>st</sup> the honor of being an establishing unit in the United States first two Airborne Divisions. The 321<sup>st</sup> fought in WWII, Vietnam, and the Cold War with the 101<sup>st</sup>. In 1996 the 321<sup>st</sup> was assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade where it fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Coming full circle in July 2008, the Battalion was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and soon after deployed to Afghanistan to fight in Operation Enduring Freedom IX and X. This side of the coin also lists the different wars and operations which the regiment and the Battalion have served in. World War I, World War II, Vietnam, the Cold War, Kosovo, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom are represented on the cross cannons of the coin. The paratrooper over the cross cannons represent the unit as being the only airborne 155mm Field Artillery Battalion in the world.

The other side of the coin displays the unit's designation, its batteries and company guidons, Master Wings, and the Regimental Crest. The design of the crest consists of the scarlet red color of the artillery and lion paws that symbolize the strength of the Artillery. The phrase, *Noli Me Tangere*, is the regimental motto created in World War I. It means "Don't tread on me," and is inscribed below the crest. Master wings and the present-day motto, "Warriors... All The Way," are on the coin and represent the unit's airborne history, which dates back to 1942.

~UNIT AWARDS~

World War I 

LORRAINE 1918  
ST. MIHIEL 1918  
MEUSE - ARGONNE 1918

World War II 

NORMANDY 1944 (With Arrowhead)  
RHINELAND 1944 -1945 (With Arrowhead)  
ARDENNES - ALSACE 1944 – 1945  
CENTRAL EUROPE 1945

 French Croix de Guerre 

NORMANDY

Military William Order 

NETHERLANDS ORANGE LANYARD

Presidential Unit Citation 

BASTOGNE

 Belgium Croix de Guerre 

BASTOGNE  
BELGIAN FOURRAGERE

## Vietnam

VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE III 1967-1968  
TET COUNTEROFFENSIVE 1968  
VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE IV 1968  
VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE V 1968  
VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE VI, 1968-1969  
TET 69/COUNTEROFFENSIVE, 1969  
VIETNAM SUMMER-FALL 1969  
VIETNAM WINTER-SPRING 1970  
SANCTUARY COUNTEROFFENSIVE 1970  
VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE VII, 1970-1971  
CONSOLIDATION I 1971  
CONSOLIDATION II 1971-1972

## Vietnam Gallantry Crosses

VIETNAM 1968  
VIETNAM 1968-1969  
VIETNAM 1971

## VIETNAM CIVIL ACTION HONOR MEDAL

VIETNAM 1968-1970

## IRAQ

IRAQI GOVERNANCE 2004-2005

## AFGHANISTAN

CONSOLIDATION II (OPEN CAMPAIGN)

## COMBAT ACTION 1-321<sup>ST</sup> AFAR

AFGHANISTAN

## ~DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA AND COAT OF ARMS~



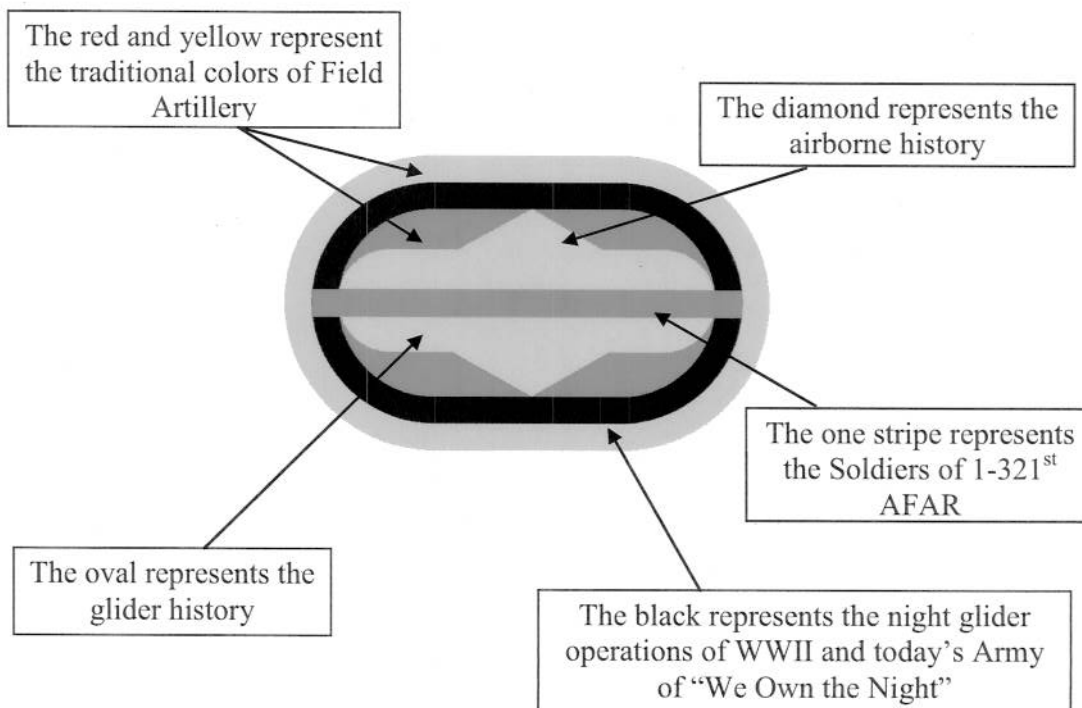
Coat of Arms: The lion with one head facing forward and the other backward, brandishing a round in both directions signifies the organization as the artillery unit of the 101st Airborne Division who fired the first and the last rounds on German soil. The winged cannon represents the organization's former designation as a Glider Field Artillery Battalion and its assignment to the 101st Airborne Division during World War II. The red and blue escutcheon is from the arms of

Bastogne. The annulet represents the enemy encirclement of Bastogne and refers to the unit's distinguished action in its defense during World War II. The three fleurs-de-lis stand for the organization's participation in three campaigns in France during World War I, the organization's first war service.



Unit Insignia: The shield is scarlet for Artillery. The lion's paws are significant to Field Artillery; they are likened to mountain lion paws, which have great strength and power to crush a victim. Attached along the bottom is a gold scroll inscribed with the unit's motto, "NOLI ME TANGERE" (Don't Tread on Me) in red letters.

## ~ELEMENTS OF THE FLASH AND TRIMMINGS~





## ~WORLD WAR ONE~

Appropriately enough, the history of the battalion begins with the Great War. The 321<sup>st</sup> Artillery Regiment was constituted in the National Army on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, 1917 and later organized at Camp Gordon, GA on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1917. The 321<sup>st</sup> along with its sister regiments, the 319<sup>th</sup> and 320<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiments, formed the 157<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade assigned to the new 82<sup>nd</sup> Division. The Regiment was designated as a horse-drawn artillery regiment and would employ the M1902, a three inch field gun.

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1917, the first Soldiers of the Regiment began to arrive at Camp Gordon. They ranged from draft recruits to non-commissioned officers from the regular army. Days later, the first set of newly commissioned officers arrived at Camp Gordon; they reported to Colonel Clarence Deems Jr., the first 321<sup>st</sup> Regimental Commander, and Major D.M. Beere, the first Battalion Commander.

By the end of September, the Regiment's Officer and Enlisted ranks increased by 340 personnel; the unit could begin training and testing their artillery skills. The initial



training was rigorous and filled with numerous trials and hardships. New recruits were trained by even newer officers on the military way of life. Night classes had to be organized to teach English to the foreign born Soldiers in order to execute basic artillery commands. The 157<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade was equipped with only one battery's worth of 3-inch field guns for training, allowing each battery only a few hours per week to handle real guns. To supplement their training, Soldiers manufactured wooden replicas fashioned from the trunks of small trees, tin cans, spools, gas pipes, and any other available material which could be made to represent the site, panoramic site, quadrant, breech block, traversing and elevating mechanisms. E Battery was fortunate enough to obtain an exact wooden replica of the M1902 made

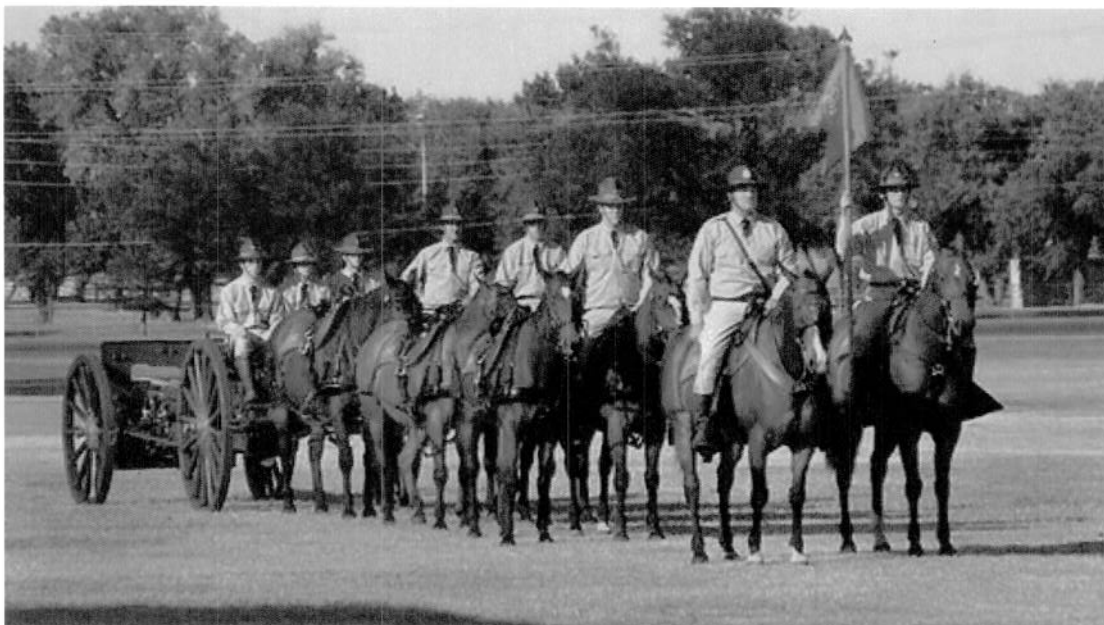
by the Georgia School of Technology.

In December of 1917, the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment was ready to validate its training. The government leased land that was to be used as a firing range at Black Jack Mountain, outside of Camp Gordon. The Artillerymen were eager to fire real guns, and with another battery of guns available for training, the men marched twenty-two miles to Black Jack Range for their first live fire exercise. Over the next few months, the men made three trips to the range, where they tested their speed, accuracy, and teamwork; they set a high standard for the new Artillery Regiment.

The 321<sup>st</sup> was redesigned as a motorized artillery regiment while at Camp Gordon. Many of the older Soldiers were unsuited to handle trucks and mechanical engines, so they were transferred and replaced with men who had civilian experience with gas engines. Lack of proper equipment again became an issue; when it did not have enough equipment to train the Soldiers on the mechanics of engines, they had to rely on the ingenuity of leaders. They overcame the obstacle by using drawings and illustrations of gas engines; soon the Soldiers were trained. The unit was then prepared to operate the equipment they would be issued for their deployment to France.

After only nine months of organizing the unit, close order drill training, artillery training, and live fire ranges, the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment was ready for war. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1918 the men of the 321<sup>st</sup> boarded the troop ship Cretic and set sail at 1330 hours for France.

After sailing across the Atlantic for nearly two weeks, the 321<sup>st</sup> reached Liverpool, England on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1918. The unit spent four days in England gathering their equipment, and then crossed the channel and entered La Havre, France on June 5<sup>th</sup>. On June 8<sup>th</sup> they loaded trains headed to La Coutine, France, their last training camp. Immediately upon arrival to La Coutine, the unit began an extensive and intensive artillery training course. Although the regiment had been designated and trained as a motorized field artillery unit, the 321<sup>st</sup> was redesignated as a “temporary horse drawn” unit. The redesignation authorized the regiment approximately five hundred new Soldiers and a full complement of horses and harnesses. At La Coutine, the Regiment also drew its full issue of ordnance and quartermaster equipment, to include the French 75mm guns they used throughout the war.



Fort Sill's Field Artillery Half Section replicating how a section from 1-321<sup>st</sup> FAR would have been organized in WWI.

## ST. MIHIEL 1918



Fully trained and equipped, the Regiment was ready. They moved to their first combat firing position. Second Battalion, commanded by Major Mehard, set up in the Marbache Sector and relieved 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. First Battalion, commanded by Captain Lewis S. Chanler, Jr., moved into the Lucey Sector near Bouvron, France and relieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. First Battalion remained there a few nights. They only had the opportunity to shoot on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1918 when A Battery was permitted to fire 26 rounds for a registration. Later that night, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was relieved by the 122<sup>nd</sup> FA and marched to the Bois de Hazelle (near the town of Jaillon). The Battalion occupied that position until the night of September 9<sup>th</sup>, to prepare for the St. Mihiel Offensive. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division published Field Order #9, outlining the St. Mihiel Offensive:

### From: Hq. 82<sup>nd</sup> Division – September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

The mission of the Division is to maintain its front, exerting pressure on the enemy with all its means and maintaining contact with him. The Division summed up as follows: Destructive, harassing and neutralization fire – but particularly to secure with its own means the neutralization of enemy batteries in front of the Divisional sector to our left. Originally, the artillery action was to commence at H-hour, but late on the afternoon of September 11<sup>th</sup>, verbal orders were received that the schedule would begin at H-minus 4 hours. The Schedule of fire for the regiment was outlined as follows:

H – hour – 5 hrs. Time		Targets	Rate of fire and ammunition.
From:	To:		
H minus 4 hrs.	H minus 3 hrs 30 min	Neutralization of Batteries 81.31-40.21 40.16 43.14, 54.02 55.84	6 rds. Per gun per min. H minus. 4 hrs to H minus 3 hrs.50. 1 2/3 rds. Per gun per min. H minus 3 hrs. 50 to H minus.30.
H minus 4 hrs.	H minus 3 hrs.	Surprise fire on 2 Enemy O.P.'s. O-3 O-10.	Ammunition #5 Gas Shell 6 rds. per gun per min H minus 4 hrs to H minus 3 hrs.50, then slow fire. Ammunition #5 Gas Shell and HE
H minus 3 hrs.	H minus 1 hr.	Continuation of Neutralization of Enemy batteries and O.P.'s. Slow Fire.	
H minus 1 hr	H plus 3 hrs.	Batteries 14.18 – 37.23 33.27 – 53.20	Ammunition #20 gas. Rapid concentration, then slow fire.
H plus 3 hrs.	End of operation	Neutralization of enemy Batteries showing activity. Harassing fire.	

The St. Mihiel Offensive started on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 0100 hours. At 0630 hours the unit received their first hostile fire of the war. B Battery received a light concentration of gas and H.E. shells, resulting in no casualties. The 321<sup>st</sup> continued to fire their guns throughout the week, maintaining the high standards they set almost a year ago at Black Jack Range in Georgia. Overall, the Regiment shot approximately 33,000 rounds, ceased harassing enemy fire across the sector and silenced the enemy. However, the greatest result of the St. Mihiel Offensive, as far as the Regiment was concerned, was the confidence established in the men across the unit. During the week-long campaign the Regiment lost six Soldiers, and 24 were wounded or gassed.

With their first combat operation of the war completed, and armed with a newfound confidence, the 321<sup>st</sup> received march orders to a new position to prepare for the next major offensive. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Regiment was relieved by the French 68<sup>th</sup> Division, and then spent the following two weeks moving from their position near Jaillon to a position near the Four aux Moines, where they prepared for the Meuse-Argonne Campaign.



Artillery unit firing in World War I

## MEUSE - ARGONNE 1918



The Meuse-Argonne Campaign started on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 1918. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was commanded by Major L. Frazer Banks. The 321<sup>st</sup> shot approximately 1,000 rounds of H.E. and gas shells on the first day of the campaign. After the first day, the 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (the unit 321<sup>st</sup> supported) reported that the two companies of enemy soldiers had practically been annihilated. The 321<sup>st</sup> continued to fire rounds in astonishing numbers; they silenced and neutralized enemy positions with lethal accuracy and precision. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, the regiment received orders to relocate their guns to a new position near Fleville and prepare to fire in support of the 163<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade. Throughout the day, harassing fire was shot on several predetermined targets in support of the infantry attack that began at 0700 hours. There were approximately 650 rounds fired, which took out at least eight enemy machine gun positions.

October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> were very eventful and amazing days for the 321<sup>st</sup>. Beginning at 2140hrs on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, until 0600hrs on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>; the Regiment fired roughly 1,300 gas rounds. Then, throughout the day on the 13<sup>th</sup>, they supported the 325<sup>th</sup> and 326<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments, reaching a maximum rate of fire of 80 rounds per minute. Continuing into the night on the 13<sup>th</sup>, they concentrated harassing fire on several targets, the Regiment shot another 4,800 rounds



Artillery unit firing in World War I

of H.E., shrapnel, and gas. On 14 October, the Regiment moved again to a new location near Sommerance, France, this time they moved under heavy enemy fire. Nonetheless, the 321<sup>st</sup> pushed forward, set in at their new positions and were ready to fire.

For the following 10 days, the 321<sup>st</sup> continued to support the infantry; they shot thousands of rounds, killing the enemy and preventing their advancement. The last week of the Argonne Offensive (Oct 23-Nov 1), was quiet compared to the start of the campaign. No preplanned schedules of fires were assigned to the Regiment. However, some light harassing fire missions were ordered during the hours of darkness throughout the week.

The Campaign ran from October 7<sup>th</sup> to Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, during this time the regiment fired an astonishing 60,000 rounds at the enemy. Despite the extreme amount of rounds fired, the enemy counter fired on the Regiments positions, killing six Soldiers and wounding or gassing 67 others.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division, minus the 157<sup>th</sup> Artillery Brigade, was relieved by the 77<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Divisions. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the 321<sup>st</sup> was attached to the 80<sup>th</sup> Division and moved into position for the start of the Lorraine Battle, which came to

## LORRAINE 1918



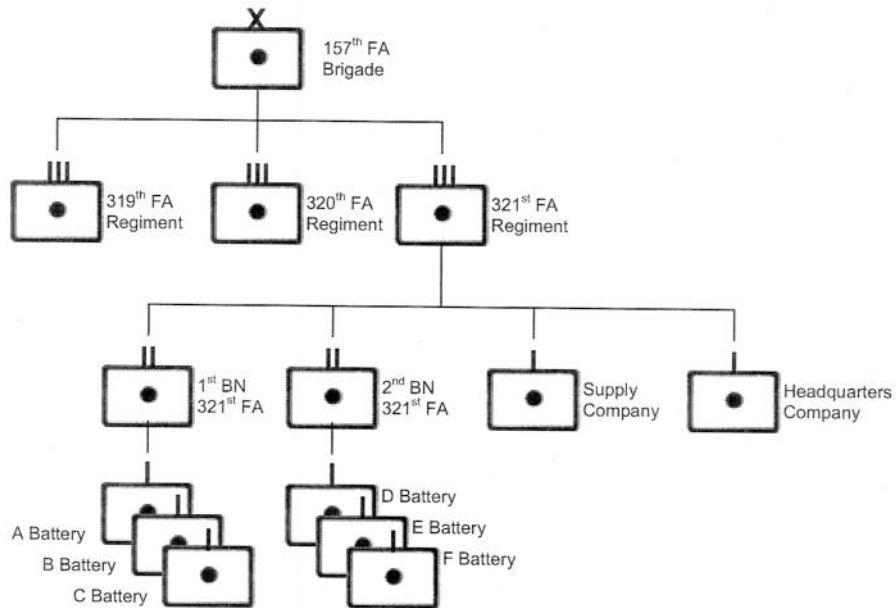
be known, by the Soldiers, as the November Drive. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 0330hrs, the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment initiated the final push of the war; it has been said that this was the most terrific barrage ever to be fired by the Regiment and in the history of the War. For the following four days, the regiment fired in support of the infantry; they moved around the battlefield with precision and accuracy of fire unmatched by the enemy. As a result of their actions, the 321<sup>st</sup> was relieved by the 320<sup>th</sup> FAR at 1200 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November.

For the 321<sup>st</sup> FAR the November Drive was complete. Every preparation had been made for an intense battle, and every instruction had been given in the method of fire that American Artillerymen love and excel in; direct fire and open warfare. It became evident the battle was intended to be a running fight and for the enemy it developed quite suddenly into a rear guard action. After the terrific opening barrage on November 1<sup>st</sup>, evident by the upheaved ground and leveled woods, the enemy's resistance was completely broken. Their main objective had been transformed into a retreat; get out with as many troops alive as possible. Everywhere there was evidence of their flight: blazed towns, burned caches and supplies, deserted guns with ammunition left in the breech, and hundreds of dead horses and men; scattered singly or laying in heaps. All this testified to the exceptionally rapid advance of the infantry and the wholesale destruction of the enemy by the artillery.

Six days later, on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany, thus ending the war in France. Throughout the war, the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment suffered 17 killed in action and another 140 wounded. One of the wounded Soldiers stood out among the rest. While in command of his gun on October 15<sup>th</sup>, near Sommerance, France, Sergeant William F. Lesh from A Battery was severely wounded by a shell fragment. Despite his wounds and under intense enemy fire, Sergeant Lesh continued to fire his gun. For his actions, Sergeant Lesh was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross; and is still the highest decorated Soldier in Regimental history.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1919, at Camp Dix, NJ, the 321<sup>st</sup> Regiment was demobilized. The Regiment was awarded two Campaign Streamers: St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne, and one battle streamer, Lorraine 1918 for their defensive actions in battle in early September 1918.

## 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment unit organization – World War One



On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1917, when the 321<sup>st</sup> FA Regiment was established, it was task organized with six firing batteries and four, three inch guns per firing battery; for a total of 24 guns.



Pictured left are examples of patches worn by Soldiers of the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment while under the command of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division during WW I.

## ~WORLD WAR TWO~

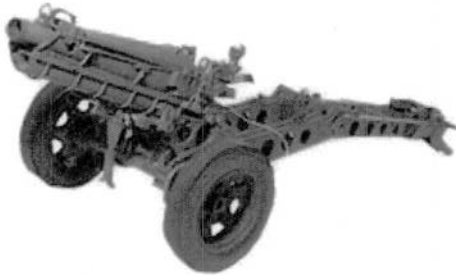
The year is 1942, and once again the World is embroiled in War. On January 30<sup>th</sup> 1942, the Regiment was reorganized/re-designated as the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, and was ordered to active service under the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division. The unit was transferred to Camp Claiborne, LA on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1942.

Training the Soldiers began with tutelage in basic rifle marksmanship, artillery crew drills, military customs and courtesies; along with everyday duties such as KP and police calls. One Soldier stated that, "We saluted everything that moved. If it didn't move, we picked it up. If it was too big to police, we painted it." All of their training and long hours did not go unnoticed. After the Second Armored Corps unit certifications, with the tests complete and scores tallied, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division rated higher than all other divisions in the Corps; the 321<sup>st</sup> scored near the top of the Division, with a 93 percent in all-around efficiency.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, due to the outstanding demonstration shown by the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division, Major General Ridgeway announced that the 82<sup>nd</sup> would be transformed into two divisions; these were the first airborne divisions of the Army. The 321<sup>st</sup> was selected to be one of the founding units of the new division and would leave the 82<sup>nd</sup>. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Divisions were created. The 321<sup>st</sup> FA Battalion was again redesignated; this time as the 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Artillery. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1942, on a hot parade field at Camp



321<sup>st</sup> conducts Basic Rifle Marksmanship



Claiborne, LA, MG William Lee announced to the new division, that although they had no past, they now all shared "a rendezvous with destiny." With that said, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division was born. The new Division also received a new home; the Soldiers of the recently formed 101<sup>st</sup> packed up and moved to Fort Bragg, NC.



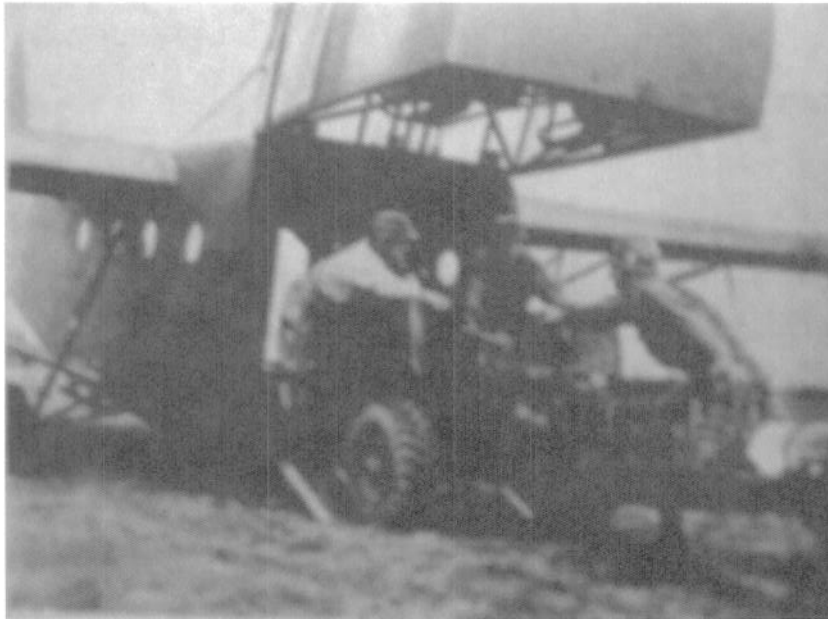
Once at Fort Bragg, the 321<sup>st</sup> received their first shipment of 75mm Pack Howitzers. Small in size compared to the 155mm howitzer that the artillerymen were used to; however, it was soon learned that "although it was small it was a wicked and hard hitting gun."

Once the 321<sup>st</sup> Soldiers were trained on how to shoot and maintain their new howitzers they had the task of learning their newest equipment, the CG4A Waco Glider. At first, the Battalion only had crudely built mock-ups of the gliders and C-47 planes for training; this caused the troops to be unsure if the equipment would really work. However, after they spent a day at Pope Field and witnessed actual Waco Gliders at work, the men were convinced that the glider could be flown into combat.



On August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1943 the 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion got the opportunity to deploy. Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Edward L. Carmichael, the unit departed Fort Bragg and arrived in Liverpool, England two weeks later, on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The 321<sup>st</sup> spent the next seven months training intensively with the 506<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, the 327<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry Regiment and the British 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne.

While in England, rumors spread about when and where the 321<sup>st</sup> was going to strike. The men were certain that with all their Airborne/Glider training they would land via glider into Normandy when D-Day arrived; however, that was not the case. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1944, the Battalion was alerted for the upcoming invasion and soon learned that they would load onto ships and conduct an amphibious assault.



321<sup>st</sup> loads a Pack 75mm Howitzer onto a CG4A Waco Glider

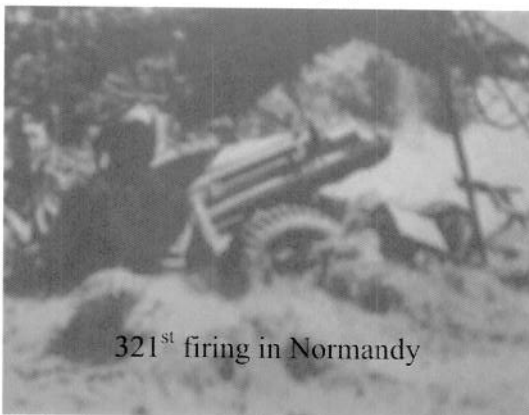


On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1944 the Battalion loaded two different ships: the Susan B. Anthony and the John S. Mosby. They sailed into the English Channel and waited for Operation Overlord to begin. During the day, last minute meetings were held by the officers to discuss changes to the attack. The invasion was planned down to the smallest detail, nothing was overlooked.

In the early morning on June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Normandy coast came into sight; the 321<sup>st</sup> could see thousands of Allied aircraft circling overhead. Allied battleships blasted away on German positions; smoke rose from what had been German strong points along the coast. The artillerymen on board the ships were briefed that "D-Day" had arrived. They were informed that once the infantry cleared the beaches, which could happen at any moment, they needed to unload the equipment. Early on the 7<sup>th</sup>, the two ships began to move into position, they dropped anchors and awaited orders to unload, when the Susan B. Anthony struck a mine and slowly started to sink. The Soldiers quickly transferred to landing crafts and moved ashore, the first troops of the 321<sup>st</sup> reached the Normandy coast around 1500 hours on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. Every Soldier was rescued; the only loss was their individual equipment. For three days, the Soldiers of the 321<sup>st</sup> were without howitzers, personal



321<sup>st</sup> Anti Aircraft Section



321<sup>st</sup> firing in Normandy

weapons or any other equipment that would protect them. Finally, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, the John S. Mosby was unloaded, and their equipment reached Utah Beach.

The next morning, June 10<sup>th</sup>, the 321<sup>st</sup> moved into their first firing position of the war; Pouppeville, France where they fired their first rounds in support of the 327<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry Regiment. That night, the 321<sup>st</sup> positions were bombed and strafed by the Germans with lethal accuracy. An ammo dump was hit and went up in flames;

it gave the men the impression that the entire German Army was upon them. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the 321<sup>st</sup> provided lethal and accurate fires for the infantry. They fired for two hours in support of the attack on Carentan, France.

Once Carentan was secured, the 321<sup>st</sup> moved into a second position near the town of Catz. Here, the 321<sup>st</sup> fired in general support of the infantry. They drove the Germans

back roughly 3,000 yards allowing the 101<sup>st</sup> to set up a defensive position and run supply lines to airborne troops in surrounding areas. The 321<sup>st</sup> stayed positioned near Catz for another three days. The Battalion then moved to their third position which was west of Carentan on June 15<sup>th</sup>. For the 14 days they were located at this firing point, the 321<sup>st</sup> continually fought off German attempts to advance and push the American Army back to the coast. The 321<sup>st</sup> responded with timely and accurate fire, causing heavy losses to the German Army. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, the 79<sup>th</sup> Division relieved the 321<sup>st</sup> allowing it to move into their final position of the Normandy Campaign. The 321<sup>st</sup> moved to Cherbourg, France where they were put in reserve and given responsibility for guarding the city while waiting for transportation back to England.

Over the 34 days of the Normandy Campaign, the 321<sup>st</sup> continued to do what it did best; they provided field artillery in support of the infantry and held back the enemy. In all, the 321<sup>st</sup> fired nearly 12,000 rounds of 75mm ammo and held four offensive and defensive positions. Because of their efforts, the Battalion was awarded the Normandy Campaign Streamer with Arrowhead (signifying that some elements of the 101<sup>st</sup> made an Airborne Assault into Normandy), and French Croix de Guerre with Palm.



321<sup>st</sup> firing in Normandy

## RHINELAND 1944 1945

After the Normandy Campaign the Soldiers of the 321<sup>st</sup> returned to England, where, for about two months, they were allowed to rest and continue their training in order to prepare for what lay ahead. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Battalion was alerted; they quickly packed their equipment, moved out of their Whatcombe Farm residence and headed to the airfield. When the Soldiers arrived at the airfield they saw row upon row of C-47s and CG4A Waco Gliders waiting to be loaded and glided into battle; this reassured them of the Divisions importance.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the men were awakened to the sounds of C-47 Transport Plane engines, which were preparing for take off in support of the start of Operation Market Garden. The Soldiers quickly conducted last



A 321<sup>st</sup> Waco Glider ready for take off prior to Operation Market Garden

minute checks of their equipment, packed up and headed to their gliders. At 1235hrs the 321<sup>st</sup> was airborne as the first glider took to the air. With enemy fire all around, the gliders were cut loose and headed to the ground; 57 of the 71 gliders reached the Holland landing zone. Immediately, the Soldiers of the 321<sup>st</sup> unloaded their gliders and by 1845hrs they were in position ready to fire. Throughout the day, the 321<sup>st</sup> fired in support of the 502<sup>nd</sup> and 327<sup>th</sup> near the towns of Best and Zon as they gradually pushed forward.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Battalion marched about 15 miles from their position near the town on Zon to a position southwest of Veghel to fire in support of the 501<sup>st</sup>. The 501<sup>st</sup> was in an intense battle against elements of the German 7<sup>th</sup> Panzer Brigade, who was



A 321<sup>st</sup> soldier ready to fire a bazooka

attempting to cut off supply routes to Allied troops in the area. The Battalion fired in support of the 501<sup>st</sup> and 506<sup>th</sup> and was able to repel numerous enemy counter-attacks; unfortunately, the Germans successfully cut off supply lines and surrounded the 321<sup>st</sup> and the 506<sup>th</sup>. For two days the 506<sup>th</sup>, with accurate and timely fires from the 321<sup>st</sup>, fought off the Germans. The 321<sup>st</sup> not only provided fires during this battle but they also

assisted the 506<sup>th</sup> Infantrymen when needed; they manned machine gun bunkers, shot bazookas, and fought as riflemen.

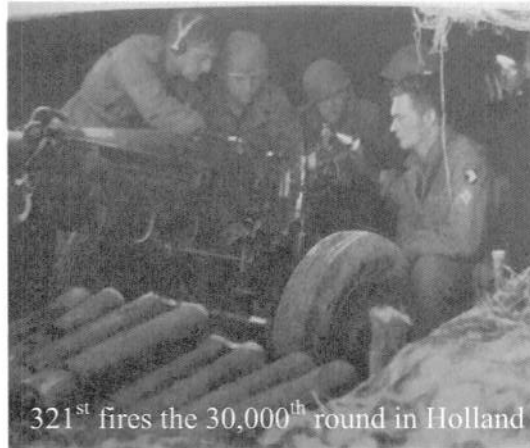
After the two day battle, the 321<sup>st</sup> moved to a position outside the town of Uden, but would not remain there long. At 0300hrs the next morning, the Battalion received word that the Germans were counterattacking and trying to cut through the lines. The 321<sup>st</sup> packed up and moved the eight miles back to Veghel, emplaced their howitzers and began firing under intense German artillery and mortar fire. The 321<sup>st</sup> with their skill and determination were able to push the Germans back and repel their attack.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Battalion moved into the Nijmegen area and provided general support to the 101st Airborne Division. It was here that the Battalion fired the first round of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division to land on German soil.

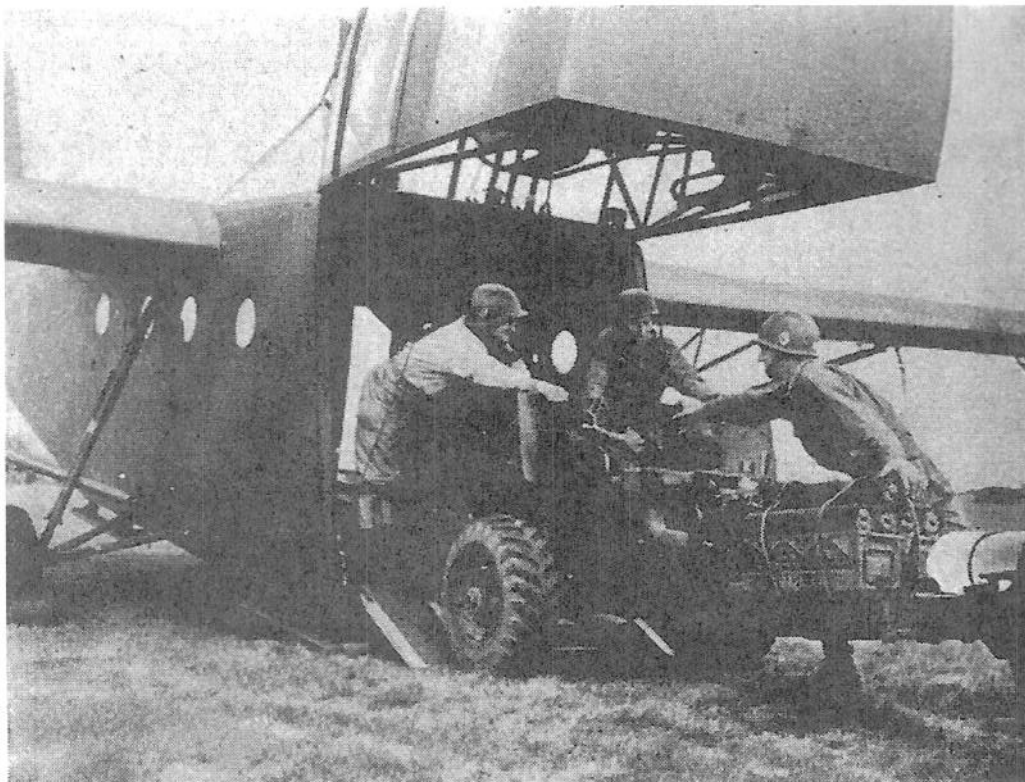
The 321<sup>st</sup> then moved into position north of the Waal River to fire in support of the 506<sup>th</sup> PIR. For two days, the 321<sup>st</sup> fired about 1,700 rounds which allowed the 506<sup>th</sup> to hold their 7,000 yard front against the German Army; they drove the enemy back and reduced the German Regiment to 25 percent strength.

At 2300hrs on the night of October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 321<sup>st</sup> aided in the rescue of 128 British 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Soldiers who were hiding across the Neder Rijn River in German territory. The mission was a huge success and the British 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division was extremely thankful to the 321<sup>st</sup> and 506<sup>th</sup> for their assistance.

The 101<sup>st</sup>, along with the 321<sup>st</sup>, were finally relieved after 45 days of intense combat. They headed to Mourmelon, France, the rear, for rest and refitting. Over the forty days of battle, the Battalion fired about 30,000 rounds in support of 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Divisions operations. The 321<sup>st</sup> was awarded the Netherlands Orange Lanyard and the Rhineland Campaign Streamer with arrowhead for their glider assault into Holland on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.



321<sup>st</sup> fires the 30,000<sup>th</sup> round in Holland



ARDENNES ALSACE 1944 1945



BASTOGNE



BASTOGNE



On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1944 at 2130hrs, after three weeks of R&R in France, the 101<sup>st</sup> was alerted of their next mission. The 321<sup>st</sup> was notified that they would head to the Ardennes Forrest near the town of Bastogne, Belgium; the German Army was attempting to break through allied lines.

The 321<sup>st</sup> moved into position in the nearby city of Savy by 1330hrs on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. In the attack that began a day later the ammunition supplies dwindled; fortunately, prior to the enemy cutting off all roads leading in and out of Bastogne the Battalion received a resupply. However, the 101<sup>st</sup>, including the 321<sup>st</sup>, was then surrounded by the German Army. On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the German Army sent an ultimatum to BG Anthony C. McAuliffe, Commander of the 101<sup>st</sup> Division Artillery and Commander of Troops at Bastogne, that said surrender or be attacked and annihilated by 10 German divisions that surrounded the 101<sup>st</sup>. BG McAuliffe had one word for the German Commander: "Nuts." The 101<sup>st</sup> and 321<sup>st</sup> held their ground and on December 23<sup>rd</sup> an airdrop resupply was conducted. The 321<sup>st</sup> was supplied with desperately needed artillery rounds, which allowed them to continue to fire in support of, what would later be called, The Battle of the Bulge.



BG McAuliffe



321<sup>st</sup> fires in Bastogne

While the 321<sup>st</sup> was being surrounded by Germans near the town of Savy, an observation team from the 321<sup>st</sup>, lead by 1LT Francis Canham, was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment. The 1-506<sup>th</sup> was defending the city of Noville against the Germans as they tried to move north around the city on the morning of December 20<sup>th</sup>. 1LT Canham and his observer team directed artillery fire on the enemy from the second floor of a stone barn. Despite the efforts of the 1-506<sup>th</sup>, the observation team and the artillery fire, the town of Noville took a thrashing from the advancing German Army. At 1315hrs, the 1-506<sup>th</sup> Battalion Commander directed the observer team to withdraw from their position. The order, unfortunately, did not come in time for the observation team to withdraw; a well placed German tank round knocked out a wall of

the barn taking 1LT Canham's life. For his valiant effort while defending the town of Noville, 1LT Canham was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star.

The 321<sup>st</sup> received word early on Christmas day that enemy tanks were in their vicinity, so they manned their firing positions and prepared to defend. On December 25<sup>th</sup>, at 0850hrs, an armored column of German tanks were spotted about 1,000 meters behind the 321<sup>st</sup> location, advancing their way. The Battalion set into action, and positioned their howitzers for direct fire on the tanks. The 321<sup>st</sup> successfully repelled the German attack and held the line; they destroyed five German tanks, and repelled the others that were advancing. On the 26<sup>th</sup> at 1730hrs, elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division reached 321<sup>st</sup> outposts, the word spread that they had broke the German lines that surrounded the 101<sup>st</sup> at Bastogne; the siege was lifted.

With the 101<sup>st</sup> free from the German grip, the 321<sup>st</sup> was able to maneuver and support the Infantry offensive. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1945 the Battalion moved to Vaux, Belgium to fire in support of the 506<sup>th</sup> in a counteroffensive effort. The attacks amounted to little and eight days later the 321<sup>st</sup> was replaced by the 681<sup>st</sup> FA Battalion. The 321<sup>st</sup> moved back to the Corps Reserve at Bercheaux, Belgium and received five days of rest. The Battalion then moved forward and prepared for the final push of the campaign. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 321<sup>st</sup> set up firing positions on the outskirts of Hagenau and for three weeks they fired on targets of opportunity, patrol support, counter fire and some night harassing missions.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the 321<sup>st</sup> was relieved by the 133<sup>rd</sup> FA Battalion and was allowed to move back to Mourmelon, France for some rest. While back in Mourmelon, General Eisenhower presented the entire 101<sup>st</sup> with the Presidential Unit Citation for their valiant efforts at Bastogne. Along with the Presidential Unit Citation, the 321<sup>st</sup> also earned the Ardennes – Alsace Campaign Streamer and the Belgium Croix de Guerre with Palm.



“Stopped Cold” 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion in Bastogne



After they spent all of March in France, the 321<sup>st</sup> was ready to depart Mourmelon for the last time and head into battle. For the first time, the Battalion would occupy firing positions in Nazi Germany. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, the first units of the 321<sup>st</sup> reached positions near Dusseldorf, Germany and were ready to fire. The Battalion spent three weeks firing in support of the 506<sup>th</sup> as they maneuvered through German Territory.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the 321<sup>st</sup> arrived in Holtzhausen, the heart of Nazi Germany, and Baker Battery took charge of a German hospital where victims of a nearby concentration camp were brought after their liberation. The rest of the Battalion assisted the Military Police in maintaining order in Holtzhausen. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Battalion departed for Starnburg, they spent one night in the homes of high ranking Nazi officers and then they continued deeper into German territory. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, Able Battery, attached to the 506<sup>th</sup>, moved out for a final attack on Berchtesgaden, Hitler's personal hideout in the German Alps.



321<sup>st</sup> Color Guard in Germany

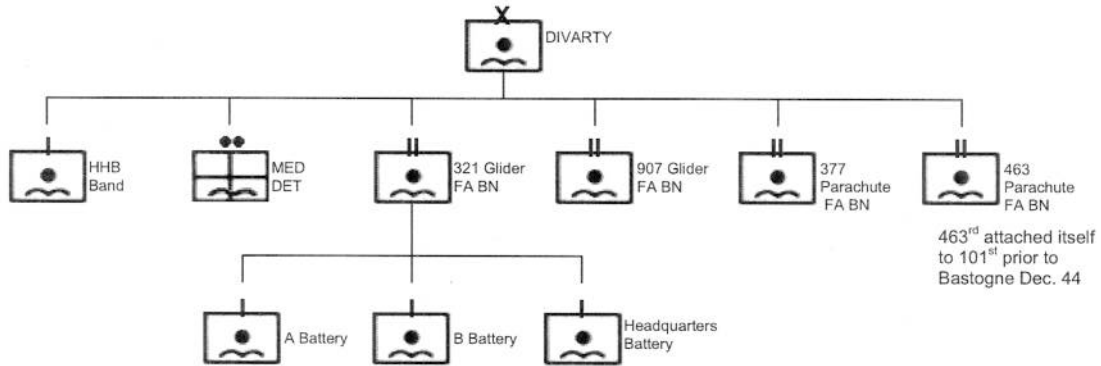
For the following five days, the Battalion enjoyed an excess of champagne, wine, and the comfortable life in Berchtesgaden. With all the down time, rumors started about the fate of the German Army and the next action of the war. Finally, on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945 rumors were put to rest when General Eisenhower announced that the German Army had surrendered and victory in Europe had been achieved.

The five weeks that the 321<sup>st</sup> spent moving across Germany was the quietest period of battle that the Battalion experienced since D-Day, almost a year prior. However, it did not go unnoticed; the 321<sup>st</sup> was awarded the Central Europe campaign streamer, their fourth and final streamer of the war. All the awards and streamers the unit earned did not come without sacrifice. The 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion lost 18 artillerymen and many more were wounded in the operation across Europe.

With another war in Europe over, the 101st Airborne Division, including the 321<sup>st</sup>, was released from duty and inactivated on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1945 in Germany.



## 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion unit organization – World War Two



The 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion was task organized with two firing batteries and six 75mm howitzers per firing battery; for a total of 12 guns.



Pictured left are examples of the patches worn by Soldiers of the 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion while under the command of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division during World War Two. (Note the patch without an Airborne Tab is from early in the activation of the 101<sup>st</sup>).

The patch to the right was worn on the garrison caps of artillery men assigned to the Glider Field Artillery early in the activation of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. After the war, airborne and glider artillery units started wearing the more popular paraglide patch.



The 463<sup>rd</sup> was the Airborne Field Artillery Battalion attached to the 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV during WWII. In honor of their heritage and the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR's time as an Airborne Artillery Unit in the 101<sup>st</sup>, 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR has adopted the patch to the left as their deployment identification for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) IX and X.

## ~VIETNAM~

For nine years following the 1945 deactivation, the 321<sup>st</sup> was activated, inactivated and redesignated eight times. During this period they were predominantly a battery size element (Battery A, 321<sup>st</sup> Artillery) under the command of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. On February 3rd, 1964 the regiment was redesignated as HHS, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 321<sup>st</sup> Artillery.

In the mid-to late 1960's, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division was transformed into an Airmobile Division. The Division would assault the battlefield by helicopter insertion rather than by the gliders it used during World War II. Prior to this transformation, the 101<sup>st</sup>, including the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR conducted one last airborne operation before the Division deployed to Vietnam.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1967 under the command of LTC William Malouche, the 1-321<sup>st</sup> returned to combat in Vietnam. Armed with the M102 105mm howitzer, the Battalion delivered accurate and deadly fires throughout Vietnam where they supported the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and the United States Marine Corps. The unit frequently moved from firebase to firebase and they remained deployed for four years in Vietnam.

During the four years they were deployed to Vietnam, the 1-321<sup>st</sup> participated in numerous combat operations, including: "Nevada Eagle," in support of 1-501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, located in the vicinity of Vinh Loc Island; "Kentucky Jumper," where the unit moved 26 times in six months and delivered 39,000 rounds for 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Division, while they searched for the NVA; and "Texas Star," where the 1-321<sup>st</sup> was forced to spread its firing batteries across 53 kilometers of Vietnamese jungle. Due to the expertise of the artillerymen and the leadership, officer to senior NCO, the Battalion delivered 42,300 rounds in a single month, which was a record high for the unit.



During the Christmas season in 1967, comedian Bob Hope visited the camp where 1-321<sup>st</sup> was located; unfortunately, they did not have the opportunity to watch his performance. The unit provided security during the show and was prepared, if needed, to deliver suppressive fires on enemy positions. The 1-321<sup>st</sup> did fire on enemy positions when Bob Hope was departing but only to ensure the comedians safety. Even though it was only the 1-321<sup>st</sup>

firing, the newspapers reported that Bob Hope came under fire when he left by helicopter.

For their continuous effort while serving in Vietnam, the Battalion was awarded twelve different campaign streamers and four Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palms.

In 1971, after redeployment, the 321<sup>st</sup> had spent 15 years under the command of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. With no major conflict to support the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery was relieved from its assignment to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY and inactivated on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1986.

### VIETNAM CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE III 1967-1968  
TET COUNTEROFFENSIVE 1968  
VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE IV 1968  
VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE V 1968  
VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE VI, 1968-1969  
TET 69/COUNTEROFFENSIVE, 1969  
VIETNAM SUMMER-FALL 1969  
VIETNAM WINTER-SPRING 1970  
SANCTUARY COUNTEROFFENSIVE 1970  
VIETNAM COUNTEROFFENSIVE, PHASE VII, 1970-1971  
CONSOLIDATION I 1971  
CONSOLIDATION II 1971-1972

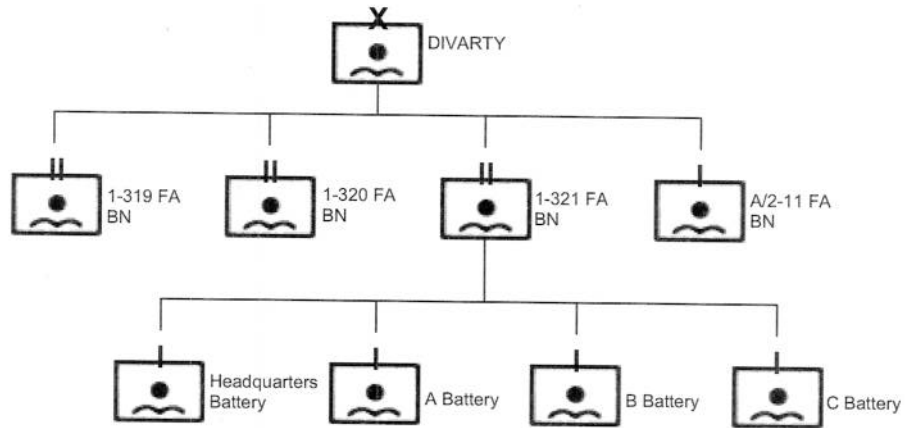
### VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSSES

VIETNAM 1968  
VIETNAM 1968-1969  
VIETNAM 1971

### VIETNAM CIVIL ACTION HONOR MEDAL

VIETNAM 1968-1970

## 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery unit organization – Vietnam



The 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery was task organized with three firing batteries and eight M102 105mm Howitzers per firing battery; for a total of 24 guns.



Under the Command of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Airmobile) the Soldiers of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battalion wore the traditional “Screaming Eagle” patch.

## ~FORT BRAGG REACTIVATION~

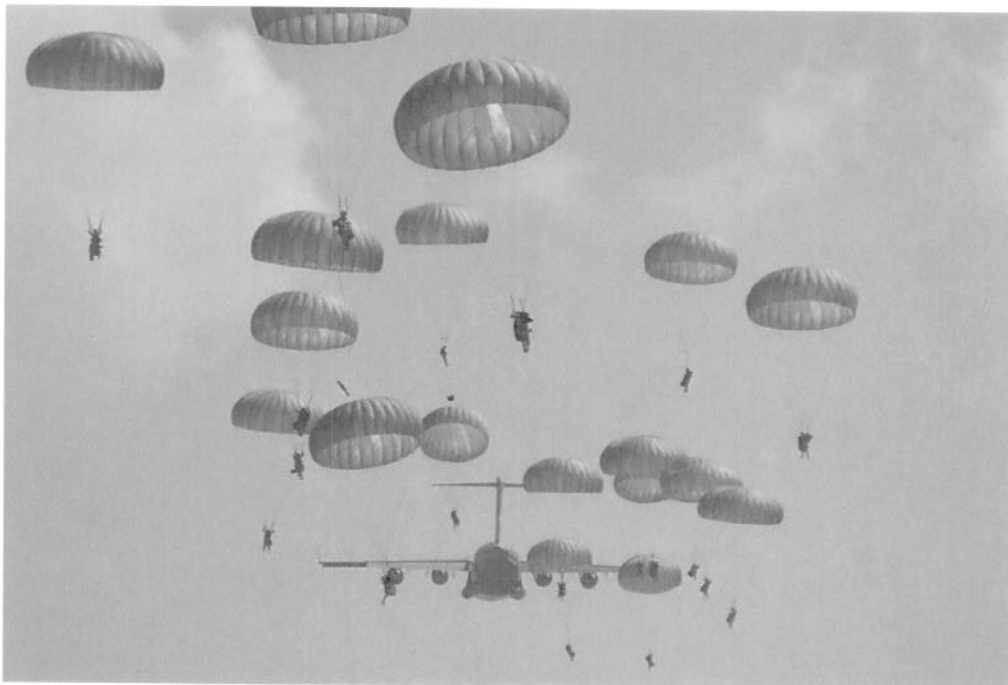
The Battalion was reactivated for active service on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1996 in a ceremony held at Fort Bragg, NC where the 1-39 FA was re-designated as the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne



Field Artillery Regiment. The newly activated Battalion would serve as the only Airborne 155mm Field Artillery Battalion in the world, under the command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, general support to the XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery.

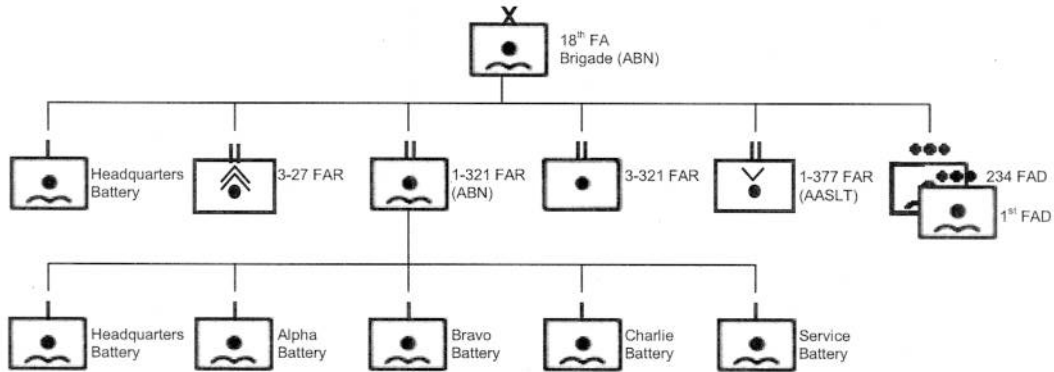
The Battalion was armed with the M198 155mm Howitzer which weighed in at a massive 17,500 lbs. Air dropping the M198 from an Air Force C-130 was extremely challenging due to its extreme weight. However, just as the Battalion had done with each 'impossible' task it received throughout its history; they stepped up, put forth the hard work, and determination needed and accomplished the mission.

The Battalion spent the next decade mastering their airborne artillery techniques. They patiently waited for another chance to demonstrate their skills where they were ready to emplace their howitzers on enemy soil, deliver timely, accurate and deadly fires in support of maneuver forces on any battlefield.



1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR conducts an Airborne Operation

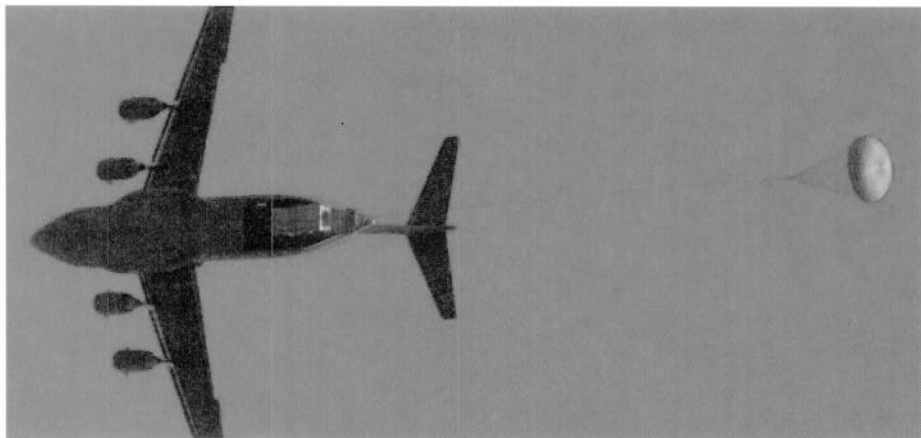
## 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery unit organization – Reactivation 1996



At the time of the 1996 reactivation the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR was task organized with three firing batteries and eight M198 155mm Howitzers per firing battery; for a total of 24 guns.



Pictured left is the patch worn by Soldiers of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR under the command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade (Airborne).



A M198 Howitzer is heavy dropped from a C-17 at Fort Bragg, NC in the late 1990s

## KOSOVO~

In 2001, the 1-321<sup>st</sup> was called to be part of a NATO task force in Kosovo to ensure the safe return of Kosovo refugees. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001 Charlie Battery, 1-321<sup>st</sup>, along with Alpha Battery, 3-321<sup>st</sup>, deployed to Kosovo for six months.

During Operation Bright Sky four Battery howitzer sections were assigned an artillery mission. In two week intervals, the gun sections stood by at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo prepared to shoot illumination missions for NATO ground forces in the area. When the gun sections were not on the artillery mission, they provided perimeter security, guard tower duty and performed roaming guard duty for Camp Bondsteel.

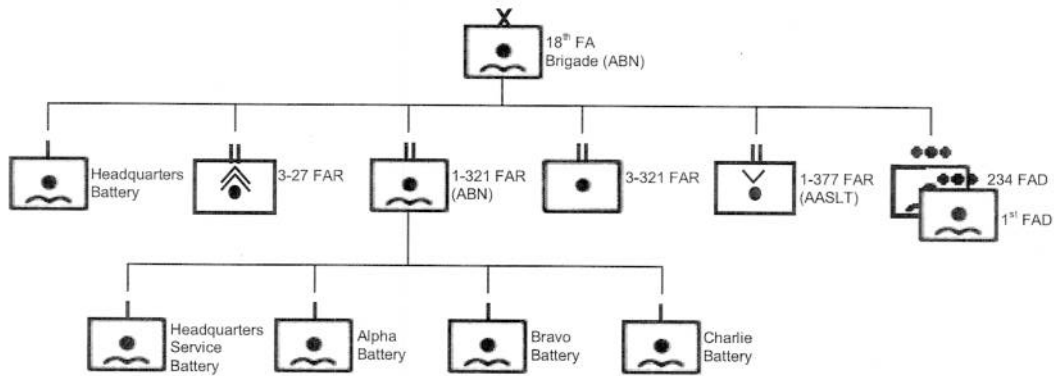
Charlie Battery also assisted the Russian Army; they deployed from Camp Bondsteel to FOB Thunder, in two week rotations, and assisted with a traffic point and boarder security along the Kosovo/Serbian border. Another task assigned to Charlie Battery was, for two weeks at a time, they moved to an outpost and provided security for a radar team from the 3-6<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division.

Charlie Battery, 1-321<sup>st</sup> completed their tour in Kosovo and returned to Fort Bragg, NC on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002. For their service, Charlie Battery Soldiers were awarded the Kosovo Campaign Medal and the NATO Kosovo Medal.



Guard tower at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

## 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment unit organization – 1999/2000



In 1999 the 1-321<sup>st</sup> was reorganized. The unit was task organized with three firing batteries and six M198 155mm Howitzers per firing battery; for a total of 18 howitzers. During the reorganization, the Headquarters and Service Battery combined creating a Headquarters Service Battery.



1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR Soldiers remove an M198 Howitzer from a platform after a heavy drop on Sicily DZ Fort Bragg, NC.



## ~TASZAR AIRBASE, HUNGARY~

The United States invaded the Middle Eastern country of Iraq in March of 2003, and the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment (Airborne) was tasked with a mission unlike any it had been assigned in the past.

On 12 January 2003, Alpha and Bravo Battery, along with leadership from the Headquarters Service Battery of 1-321<sup>st</sup>, deployed to Taszar Airbase, Hungary in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The mission was to train Iraqi American civilians on U.S. Military combat tactics and techniques, so they could be attached to Coalition Forces in Iraq.

Bravo Battery provided logistical support, when needed, to a team of Drill Sergeants from Fort Jackson, SC. The Drill Sergeants were responsible for the training of the Iraqi Americans.

Alpha Battery was tasked to guard the airbase and protect the Iraqi Americans from foreign threats. The battery had the responsibility of sustaining a quick response force (QRF) to impede any violent threats or civil actions against the Americans. For three months, Bravo and Alpha battery, the 209<sup>th</sup> Military Police unit from Fort Polk, LA, and the Drill Sergeants from Fort Jackson, SC trained, supported and protected the soon to be Iraqi American translators.

The 1-321<sup>st</sup> redeployed on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003, after a short three months in Hungary. Despite the short deployment, the 1-321<sup>st</sup> played a vital role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



## ~OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM~



In 2005, the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment was called again to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom; this time they headed to Iraq. Operation Iraqi Freedom had been on going for almost three years and the 1-321<sup>st</sup> was ready to participate; but instead of supporting the conflict with artillery fire, the Battalion was tasked to conduct Forward Operating Base (FOB) and convoy security.

In October of 2005 the Battalion began the four phase deployment process. The order of movement for the Battalion was: Alpha Battery, followed by Bravo Battery, then Headquarters Service Battery, and finally, in December, Charlie Battery. All units departed from Pope Air Force Base and flew into Kuwait City International Airport. They spent two to three weeks in Kuwait in order to acclimatize to the harsh



1-321 conducts a convoy in Iraq

desert environment. While in Kuwait, the Battalion prepared for movement to their areas of operation by honing their skills in live fire convoys and close quarter tactics.

Alpha Battery had two areas of responsibility; therefore, they divided the battery into two units and headed to FOB Diamondback and FOB Marez in Northern Iraq to conduct Combat Logistics Patrols (CLPs). The patrols took the Battery from their FOBs to the Iraq/Turkey border, where they met with convoys driven by Third Country Nationals and escorted them to FOB Endurance.

Bravo and Charlie Battery were located at Consolidated Operating Base (COB)



1-321 conducts a fire mission in Iraq

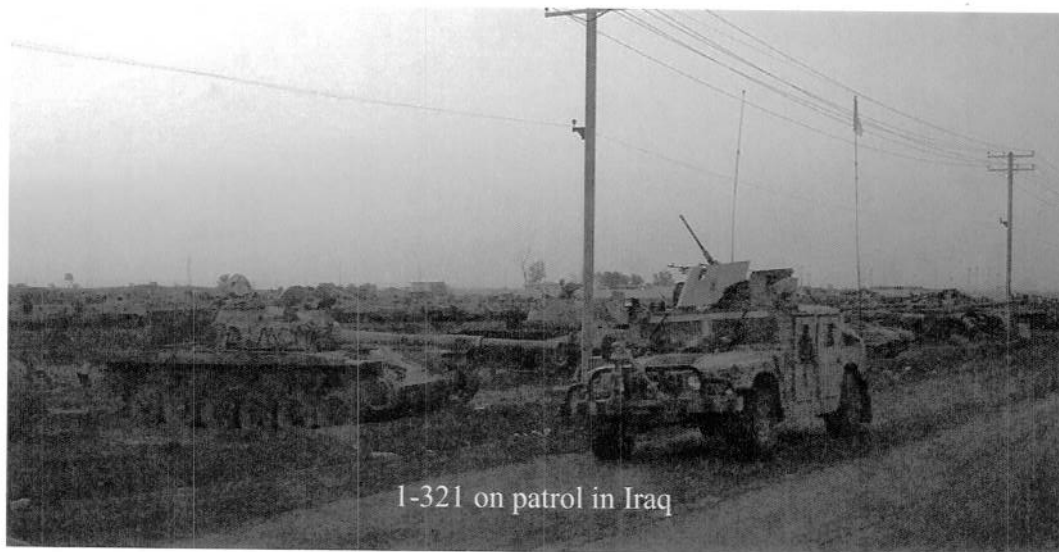
Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraqi. Their mission, similar to Alpha Battery, was to provide convoy security for Third Country Nationals and KBR contractors in the area. Their main route ran back and forth from COB Speicher to FOB Endurance. Their 100 mile route was very dangerous as it was filled with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and enemy ambushes.

After more than six months of Combat Logistic Patrol missions Bravo and Charlie Battery had the opportunity to provide artillery fire. When a self-propelled field artillery battery redeployed, COB Speicher began to

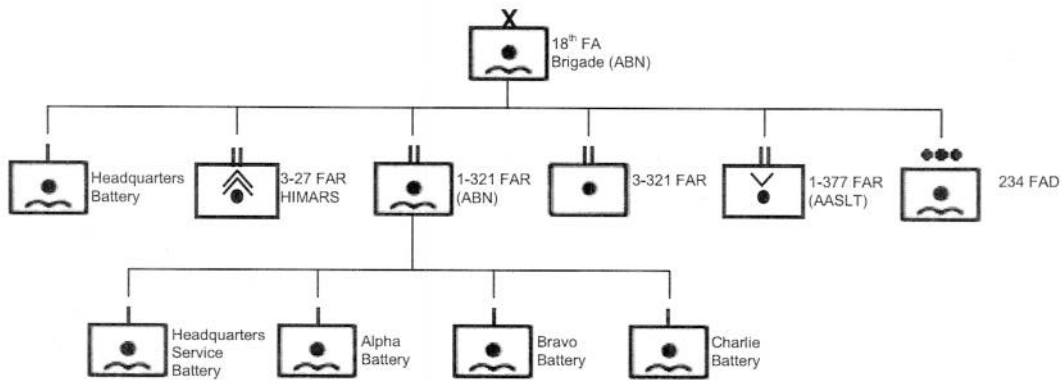
receive indirect mortar and rocket attacks by insurgents. In response, the FOB Commander tasked 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR to provide counter fire. Bravo and Charlie Battery provided two dozen highly trained Paratroopers, two gun sections, each with one 155mm howitzer and a Fire Direction Center. Their proficiency and hard work had immediate effects; indirect attacks on the FOB were quickly eliminated as the artillerymen rapidly returned accurate and deadly artillery fire.

Headquarters Service Battery was also divided between FOB Diamondback and FOB Marez. They were tasked to oversee security and run the Base Defense Operations Centers. The Battery had an enormous responsibility, both FOBs contained more than 14,000 Soldiers and civilians; they ran security; determined and managed the organizational layout of the FOBs; managed the quality of life; and had oversight on all contractors and their projects.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Battalion made a significant contribution to the war efforts and had a high profile role in their North-Central Iraq area of operation. The Combat Logistics Patrols constantly operated and were noticed on the main supply routes of Iraq. The Battalion created a reputation that spread throughout the AO; units repeatedly requested a 1-321<sup>st</sup> escort when they headed to dangerous areas. The reputation extended to FOB Diamondback and FOB Marez; Soldiers preferred missions to these locations because the quality of life and security significantly exceeded the Iraq standard. Despite constant enemy threats, not a single Soldier was lost in enemy combat; all returned home. In October 2006, after redeployment, the Battalion was awarded 20 Purple Hearts, 58 Bronze Stars, seven Army Commendation Medals with V Device, 360 Army Commendation Medals, and 250 Combat Action Badges. The Battalion also received the Iraqi Governance Campaign Streamer.



## 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment unit organization – OIF



The 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR was task organized as a convoy security Battalion. Three batteries provided convoy security and the Headquarters Service Battery provided FOB security. Each convoy battery consisted of four platoons; three were convoy platoons, two sections each, and one headquarters platoon.



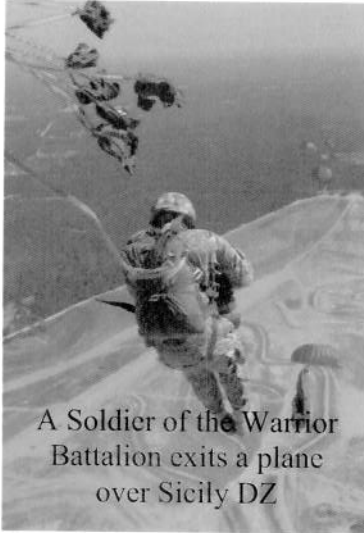
The three firing batteries of 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR were under the command of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division during the deployment. Headquarters battery was under the command of 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. Alpha Battery supported the 142<sup>nd</sup> Corps Support Battalion and the 352<sup>nd</sup> Corps Support Battalion; Bravo and Charlie Batteries supported the 561<sup>st</sup> Corps Support Battalion and the 143<sup>rd</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

The Soldiers from 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR that deployed to Iraq are authorized to wear the 101<sup>st</sup> "Screaming Eagle" combat patch or the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade combat patch for their participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## ~OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM TRAIN UP~

AFGHANISTAN

Even after the Battalion's redeployment from Iraq in 2006, the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment continued to train on convoy security; training that was necessary for an October 2007 deployment in which the Battalion was called on once again for a convoy security mission. In preparation to return to Iraq, the Battalion accomplished live fire convoy ranges and close quarter combat shoot house range. Then just, a few weeks before their deployment date, the Battalion was notified that their mission had changed; instead of being tasked as a maneuver unit in Iraq, they were tasked as a Field Artillery unit in Afghanistan, at a date to be determined.



A Soldier of the Warrior Battalion exits a plane over Sicily DZ

### ~TRAIN UP~

On 04 January 2008, LTC Gene Meredith and CSM Brian Harrison, two career Airborne Artillerymen, stood before the Warrior Battalion, a battalion of medics, mechanics, personnel administrators, communicators, paratroopers and artillerymen. Everyone in formation eagerly awaited news of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. The battalion was called to provide general support artillery in the Regional Command East (RC East), Afghanistan. The three firing batteries; Alpha, Bravo and Charlie would deploy in December 2008/January 2009, with the Headquarters Battery (HHB) and the 54<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Company (FSC) deploying in August 2009, in order to provide command and control. Along with the artillery mission, the Battalion was tasked to provide one of its three firing batteries to serve as a Targeting and Acquisitions Battery (TAB), in order to detect incoming hostile enemy fire. Additionally, a platoon to serve as a maneuver unit to conduct convoys and patrols was required.

No matter what job a Soldier in the Battalion was tasked with, training had to start right away. Alpha Battery was assigned the radar mission. Bravo Battery, in addition to the artillery mission they were to undertake, was also assigned with the task of standing up the maneuver platoon.

Alpha Battery "Pacesetters", commanded by



Warriors firing the M198 howitzer at Fort Bragg, NC

Captain Urban Picard and 1SG Anthony Oliver had the job of transforming their Battery into the TAB. Foreseeing Alpha's transformation, the Battalion moved Alpha Battery's six howitzer sections and two Fire Direction Centers (FDC) to Bravo and Charlie Batteries. In return, 25 Soldiers from the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC and four Soldiers from each firing batteries and HHB were moved to serve in the Radar Battery. In April 2008, the official training for the radar section leaders, section chiefs, Radar Operators and Radar Repairmen began. All of the radar training was conducted at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma with the exception of the initial stage of the 94M Radar Repairman's Course which was located at Red Stone Arsenal, Alabama.

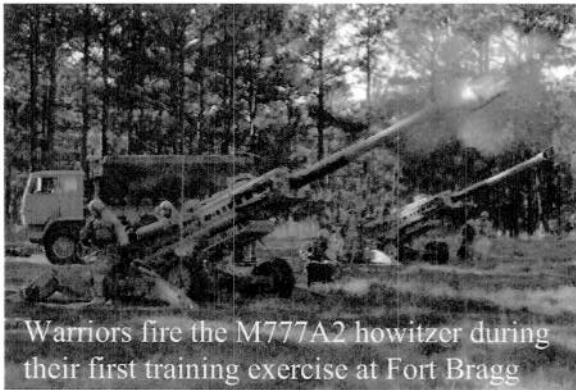
All Non-Commissioned Officers selected for the radar mission attended the in lieu of (ILO) 131A (Radar Warrant Officer) Course. The course was comprised of 20 Senior NCOs and Officers; two Pacesetter NCOs ranked first and second in the class. SGT Vanscoyk was complimented by the instructors upon graduation of the radar course, "You Airborne guys definitely set the standard...why can't all our classes have the motivation and determination that you paratroopers have." Five additional Soldiers from Alpha Battery attended the ILO 94M Radar Repairman Course. The course was 14 weeks long, and consisted of two phases. The first phase of the class was basic electrical work, and the second phase focused on performing repairs to the Fire Finder Radar. Three Soldiers from the battery received instruction on the maintenance of the Q36 Radar and the other two Soldiers received instruction on the Q37 Radar. The radar operators designated for the upcoming mission attended several week long classes throughout the summer of 2008 at Ft. Sill. All schoolhouse training was complete for the Radar Operators by the end of July 2008.



Pacesetters air assaulting a Q36 Radar at All American LZ

In addition to the Q36 and Q37 Radar Courses, Alpha Battery Soldiers spent the month of October attending week long courses on the Light-weight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) and Collateral Damage Estimate course (CDE). Eight Alpha Battery NCOs were enrolled in the LCMR operators course, taught by a Fort Sill Mobile Training Team (MTT); they were instructed on emplacement, maintenance and operation of the LCMR. Six of the NCOs later served as first responders and trainers in RC East, Afghanistan during the deployment. Three additional Pacesetters attended the CDE course designed for the leaders assigned to work in the Task Force Fire Cell. Two of the NCOs graduated the course on the Commandants List with an average of over 90% and were qualified to instruct other Soldiers on CDE concerns.

The Pacesetters had a tough job of taking 13B (Cannon Crewman) and other MOSs from across the Warrior Battalion and re-classifying them as radar operators. The transformation from their primary MOS was challenging. SPC Mason indicated that he felt the, "training we received helped us perform our tasks efficiently and effectively, and



Warriors fire the M777A2 howitzer during their first training exercise at Fort Bragg

that our section has done a great job of coming together from different MOSs to complete this mission as well as we did.” After nine months of schools and training, Alpha Battery was ready to deploy as a fully functional TAB. Despite all of the other key training exercises in the month of October, the greatest accomplishment for the Pacesetters during the month was undoubtedly the Air Assault training with the Q36. After 3 days of rehearsals

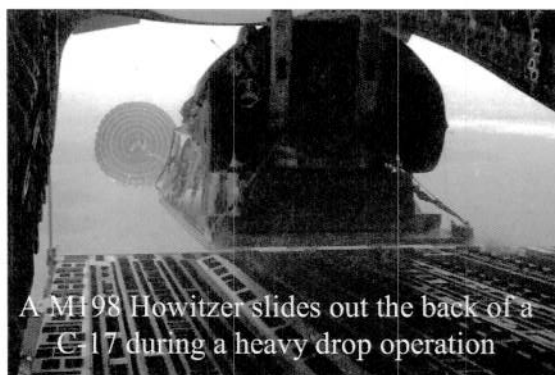
and training, the Q36 Antenna Transceiver Group (ATG) and shelter was moved by Air Assault 17 times in one day on All American LZ. This training was a first ever for the Warrior Battalion.

While Alpha Battery refined their new skills, Bravo Battery “Bulldogs” commanded by CPT John Gwinn and 1SG Randall Fletcher and Charlie Battery “Charlie Rock” commanded by CPT Aaron Dickson and 1SG Patrick Cole returned to their old artillery ways. For the past three years the Warrior Battalion trained for and conducted convoy security, Forward Operating Base (FOB) management and security missions. Deploying to Iraq in November 2005 for 12 months to support non standard missions and preparing for the eventually canceled mission of 2007, had made it difficult for the Battalion to conduct Artillery training. Once the second maneuver mission to Iraq was canceled, the Warriors literally jumped right back into the Artillery role that they had conducted for over 90 years. Crew drills were perfected, gun sections were certified, fire direction centers trained and tested while Jumpmasters JMPI’ed.



54<sup>th</sup> FSC unloading 155mm artillery rounds

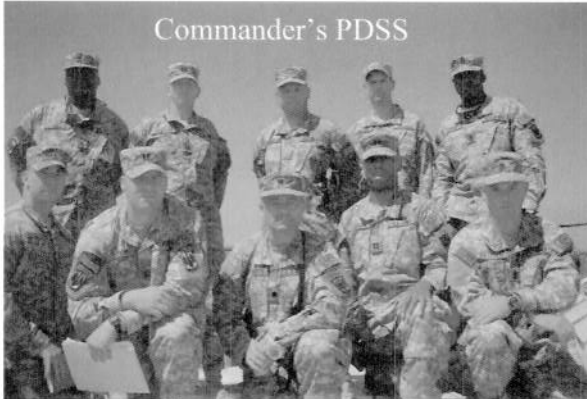
Getting back to artillery training took the efforts of all Warriors. HHB planned and conducted the FDC University, top 5 training, section certifications, and field training exercises. The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC assisted with all logistical support; they requested and transported ammo, provided food, fuel, and other supplies while in the field. As the months passed, the Battalion went to the field more and more; they trained at all possible opportunities. Airborne assaults or “heavy drops” became a weekly occurrence, “daytime, nighttime,



A M198 Howitzer slides out the back of a C-17 during a heavy drop operation

one-gun two-gun, four gun...we did them all”...why? “That’s what Paratroopers do,” CPT Dickson proclaimed so sincerely. Five day field problems were the norm. Bravo and Charlie Batteries lead the artillery training. Alpha Battery provided radar coverage in

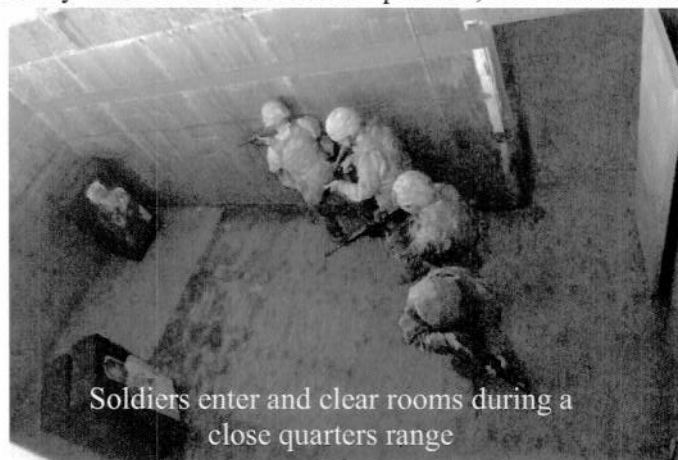
support of the Battalions pre-deployment field training exercises. With rounds heading down range safely and accurately there was only one task left untrained, a “heavy drop.” On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Bravo Battery conducted the Battalion’s first airborne operation with the M198 in over three years. In the following 10 months, the Battalion conducted 28 M198 drop zone missions, living up to their motto as “The only Airborne 155mm Battalion in the World.” Charlie Battery 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR conducted the last heavy drop with the M198 Howitzers on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008, just prior to the guns being replaced in October 2008.



In August 2008 the Battalion had the opportunity to recon their areas of operation and got their first taste of Afghanistan and the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs). The three Battery Commanders and their First Sergeants, along with the Battalion Command team, were sent to Afghanistan for 10 days for a Pre Deployment Sight Survey (PDSS). Alpha and Bravo Battery went south to the Khowst Province and linked up with Task Force

Glory, 4-320<sup>th</sup> FA of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. At the same time, Charlie went north to the Nuristan Province and linked up with Task Force Duke, 1-6<sup>th</sup> FA of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. Alpha Battery would replace D-26, a sister radar battery from the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade. Bravo and Charlie would replace Alpha and Charlie Batteries of 3-321 FAR the sister 155mm Artillery Battalion from the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade. Each commander got the opportunity to meet the commanders they would replace and travel to the FOBs where their Radars or Howitzers would be located. The commanders snapped tons of pictures and asked lots of questions. Bravo and Charlie were able to watch their predecessors shoot and took notes on what training needed to be conducted.

While on the PDSS, Bravo Battery learned the specifics of the maneuver platoons mission. The platoon would conduct combat patrols in and around the Khowst Province. Selection of personnel and training started right away. Close quarter ranges and shoot houses were scheduled, convoy security was reintroduced to the platoon, and dismounted patrolling became ingrained in the Soldiers. Soldiers and NCOs were cross trained and tested on their ability to lead convoys and patrols. On top of an already busy training schedule, members of the maneuver platoon had to attend a week long Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle training course in Summerville, SC.





October 2008 brought another milestone for the Warrior Battalion. It came time to pack up the M198 Howitzers, turn them in and replace their arsenal with new equipment. The M777A2 Howitzer was the newest howitzer in the U.S. inventory, and the Warrior



1-321 AFAR fires  
the M777

Battalion was set to field it. For six weeks in October and November, the Battalion was instructed by a team of civilians and artillerymen from Fort Sill, OK on how to emplace, repair and fire the new howitzer system efficiently.

Finally, after nearly eight months of intense training, the Warrior Battalion was ready to test their new skills. From November 19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, the Battalion conducted one last field training exercise. Headquarters Battery coordinated for most of the western side of the Fort Bragg reservation and requested an entire year's allocation (3,000) of 155mm rounds. The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC distributed the massive amounts of ammo across Fort Bragg, and provided the entire Battalion with food, shelter, fuel, and the supplies needed to sustain the unit for the week. Alpha Battery emplaced their Radars and prepared to observe the substantial amounts of rounds that Bravo and Charlie Batteries were to shoot. The Battalion Master gunner and Fire Directional Chief certified each gun and FDC section one last time prior to deployment. With all the supplies being moved around the training area, the Maneuver Platoon took advantage of the training opportunity and provided convoy security for the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC. When the Battalion's training for Operation Enduring Freedom was complete, the Warrior's had safely and accurately fired over 7,930 155mm rounds, conducted 31 live fire drop zone missions, executed 78 airborne operations, and fired hundreds of thousands of small arms rounds. The Warrior Battalion was fully trained and ready to engage the enemy in Afghanistan.



1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR Paratroopers conduct sling load training with a CH47  
in SEP 2008 at Fort Bragg, NC

## ~Regimental Stone Dedication~

While preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, the Warrior Battalion took the time to honor their distinguished history. On 11 November 2008 at 1000hrs, during a ceremony held at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC, the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment dedicated a Memorial Stone to honor those who served in the Regiment throughout its 90 year history. 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR and 3-321<sup>st</sup> FAR had spent the last 6 months seeking donations, coordinating the ceremony, and designing the memorial stone. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was



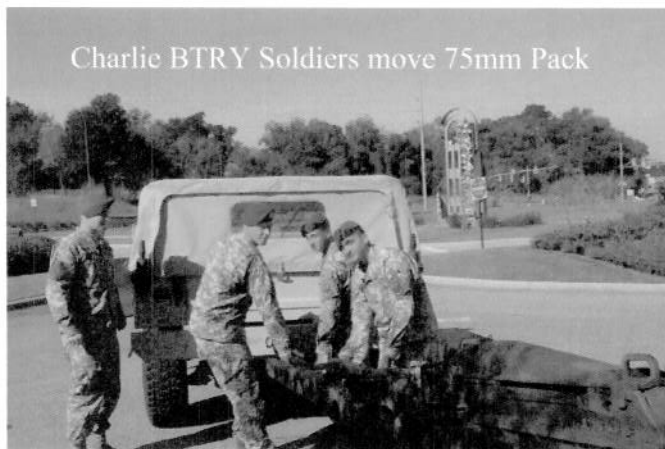
responsible for the ceremony due to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion's deployment to Afghanistan. The 550<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Battalion had also planned a Memorial Stone dedication on that same day, and the two ceremonies were conducted together signifying the relationship between the Airborne Infantry and the Airborne Field Artillery. Due to the hard work and dedication of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), Charlie Battery and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC the ceremony was a resounding success.



Regimental Stone Ceremony Color Guard

The batteries had numerous tasks to complete prior to the ceremony and got to work on them

immediately. HHB was given the responsibility for the set up of the event site. They also provided transportation to and from FT. Bragg for the Soldiers of the Regiment. Charlie Battery acquired and provided a 75mm Pack Howitzer, a howitzer that played a very significant role in the airborne history of the Regiment. The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC coordinated and provided food and refreshments for the reception that followed the ceremony. Other key individuals that made the ceremony possible, were: LTC Gene Meredith, 1-321<sup>st</sup> BN Commander, as the key speaker for the history of both honored units; CPT Wetzberger as the narrator; CPT Lorenzen the BN Chaplain for the invocation; and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Band provided music for the ceremony.



Charlie BTRY Soldiers move 75mm Pack

In attendance were COL William Malouche, the honorary Colonel of the Regiment; COL Bentley, the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Commander and CSM Campbell, the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Command Sergeant Major. Mayor Chavonne of Fayetteville also joined the celebration. The histories of the 321<sup>st</sup> and 550<sup>th</sup> were brought to life by the honored presence of both unit's war veterans from WWII, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The 321<sup>st</sup> was honored to have Mr. Stevenson, Mr. York, Mr. Falconer, Mr. Corbett, and Mr. Johnson, 1-321<sup>st</sup> veterans of the Vietnam War, present. The sole WWII survivor of the 550<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Battalion, Mr. Paul Stinner, was in attendance as well. Mr. Stinner and COL William Malouche were given the honor of unveiling their respective regimental stones.

After the unveiling of the stones, veterans past and present enjoyed each other's company while exchanging stories of life in the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment and the 550<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Battalion. As the reception wound down numerous veterans were observed taking pictures with their units Memorial Stones. The 321<sup>st</sup> Memorial Stone can now be viewed along the entrance to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in its rightful place next to all the distinguished U.S Army Airborne units that have served this great nation.



Vietnam Veterans of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR

321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Command Team – Regimental Stone  
Dedication

**Honorary Colonel of the Regiment**

COL William Malouche

**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment**

Commander: LTC Gene Meredith

Command Sergeant Major: CSM Brian Harrison

**2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment**

Commander: LTC William Huff

Command Sergeant Major: CSM Wayne Sanders

**3<sup>d</sup> Battalion, 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment**

Commander: LTC John Hutto

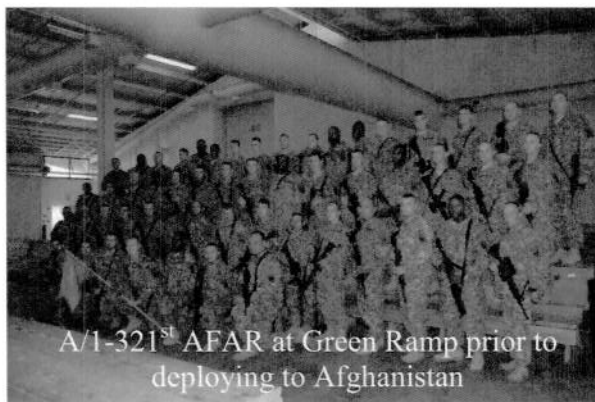
Command Sergeant Major: CSM Robert Rivord

**~OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM DEPLOYMENT~**

With all training completed, the Soldiers were given time to spend with Family and friends. Upon redeployment from the field on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, Alpha Battery started their two weeks of block leave; they would be the first from the Battalion to deploy in December. Bravo and Charlie Batteries took their block leave in December.

Arriving back at Fort Bragg, after their block leave, on December 10<sup>th</sup>, Alpha Battery finished packing last minute equipment to be sent overseas.

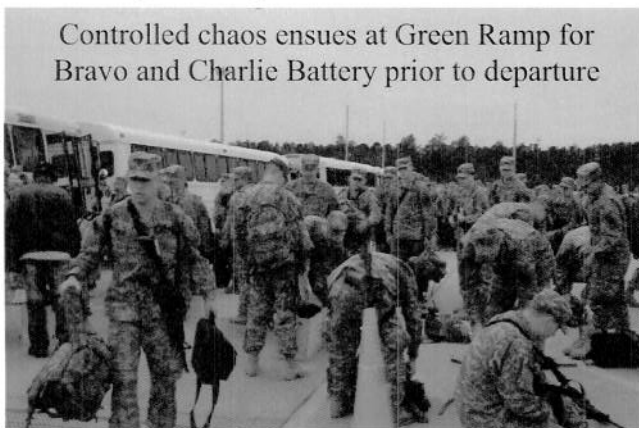
They processed through the Soldier Readiness Center where they completed pre-deployment requirements dealing with finance, immunizations, and any other personnel matters prior to deployment. Finally, the day came for Alpha Battery to leave, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. CPT Picard, 1SG Oliver and the rest of Alpha Battery boarded a civilian chartered airplane and departed for Kuwait at 1430hrs, with quick stops in Iceland and Ireland prior to arrival in Kuwait; 24 hours after leaving Fort Bragg, NC. They spent four days at Camp Ali Al Salem, including Christmas day while Alpha Battery prepped for the movement to Afghanistan. From Camp Ali Al Salem the Pacesetters pushed out to their respective FOBs. In all, they occupied seven different locations across RC East, and by



A/1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR at Green Ramp prior to  
deploying to Afghanistan

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 Alpha Battery was in place preparing to take over the radar mission from D-26. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Alpha Battery conducted the transfer of authority (TOA) ceremony at FOB Salerno; home to Alpha Battery's new headquarters, and officially took over the Target Acquisition Mission in RC East.

Since HHB, Bravo and Charlie Battery did not have deployment orders until the end of January, they started their pre-deployment block leave on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December. They returned on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January and the two batteries had their last minute tasks to complete. They processed through the Soldier Readiness Center and finished packing personal gear that was to be sent with them. Finally, on January 26<sup>th</sup>, Bravo, Charlie, and a small detachment from HHB were ready to load a plane and head to Afghanistan. The morning started early with weapons draw and Soldier accountability. Everyone loaded their bags and did one last check of equipment. The Battalion's Family Readiness Group (FRG) held a farewell ceremony at Hoskins Gym for all Soldiers deploying, their Families and their friends, with a lunch provided by the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC. The turnout was great; the Warriors packed the gym. At 1400hrs everyone said their goodbyes and loaded buses to head to green ramp.



Controlled chaos ensues at Green Ramp for Bravo and Charlie Battery prior to departure

At green ramp the first road block was apparent. There was a miscommunication about the amount of weight each individual was allowed to pack. Needless to say, the Battalion was over their limit. The carefully planned packing that took place over the past few weeks went right out the window. Tuff boxes had to be pulled from the cargo to depart on a later flight. Soldiers needed to get down to one bag per person; they

had to dump out their bags and repack. Once the packing situation was solved, everyone moved into the hanger to enjoy the pre departure meal that the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC had prepared for them. Chaplain Lorenzen and LTC Meredith had a few last minute words before manifest, and then everyone boarded the plane. At 2020hrs wheels were up and the next group of Soldiers from the Warrior Battalion were off to Afghanistan. With a brief stop in Bangor, Maine and another in Germany to refuel, the Battalion finally arrived at Manas AFB, Kyrgyzstan just under 24 hours after leaving Fort Bragg, NC. Manas AFB is an old Soviet era Air Base and served as a staging area for U.S. forces entering and leaving Afghanistan. Bravo and Charlie Battery spent one day in Manas before they boarded an Air Force C-17 for Bagram Airfield (BAF). The HHB detachment spent 8 days at Manas AFB before they were able to fly to Afghanistan.

Once at Bagram Air Field (BAF), the Soldiers received the incomer's brief from the Chaplain, Inspector General, Criminal Investigation Department, Red Cross, and countless additional agencies that needed to provide important information to the Paratroopers. CPT Gwinn and CPT Dickson linked up with the Commanders they would relieve from 3-321 FAR and started to deploy their platoons to their respective FOBs. By February 6<sup>th</sup> Bravo Battery conducted their TOA ceremony at FOB Salerno with A/3-321

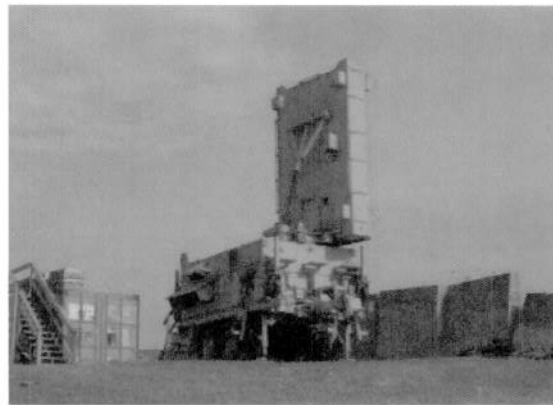


and took full responsibility of their three firing positions and the maneuver platoon. Charlie Battery conducted their TOA on February 10<sup>th</sup>, officially taking over from C/3-321.

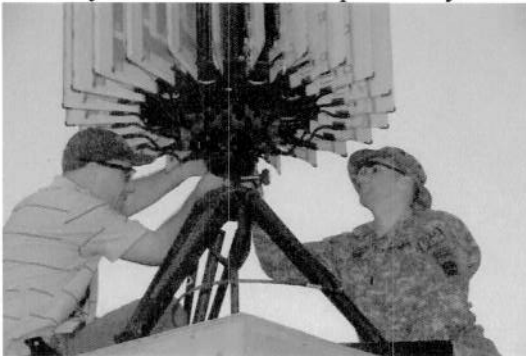
## ~EQUIPMENT~

The M777A2 is smaller and about 40 percent lighter than its predecessor, weighing in at less than 10,000 lbs. The howitzer can be delivered by a CH-47 Chinook, towed behind a FMTV 5-ton truck, or air-dropped by an Air Force C-130 or larger aircraft. The M777A2 uses a Digital Firing Control System (DFCS) and GPS provides its' navigation, self locating data, digital azimuth and deflection readout, allowing the howitzer to be emplaced much quicker than howitzers of the past. The M777A2 has the capability of delivering high explosive rounds out to a range of 30 kilometers (18 miles) and shooting the GPS guided M982 Excalibur round with pinpoint accuracy. Bravo and Charlie Batteries used the M777A2 Howitzer with great success, delivering over 18,000 rounds in support of troops across RC East during their deployment.

The M777A2 or Triple Seven was the Army's and the Marine's new 155mm howitzer that replaced



The Q36 and Q37 Fire Finder Radars are lightweight, highly mobile radars systems capable of detecting incoming indirect enemy fires such as artillery, mortars, and rockets. The Q36 is capable of detecting rounds out to 24 kilometers (15 miles) and the Q37 out to 50 kilometers (31 miles); both systems can track up to 20 targets simultaneously. The radar systems can be transported by HMMWV, 5 ton truck, or sling loaded by CH-47



Chinook Helicopters. The Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radar (LCMR) system provides continuous 360 degree surveillance of indirect fire threats. It is used by maneuver units because of its high mobility and it can be air dropped in a door bundle and reassembled by two Soldiers. Alpha Battery was deployed across RC East with three LCMR sections, three Q36 sections, and one Q37 section.

The Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle was put into production in 2002 to replace the up-armored HMMWV in Iraq and Afghanistan. The MRAP was designed with run flat tires, infrared (IR) headlights, an internal intercom system allowing the driver to communicate with the crew, and a V shaped hull is designed to deflect away any explosive force from below; increasing protection for Soldiers riding in the vehicle.



The MRAP weighs approximately 7 tons, is powered by a 6.7L turbo charged diesel engine, fitted with air brakes, and an air conditioning/heating system. Forth Platoon, Bravo Battery was equipped with four MRAP vehicles in order to conduct combat patrols in the Khowst Province during Operation Enduring Freedom.



With the HHB detachment, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Batteries settled into their FOBs and conducting combat operations in Afghanistan, the rest of HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Company (FSC) were back at Fort Bragg, NC under the command of rear detachment commander, Captain Andrew Zikowitz. Both HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC conducted a change of command ceremony, Captain Nicholas Nelson took command of HHB, and Captain Antonio Pineda took command of the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC. New commanders were in place; and HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> were ready to support the Brigade's Red Cycle. They participated in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division's Mission Readiness Exercise (MRX), post cleanup, funeral details, and a Division retirement ceremony; Red Cycle kept the Rear Detachment busy. When the support cycle was complete, HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC conducted the final push of Bravo and Charlie Battery's equipment, with 12 M777A2 howitzers and accompanying Basic Issue Items (BII). In the third week of February, the 12 howitzers were loaded on a C-17 and a C-5 aircraft at Pope Air Force Base "Green Ramp", and departed for Afghanistan.



M777 Howitzers are loaded onto a C-17 headed to Afghanistan

With talks of the Warrior Battalion standing up Delta Battery to replace either Bravo or Charlie Battery in January 2010, all artillery Rear Detachment Soldiers were attached to HHB in March 2009; effectively making HHB the only headquarters in the Army with firing capabilities. Meanwhile, the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC conducted preventive maintenance checks and services on the Battalion's rolling stock (trucks and trailers), to prepare for the upcoming Battalion field exercises and pre-deployment training for HHB, 54<sup>th</sup> FSC, and possibly the new Delta Battery.



54<sup>th</sup> FSC Soldiers at work during the Battalion FTX

Soon, HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> conducted their first field training exercise. HHB set up and conducted TOC operations while the firing platoon perfected its crew drills on the gun line and FDC. The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC ran several qualification ranges on the M9, M4, M249 SAW, and the M2 .50 caliber machine gun. The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC also held classes for all Soldiers on first aid, radio communication, land navigation, reaction to direct and indirect fire battle drills.

March ended with HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC conducting a leader's recon of the training areas that would be used during the Brigade FTX, Operation Gunsmoke. The 54<sup>th</sup> scouted out locations for the Ammo Supply Point (ASP), maintenance area, DFAC area, fuel



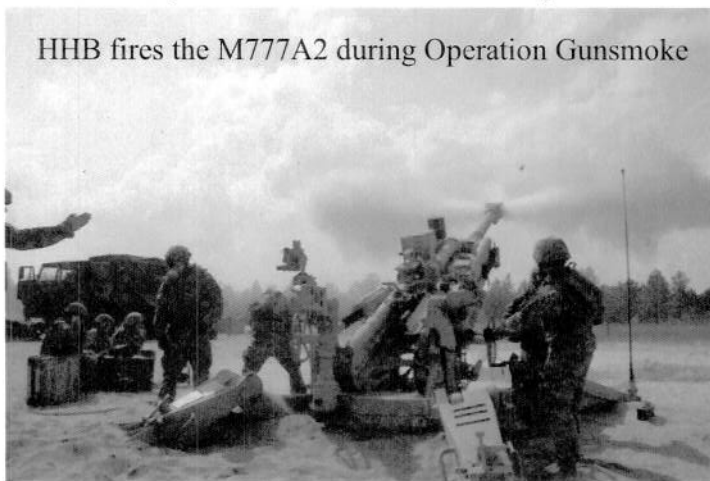
point, and their Company Command HQ. Both units also finished the month completing Division 350-1 requirements with a road march and equal opportunity training.



an upcoming deployment for more HHB and 54<sup>th</sup> Soldiers. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, spouses of the Battalion were recognized at a Division FRG banquet held at the 82D ABN Division Headquarters. Spouses from across the Division were recognized for their outstanding service and dedication to the FRG program during a time of constant deployments.

The second week of April was very busy and another milestone for the Warrior Battalion. The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC ran a convoy live fire range; the first time ever a support unit had run a live fire convoy range in the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade. During the three days of the range, the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC ran 12 dry fire iterations, three blank iterations, three live iterations, and one blank night iteration. COL Bentley, 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Commander, was so impressed with the range he tasked all the field grade officers in the Brigade to observe the convoy training. The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC definitely maintained the Warrior's high standard of training.

At the end of April, the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC and HHB took part in the much anticipated Brigade FTX, "Operation Gunsmoke." The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC set up their ammunition point, DFAC, fuel point, and their company CP supporting the operation in every aspect. HHB's gun sections quickly emplaced their howitzers and immediately began the certification process. By the end of day three, all gun sections and FDCs were certified. The rest of the FTX was spent supporting calls for fire from the Brigade.



## COMBAT ACTION 1-321<sup>ST</sup> AFAR

Back in Afghanistan the 4-320<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment was getting ready to re-deploy in March 2009, Alpha Battery was designated to take the lead on the reset of their organic Q36 Radar located at FOB Deysie. Ensuring the safe arrival of the replacement radar to FOB Daysie from 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 377<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Regiment's was the first step of the enrollment into reset process for the 4-320<sup>th</sup> FAR Q36. The Pacesetters conducted five successful sling load operations to include a Q36 ATG, a Q36 Shelter, 2 x 10K Generators, and one spare parts container. By the end of February, all the 2-377<sup>th</sup> PFAR Q36 section equipment had been delivered to FOB Deysie with no damage. Once all 2-377<sup>th</sup> equipment functioned properly, the Alpha Battery ALOC coordinated for the retrograde of the 4-320<sup>th</sup> radar and eventual turn-in at BAF.

By the first week in February, both Bravo and Charlie Batteries were situated at their respective FOBs and eagerly awaited their first mission. Meanwhile, Bravo's Maneuver Platoon was busy learning their areas of operation, and conducting "left seat, right seat" convoys with the unit they were replacing. Right before they deployed, Bravo learned not only would they stand up a full maneuver platoon, but they would also provide a Lieutenant and a Sergeant to a Military Police unit who was in need of leadership; they would operate out of the Garbuz District Center. So, with seven radar sections up and operating, six firing platoons emplaced, two maneuver units patrolling, and the HHB detachment functioning out of Bagram Air Field (BAF), 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR was officially set up and conducting combat operations in RC East.



A CH-47 sling loads Alpha Battery's Q36 Radar



1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Bravo fires the Battalion's first rounds in Afghanistan

First Platoon, Bravo Battery shot the first rounds in Afghanistan on February 6<sup>th</sup>. First Platoon conducted a registration and calibration from FOB Salerno, firing 91 rounds of HE. Bragging rights for firing the first rounds in support of troops went to First Platoon, Charlie Battery, when they received a call for fire on the night of February 10<sup>th</sup>. Forward Observers radioed that they spotted enemy Soldiers emplacing Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) along a road side. First

Platoon jumped into action and provided ten minutes of continuous illumination for the observing maneuver element; allowing them to attack and neutralize the enemy threat.

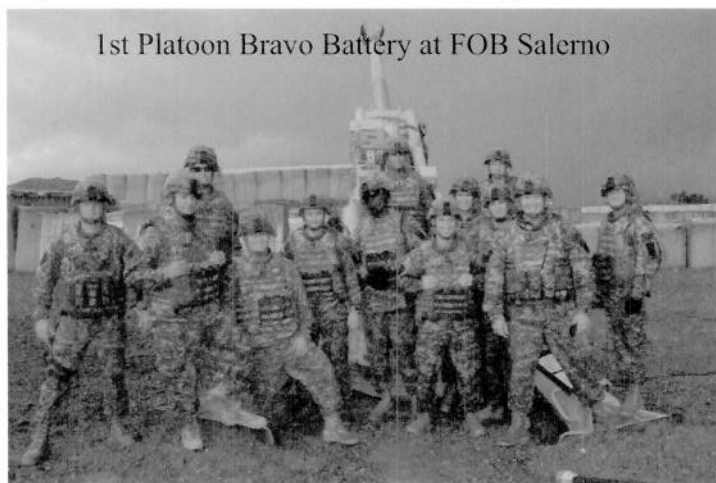
The two Maneuver Platoons of Bravo Battery spent their first month in country familiarizing themselves with the local nationals from the villages they were to operate in. CPT Dave Dominquez's maneuver platoon enjoyed a traditional dinner with the Afghan National Army (ANA), which signified the official transfer of authority of the Terezayi District Center. Bravo's second maneuver element consisted of 1LT Al Waters and SGT Campisano, they conducted a seamless RIP with 3-321 FAR's platoon



and began learning their new AO. Shortly after the TOA, Bravo Battery learned that it would no longer have to support the Garbuz District Center mission and would focus on the Terezayi District Center; this meant that CPT Gwinn, 1SG Fletcher and SGT Campisano would join CPT Dominguez and the maneuver at the Terezi District. 1LT Water went to Camp Clark to serve as a firing Platoon Leader.

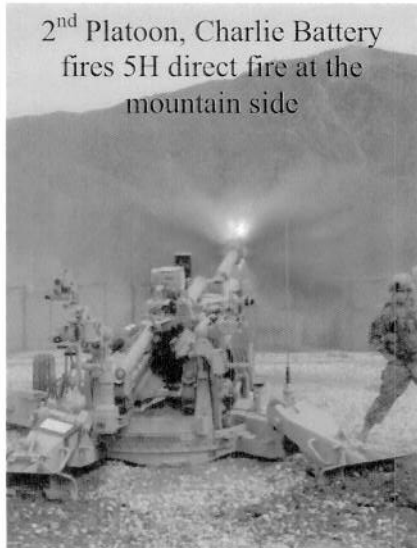
Bravo Battery's Maneuver Platoon quickly became accustomed to their area of operation (AO), patrol routes and the other units in their area. They worked with the Military Police (MP) platoon that was attached to them, the ANA, and the Afghan Border Patrol (ABP) while they traveled to Border Check Point Seven (BCP-7) to over watch an easy access route in and out of Pakistan. Each time they were on patrol they had to avoid IEDs on the side of the roads and in dried up river beds, also known as waddis. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Platoon received intelligence of an IED site in a 'waddi' in their AO. They located the area and conducted a dismounted patrol in order to locate the IED. During the patrol the "gung-ho pro Ameri-anything" interpreter, Abdul, spotted something that looked like wires sticking out of a culvert. They did not want to call the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team without positive identification, but the ANA Soldier took identification to the extreme and shocked everyone. The Soldier reached into the culvert, grabbed the unidentified wires and pulled them out. They did turn out to be wires and they were attached to a live IED. Through the unorthodox method positive identification

was made and the EOD team came out and detonated the explosive device.



With the Battalion set in at RC East, LTC Meredith and CSM Harrison began their battlefield circulation, accompanied by Chaplain Lorenzen, and SSG Schroedel from the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Public Affairs office. The command team spent a good portion of February and March flying around RC East

checking on Paratroopers and inspecting artillery positions. They took pictures of all the platoons and awarded the Soldiers their shoulder sleeve insignia or "Combat Patch" for serving in a combat zone.



2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Charlie Battery fires 5H direct fire at the mountain side

While the Warrior Battalion command team conducted checks of the new firing positions, they were able to observe Second Platoon, Charlie Battery at FOB Asadabad, firing a 5H registration; it seemed as if the entire FOB showed up to watch them shoot. After the fire mission, the FDO for Second Platoon, 2LT Stephen Berryman, was approached by the maneuver commander at the FOB, "You guys are awesome! I have always been told to shoot mortars first and then FA; however, I am now a believer in FA, your performance has changed my mind and I want 155mm all the time. My BN CDR and I love you guys!" 1LT David Rodriguez received the same kind of praise from the Battalion Commander of the Surgical Team at FOB Bostick. While conducting a walkthrough of his area, LTC Malangra heard Third Platoon, Charlie Battery firing, when asked what the loud sound was, 1LT Rodriguez

simply replied with, "Sir, that's the sound of Artillery." After a personal tour of the gun line, LTC Malangra stated that he will "definitely be sleeping comfortable tonight knowing these guns are here."

At the end of April, a portion of the HHB detachment including the Command team returned to Fort Bragg to take part in Brigade/ Post events and prepare for HHBs and the 54<sup>th</sup>'s possible upcoming deployment. May began with the Command Team, HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC conducting field recovery operations after the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade FTX. They cleaned all vehicles, accounted for weapons and sensitive items, and stowed all equipment. Recovery was completed quickly since the remaining Battalion at Fort Bragg had to rehearse their drill and ceremony skills in order to prepare for the Brigade Commander's Relinquishment of Command Ceremony, which was conducted the following week. The Warrior Battalion prepared for their participation in the Brigade Relinquishment of Command Ceremony by conducting many rehearsals and uniform inspections. The ceremony was flawlessly executed and the Brigade bid farewell to COL Bentley in a great ceremony.

The week following the Brigade Relinquishment of Command Ceremony was All American Week. Every May, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division conducts "All American Week" in honor of the Divisions 90 plus years of history and heritage; the week includes ceremonies, unit sports and parades. The week began with a Division four mile run lead by Major General Scaparrotti, the



HHB Commander, CPT Nelson reviews muzzle velocities with Platoon Leadership

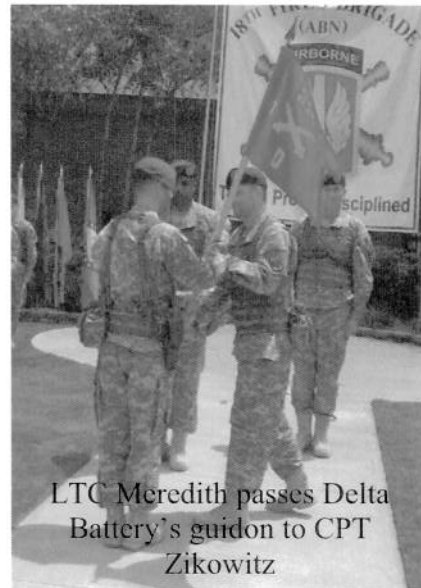
Division Commanding General. Due to 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigades June 2008 reattachment to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, this was the first time that the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade and 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR participated in All American Week. Soldiers from HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> participated



in softball, basketball, football and volleyball games. The softball team had an exciting week of competition; they won their first three games and qualified for the Division-wide championship game. Unfortunately, 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR did not win the championship. All American week was a well deserved break from normal operations and a great beginning to the Memorial Day Holiday.

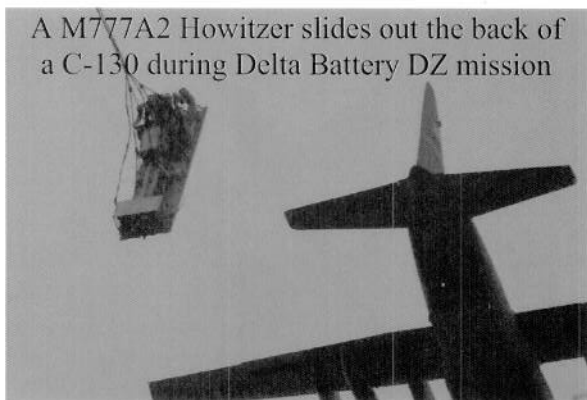
At the end of May, the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFARs deployment was at the half way point and the Battalion was tasked to provide another firing Battery to deploy and replace Bravo Battery in January 2010, with its sister Battalion 3-321 FAR. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, in a ceremony held behind the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Headquarters, LTC Meredith passed the Delta Battery guidon to CPT Andrew Zikowitz, the new Battery Commander; adding a fourth firing battery to the Warrior Battalion.

May ended with the start of "Red Cycle;" continuing into June, the Battalion was required to provide Soldiers for tasks throughout Fort Bragg. Red Cycle includes such tasks as supporting the Pre-Ranger Course and post clean up. Typically, during red cycle the Battalion maintains a slower operation tempo; however, this would not be possible for 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR. In addition to red cycle taskings, the Warrior Battalion had to remain proficient in common Soldier tasks, such as 12 mile road marches, PT tests, vehicle maintenance and Airborne Operations. One airborne operation in particular was extraordinary for the Warrior Battalion; 65 years after the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division jumped into France on D-Day they had the opportunity to do it again. Soldiers from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, and six from 1-321<sup>st</sup>, traveled to France. They toured WWII battle fields and on the anniversary of D-Day, had the privilege of exiting an Air Force C-130 aircraft over the fields of St. Mere Eglise.



LTC Meredith passes Delta Battery's guidon to CPT Zikowitz

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade, Warrior Battalion included, assembled on Pike Field to welcome COL Shoffner, the new Brigade Commander. The following day, the newly formed Delta Battery, HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC conducted a two howitzer, night combat equipment jump into Holland Drop Zone (DZ); this was the Battalion's first heavy drop mission with the M777A2 Howitzers. Upon hitting the ground, HHB set up the Command Post and



A M777A2 Howitzer slides out the back of a C-130 during Delta Battery DZ mission

established communications between Brigade and Delta Battery's firing platoons. The 54<sup>th</sup> jumped in several Soldiers and the Distribution platoon provided the ammunition required for Delta Battery's fire missions.

After a busy June, the Battalion began two weeks of a well deserved block leave. Returning from leave on July 19<sup>th</sup> LTC Meredith announced that HHB would deploy in less than a month; unfortunately, the 54<sup>th</sup> would not

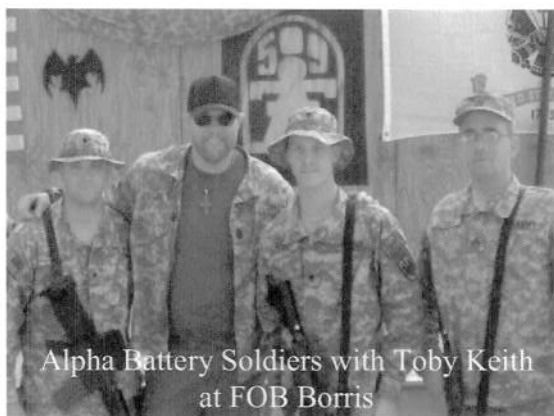
deploy with the Battalion. Delta Battery continued to stay busy as they went to the field during the last week of July and completed their first section certification. They successfully certified two FDCs and four out of six howitzer sections. Delta Battery was officially attached to 3-321 FAR on August 10<sup>th</sup> in preparation for their upcoming deployment. Shortly after, on August 13<sup>th</sup>, HHB headed to Green Ramp, boarded a plane and deployed to Afghanistan. Once on the ground at Bagram Air Field, HHB immediately set up the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR TOC and prepared to take command and control of all artillery assets in RC East.

The end of April, continuing into the first part of May, was the start of the busy summer season in Afghanistan for Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Batteries. Bravo and Charlie batteries conducted accurate and lethal fire missions and patrols, many of which were due to Alpha Battery's LCMRs and radars throughout RC East. The 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR continued to build on their stellar reputation in delivery of fires throughout this time period. Due to this unrivaled reputation and the continued successful missions of Charlie Battery, the Associated Press visited FOB Blessing. They talked with Soldiers from First platoon and took pictures of them in action.

The United Service Organizations (USO) toured throughout Afghanistan; they visited many of the FOBs and Camps that were occupied by the Warriors. They put on concerts, visited the gun lines and radar positions, and talked with and took photos with the Soldiers. One of the artists that toured with the USO to Warrior locations was country music star Toby Keith, who is a huge supporter of the U.S military.

In May, FOB Salerno was visited by General Casey, Army Chief of Staff, during his battlefield circulation. While at the FOB, General Casey talked with Soldiers, presented awards and reenlisted three Soldiers from Alpha Battery, SPC Howell, SPC Hilton, and SPC Schara.

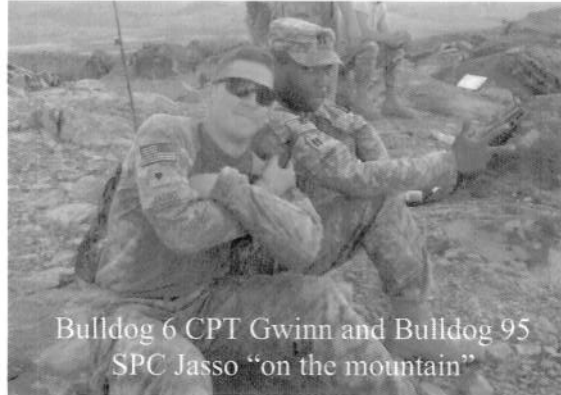
Even with all the VIP activity, the Battalion continued to perform its mission. From May to August, Alpha Battery had over 130 confirmed hostile acquisitions from their



Alpha Battery Soldiers with Toby Keith at FOB Borris

radars; 71 in August alone. Artillery sections quickly developed relationships with the maneuver elements in their AO. Bravo Battery, Second platoon, located at COP Zornat, worked with and trained forward observers. The training was focused on proficient call for fire; firing everything from illumination to smoke rounds. They also conducted two coordinated illumination missions with 60mm mortars that were located with the maneuver units at the outlying COPs.

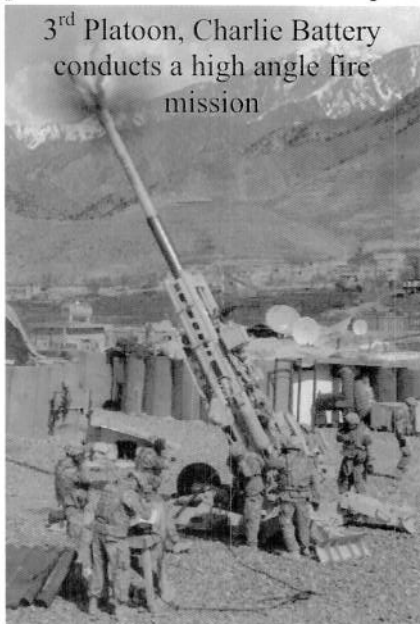
Bravo Battery's Maneuver platoon shifted their focus away from BCP-7 to Cherkawtah Mountain, a small hill at the base of three larger mountains. Seven day "on the mountain," missions soon became the norm for the Maneuver platoon; they set up observation posts and watched Taliban routes in and out of Pakistan. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Maneuver platoon was at an OP when the observer at the bottom of the hill, SPC Jasso, observed Taliban Soldiers gathering. The



Bulldog 6 CPT Gwinn and Bulldog 95 SPC Jasso "on the mountain"

enemy Soldiers began firing upon the Maneuver Platoon. SPC Jasso immediately called for fire from First platoon's two howitzers, located at FOB Salerno, on two different pre-established targets. First platoon accurately placed 20 HE rounds on the two targets, immediately ceasing the attack on the Maneuver platoon at Cherkawtah Mountain. This fire mission allows CPT Gwinn, Bravo Battery commander, to brag that his howitzers have fired in support of his maneuver operations; a very rare occurrence for a Battery commander.

Charlie Battery was very active in their AO at this time as well. Charlie Battery second platoon, located at FOB Wright, had several important events. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the platoon fired 26 rounds for a preemptive strike on a known enemy outpost. Several days



3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Charlie Battery conducts a high angle fire mission

later, information was received that revealed a top-level Taliban commander was killed during the barrage. One month later, on 17 June, a convoy of infantrymen from A/1-26 IN were ambushed in second platoon's AO. The convoy was unable to move through the ambush due to a disabled vehicle. With the infantry immobilized, the enemy called in reinforcements and continued to assault the convoy. Second platoon was called to fire in support of the convoy. Over the next six hours, they fired 131 rounds to repel the attack. They fired smoke rounds to screen the convoy and HE to neutralize the threat. When complete, over 40 enemy Soldiers were killed by the artillery rounds and not a single U.S. or Coalition Force Soldier was killed or wounded.

Second platoon was not the only Charlie Battery platoon to have considerable action in their AO. Charlie Battery first platoon located at FOB Blessing

experienced 105 rounds of enemy indirect fire; seventy of which were 107mm Rockets (HE and WP) and 120mm mortars that were direct hits or within 50 meters of the firing points. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, a mortar impacted one of the firing points, wounding three Soldiers who were conducting daily maintenance on the howitzer. The Soldiers were eventually returned to duty; each received a Purple Heart.



3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Bravo Battery fires a calibration Mission from FOB Clark

In order to generate effective counter-fire mission data against these attacks, first platoon senior leaders would conduct crater analysis, once when contaminated with WP from an enemy rocket, each time a round impacted. They conducted over 50 crater analyses, often while they were still under attack. Their bravery led to the processing of countless counter-fire missions that neutralized the threat.

May thru August was also a busy time for Charlie Battery third platoon. On 01 May, an OP in third platoon's AO was overrun by a force of 100 enemy fighters. The platoon fired a 22 round continuous fire mission and a 46 round FPF mission in support of troops at the OP. Even though Coalition forces took casualties from the attack, the fires from third platoon saved the life of the OMLT commander and several of his Soldiers. The OMLT commander personally thanked the platoon for saving the lives of his Soldiers that day.



MG Scaparrotti addresses Alpha and Bravo Battery Paratroopers at FOB Salerno

August proved to be one of the busiest months for the Battalion. Alpha Battery had 71 confirmed hostile radar acquisitions. Bravo Battery conducted a four gun Battery mass mission on one target. Charlie Battery fired nearly 1000 rounds and received a visit from Major General Scaparrotti, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Commander.

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, Bravo Battery's first and third platoons received a mission to mass all four howitzers on one target. They were instructed to shoot a sweep and zone, which is when the howitzer section shoots at multiple targets that surround a base target. This creates a sweeping effect of the area around the target. When the mission was complete, Bravo Battery had fired 56 rounds of HE on the enemy position.



Many of Alpha Battery's 71 target acquisitions resulted in the howitzer sections conducting counter fire missions. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Q36 radar, located at FOB Borris, acquired enemy 107mm rockets that were fired at the FOB. In response, the radar section, lead by SSG Schrock, transmitted the Point of Origin (POO) grid to the gun line. Within minutes, rounds impacted the target and ended the enemy indirect fire attack; it also caused multiple secondary explosions.



Charlie Battery had a very demanding day on August 20<sup>th</sup>, which was Election day in Afghanistan. This was Afghanistan's second free Presidential election, a pivotal moment for the country and the U.S. Military. As Election day dawned, enemy forces across the Konar Province attacked polling sites and military/civilian convoys carrying ballots and election supplies. They also attacked FOBs, COPs and OPs throughout the Province. Charlie Battery fired a total of 229 rounds that day. Third platoon, located at FOB Bostick, shot 109 rounds, which was a unit daily record, in support of troops in contact (TIC) at the Ops, COPs, and polling sites and in support of GIRoA voting officials. They continued the mission even as 15 enemy mortar rounds passed over the gun line and impacted on the FOB. Second platoon at FOB Wright fired 31 rounds in support of troops in contact. The pinnacle events of the day occurred at FOB Blessing, first platoon's location. First platoon received 22 rounds of accurate enemy mortar and rocket fire. They conducted counter-fire missions throughout the day, often under continued enemy indirect fire. At 1500L, FOB Blessing came under direct attack; a 40 man enemy force attacked the FOB with precision mortar fire, crew-served and individual weapons. First platoon immediately took up a defensive posture and prepared its howitzers for direct fire. As the enemy descended upon the FOB, they were met with 57 rounds of 155 HE direct fire from the platoon's two howitzers. The advance was halted and the entire enemy force was KIA. For their actions, 22 paratroopers received the Army Achievement Medal and 8 Paratroopers have been nominated for the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device.

The fall months continued to be a busy time for the Battalion. On 19 September FOB Bostick was on the verge of an attack from multiple avenues of approach. All three outlying OPs were attacked by enemy forces intent on breaking through the stronghold and conducting a direct assault on the FOB. Third platoon fired 148 HE in support of the OPs during the assault, often processing and firing simultaneous missions. The attack was repelled and there were over 15 enemy KIAs.

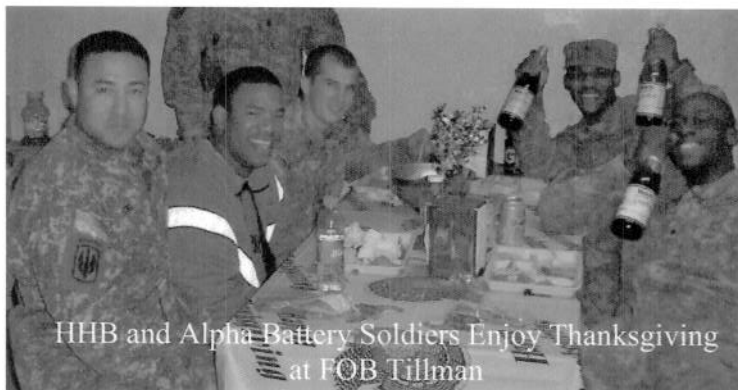
Back at Fort Bragg, HHB, Delta Battery and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC continued to stay busy throughout October. Delta Battery prepared for their upcoming deployment by conducting joint field exercises with the 583<sup>rd</sup> FSC. As Delta Battery trained for their

delivery of fires mission, the 583<sup>rd</sup> FSC tracked and observed their fires. During the 19<sup>th</sup> October Delta Battery FTX, the Master Gunner and Battalion FDC Chief rotated through each Howitzer and FDC section certifying them in accordance with the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade certification checklist; validating they were ready to deploy. Delta Battery also had the opportunity on October 21<sup>st</sup> to demonstrate their artillery skills to Major General Hammond, the acting XVIII Airborne Corps Commander. Two of the Battery's Soldiers were recognized for their outstanding service during the VIP visit.

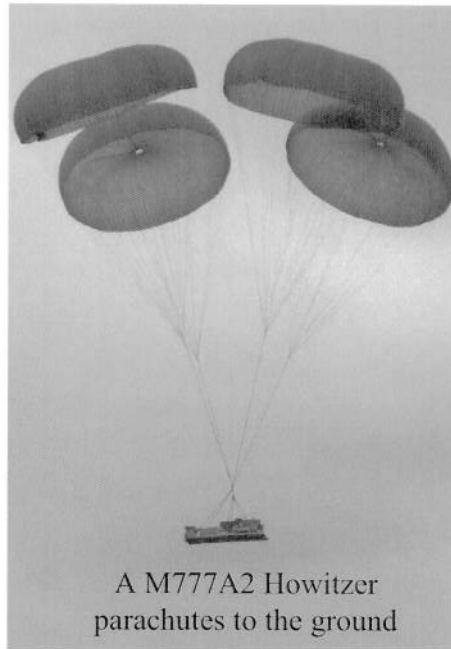
HHB remained busy throughout October as they conducted a 100% inventory of the equipment they would sign for from Delta Battery. Additionally, in conjunction with Delta Battery and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC, HHB conducted individual Soldier training requirements, rifle ranges, classes, and the 20 KM (12 mile) foot march. Toward the end of October, HHB and Delta Battery participated in a drop zone mission with the 2-319<sup>th</sup> AFAR and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. During the mission, one M777A2 Howitzer was dropped and 16 HE rounds were fired.

November began with red cycle where HHB and the 54<sup>th</sup> FSC had to carry out the majority of the taskings due to Delta Battery's pre-deployment preparations. They participated in Operation Clean Sweep and funeral details, while still making time to qualify with their individual weapons. Meanwhile, Delta Battery's Soldiers' packed their gear and prepared it for shipment. They also attended deployment classes on the General Orders, Afghanistan orientation, Operational Security (OPSEC), cold weather training and Excalibur familiarization. November concluded with HHB finalizing the lateral transfer of Delta Battery's 6 M777A2 howitzers, giving HHB a total of 12 guns.

November brought a significant change in the subordinate unit alignment of the 18<sup>th</sup>



HHB and Alpha Battery Soldiers Enjoy Thanksgiving at FOB Tillman



A M777A2 Howitzer parachutes to the ground

Fires Brigade. At the end of the month, the Forward Support Company's were reassigned from the artillery BNs to the 188<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion (BSB). The 54<sup>th</sup> FSC remained the direct maintenance support for 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR; however, their chain of command shifted to the 188<sup>th</sup> BSB.

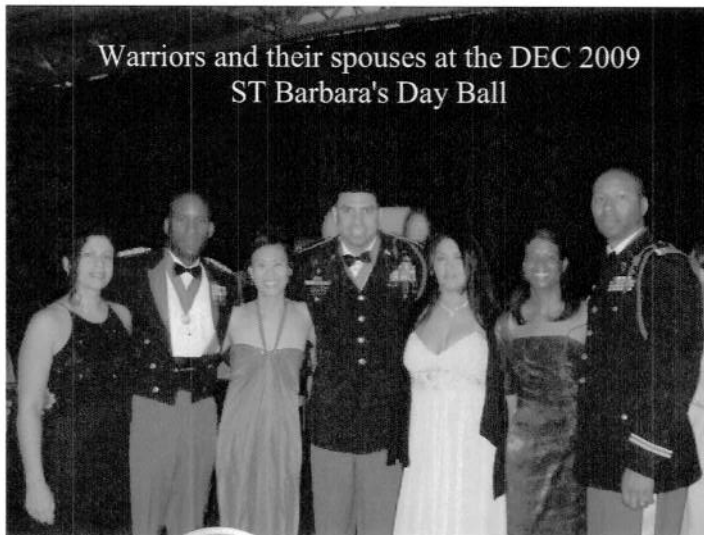
Finally, November concluded with the annual Thanksgiving dinner at the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Dining Facility. During this event, the senior leadership of the Battalion wore

their Dress Blues and served Thanksgiving dinner to celebrate the holiday with the Soldiers and their Families while remembering the Warriors down range.

With the Thanksgiving holiday complete, Delta Battery resumed its deployment preparations. They completed their medical readiness at the SRC and finalized personal documents with the assistance 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Legal office. The supply Sergeants for HHB and Delta Battery did final reviews of the Commander's property books and transferred any remaining equipment to HHB.

Even though the Battalion was busily preparing Delta Battery for their deployment, they still took the time to honor Field Artillery traditions. Each year, Field Artillery units

across the globe honor the Patron Saint of Field Artillery, St. Barbara, with the St. Barbara's Day Ball. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR Soldiers, along with 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade Soldiers, gathered at the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville, NC for this annual event. The Ball is a formal celebration that allows the Division's artillery units the opportunity to honor St. Barbara and the history and traditions of the Field Artillery. It is also



Warriors and their spouses at the DEC 2009  
ST Barbara's Day Ball

when the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara Awards and Molley Pitcher Awards are presented to those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Field Artillery Branch.

October was a very busy month in Afghanistan as well; it was during this time that the most significant battle of the deployment occurred. In early October, OP Fritsche, OP Lowell and OP Keaton, near FOB Bostick in Charlie Battery, third Platoon's AO, were preparing for closure. They had reduced security and were minimally manned; a situation the enemy used to their advantage. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, enemy combatants, along with Afghan Security Forces who were guarding the OPs, attacked. They delivered 20 rounds of indirect fire into OP Keaton and simultaneously attacked OP Fritsche and OP Lowell. The calls for continuous Final Protective Fires (FPF) rapidly came in and Charlie Battery, third Platoon responded. With the Platoon delivering rounds, 1LT Rodriguez, the Fire Direction Officer, immediately reported the situation to CPT Dickson, the Battery BC. He informed the BC that the OPs were under attack, on the verge of being overrun, and that the Platoon had already fired 100 rounds in support of the Forces. CPT Dickson immediately started resupply operations and began movement to FOB Bostick. Fortunately, a civilian helicopter was preparing to go to FOB Bostick, and while the pilots were reluctant due to the situation, they agree to fly the commander to his men. Once CPT Dickson arrived at FOB Bostick he saw first hand the seriousness of the situation. Although the Paratroopers were ready and able to continue sending

rounds down range, they had to suspend firing because they were unable to differentiate between friendly and enemy forces.

As the day continued, the situation did not improve. Rescue helicopters and MEDEVAC's could not get to the OPs because as they approached the area the enemy fire was too intense. Additionally, third Platoon began receiving indirect fire from the enemy, yet they continued to support the battle with 155mm fires. Within the next few days, "Operation Sore Toe" was planned and executed with third Platoon designated to provide fires. The mission was to recover and evacuate the OPs. It was a joint allied mission and involved 155mm FA, Mortars, F-18s, Apaches, Blackhawks, B-2 Bombers, Special Forces, Central Intelligence Agencies, British commandos, Afghanistan Commandos, Latvian Soldiers, Rangers and 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Soldiers. The Operation lasted until October 14<sup>th</sup> and resulted in the Platoon firing over 100 missions and delivering 1200 rounds. Unfortunately, OP Keaton had 8 Soldiers killed and 6 wounded during the battle.

Charlie Battery, third Platoon was not the only active Platoon during October; it was also a very active time for Charlie Battery, second Platoon at FOB Wright. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, working with an Air Force F-15 crew, the Platoon prevented a large scale attack on friendly forces by delivering 40 high explosive air burst HE rounds onto an enemy formation located in a mountain draw. They walked the rounds down the side of the mountain cutting off any chance of enemy escape. The Platoon also fired ground burst illumination, marking the location for F-15s to deliver 500 lbs bombs. After the successful mission, ground troops reported over 30 enemy combatants killed.

Additionally in October, Soldiers from Alpha and Bravo Battery trained the Afghan National Army (ANA) on the Russian 122mm howitzer at FOB Lighting. The three week training event culminated in the ANA safely shooting a 100 rounds of indirect fire. As the firing Batteries were training on and delivering fires, the 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR Battalion leadership conducted a fire support assessment of all indirect fire assets located within Combined Joint Task Force 82<sup>nd</sup> area of responsibility in RC East, Afghanistan. The assessment team inspected all mortars, artillery, and radar positions for compliance with indirect fires standards. The assessment team's findings were compiled then presented to the Commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. The findings were then used to develop a plan to fix all deficiencies, thus improving the timeliness and accuracy of indirect fires while reducing collateral damage.

During this time, Bravo Battery's Maneuver Platoon was relocated from the Tereziyi District Center to Camp Clark, where they conducted a quick reaction force mission. From Camp Clark, the Platoon (minus) was then tasked to occupy COP Spera, a small

1st Platoon Charlie Battery engages the Taliban with 155mm Fires



outpost located on the Pakistan Border; which was a constant target for enemy rockets, mortars and small arm attacks. The Platoon remained at COP Spera for September and November, conducting foot patrols through the mountain villages due to the Taliban's presence in the area.

Bravo Battery's Maneuver Platoon was not the only Bravo Battery Platoon that had to relocate; second Platoon moved from COP Zormat to FOB Kushmond. Repositioning an entire platoon, two howitzers, equipment and ammunition was a huge undertaking; however, second Platoon was able to complete their mission flawlessly with no injuries to Soldiers or damage to property. With the relocation complete, the Platoon supported Comanche Company, 1-501<sup>st</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment and continued to deliver timely and accurate artillery fires throughout their new AO.

November was Alpha Battery's last full month in Afghanistan and proved to be very interesting. CW2 Kevin Coldeira, Alpha Battery's radar and targeting officer, assisted in the capture of his 34<sup>th</sup> high value target since

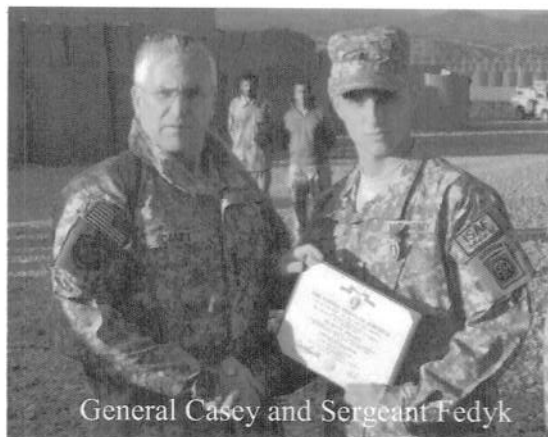


Soldiers of 2nd Platoon Bravo Battery at FOB Kushamond

April 2009, when he began his mission in the Salerno Fusion Cell. Aided by intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms throughout the Khowst Bowl, CW2 Coldeira built target packets on each combatant and coordinated their captures by maneuver units. Accomplishing the mission was Alpha Battery's first priority; however, preparing to turn over their radar positions to the 583<sup>rd</sup> FSC, was a close second. Alpha Battery improved their radar positions by placing a new radar shelter at FOB Tillman and then conducted two sling load operations of radar equipment to FOB Salerno. Even as positions were improved and equipment moved, Alpha Battery's radars continued to track rounds. The counter-fire missions from their acquired targets accounted for over 20 enemy KIA in November; demonstrating the great working relationship between Alpha Battery's radar sections and artillery assets throughout RC East.

In the last few months of the deployment, Charlie Battery reached two new mile stones. First, the Battery fielded the new M782 Multi-Option Fuze for Artillery (MOFA). In the past, depending on the desired detonation result, artillery units had to use one of three different fuzes. The new MOFA fuze replaced all three fuzes, allowing the user to choose ground burst, air burst, or time delay. In addition to new fuzes, third Platoon at FOB Bostick was the first artillery unit in Afghanistan to fire the new infrared 155mm illumination round in combat. The illumination from the round is only visible with a night vision device and allows maneuver units to move throughout the battle field without revealing their location.

With the end of the deployment drawing near, the Battalion focus changed. The Maneuver Platoon was officially disbanded in December with most of the Paratroopers returned to Bravo Battery as Canon Crew Members; where they assisted in the delivery of artillery fires for the rest of the deployment. Four of the Paratroopers from the Maneuver Platoon that were from Alpha Battery returned just in time for their RIP/TAO with the 583<sup>rd</sup> FSC.



General Casey and Sergeant Fedyk

In December, Bravo and Charlie Batteries packed their personal items and loaded conexs for shipment back to Fort Bragg, while continuing to deliver timely and accurate artillery fires. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, SGT Fedyk from Bravo Battery was honored, when he flew to Narizah District Center to receive his Purple Heart Medal from General Casey, the Army Chief of Staff. SGT Fedyk was in an IED blast outside the Terezayi Market during a patrol resulting in a severe concussion.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpha Battery started their relief in place with the 583<sup>rd</sup> FSC, providing them with data on cross border indirect fire procedures, close air support



Alpha Battery at Bagram Air Base prior to flying home

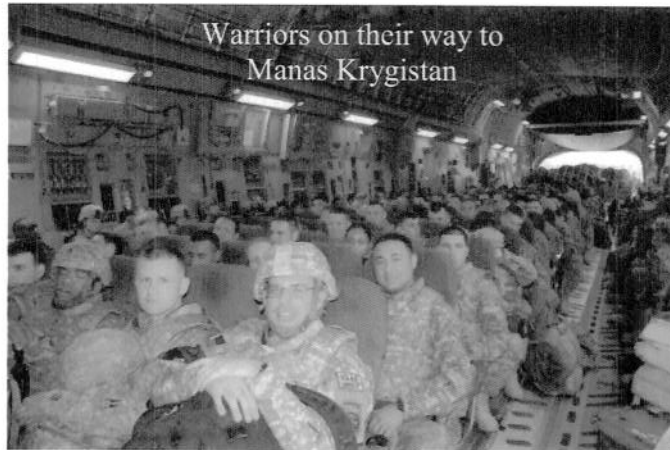
(CAS), counter-fire battle drills, and maintenance schedules. Finally after almost a year in combat, on December 10<sup>th</sup>, Alpha Battery relocated to BAF where they received their end of tour awards and Battalion Coin from the BN CDR and CSM in recognition of their outstanding performance throughout the deployment. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, after a year away from home, Alpha Battery returned to Fort

Bragg and was welcomed by the Warrior Battalion Rear Detachment.

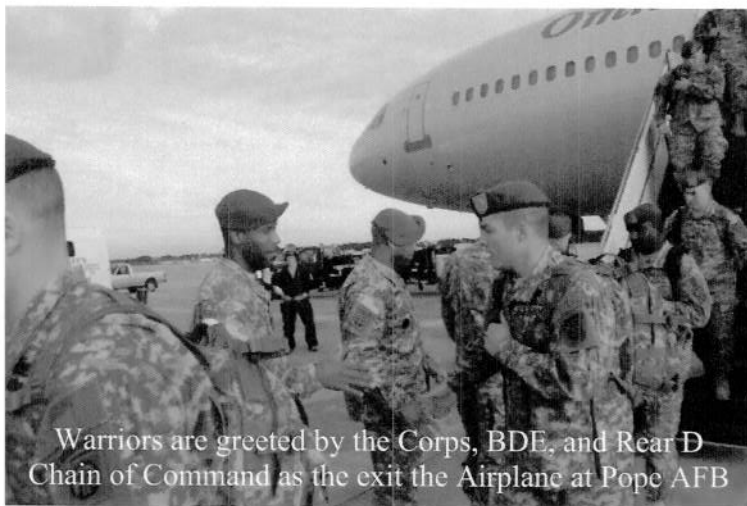
Even as the Battalion began the redeployment process, the Soldiers of HHB, Bravo and Charlie Batteries remained busy in Afghanistan through the end of December and into January. They continued to deliver artillery throughout their battle spaces and simultaneously prepared for the arrival of their replacements. Though the Soldiers celebrated Christmas and the New Year in theater, their spirits remained high.

Just after the New Year, on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010, Delta Battery 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR and Bravo Battery 3-321<sup>st</sup> FAR departed Pope AFB for Afghanistan. Once in theater, Bravo and Charlie 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR began training their replacements on conducting fire missions, ammo accountability and reporting. The Batteries spent a short five days with their replacements in a whirlwind of training. The FDCs spent countless hours running dry fire missions with their Battalion Fires Cells, while the gunlines ran crew drill after crew

drill, both day and night. Finally, on 15 January 2010, after a seamless relief in place and transfer of authority, Bravo Battery 3-321<sup>st</sup> FAR relieved Charlie Battery. Two days later, on 17 January 2010, Bravo Battery was relieved by D Battery 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR. The delivery of fires throughout RC East was officially transferred to the replacement 3-321<sup>st</sup>.



In final preparation for redeployment, all of HHB, Bravo and Charlie Battery gathered at BAF on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Once the Battalion was gathered they would fly to Manas Air Base and then proceed to Pope AFB; however, this did not happen so simply. HHB and Bravo Battery were able to fly directly to Manas Air Base on January 19<sup>th</sup>, where they were met by negative 10 degrees and snow, a huge difference from the 50-60 degrees they were used to at BAF. Charlie Battery, on the other hand, was scheduled to fly from BAF to Kandahar, another large hub in Afghanistan, where they would immediately change planes and fly to Manas Air Base to join the rest of the Battalion. However, due to the extreme weather conditions that HHB and Bravo Battery were experiencing at Manas Air Base, Charlie Battery was delayed at Kandahar for three days; they did not link up with the Battalion in Manas until January 22<sup>nd</sup>. A few hours after Charlie Battery arrival to Manas Air Base, the Battalion was on a plane headed for Ireland. However, just like the deployment a year prior, the Battalion would experience issues with the airplane and it was diverted to Germany where they would refuel and continue the flight to Ireland. This change of plans did not seem to be an issue until the Battalion touched down in Germany. There they learned that there was poor weather in Ireland and they would be delayed. The



layover in Germany postponed the Battalion's arrival to Pope AFB by 12 hours. Finally, at approximately 1330 hours, the Warrior Battalion was back on the plane, headed straight for Pope AFB, NC. At around 1600 hours on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, the Warrior Battalion landed at Green Ramp, Pope AFB, 362 days after deploying to Afghanistan.

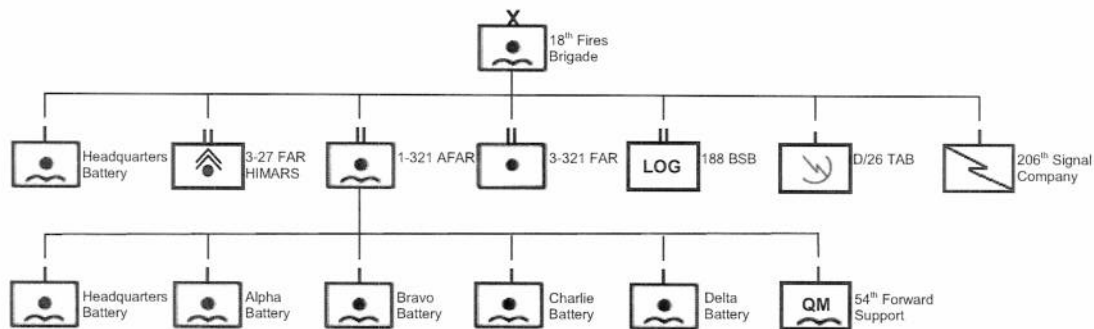
On 23 January 2010, the remainder of the Warrior Battalion landed at Pope AFB, completing its one year deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom IX-X. Although Delta Battery had just started their deployment and would be missed; it was a great day as the Warriors were once again reunited with their Families. The Battalion had fired over 18,500 155mm rounds in support of maneuver forces throughout the deployment, earning the reputation as the most accurate and lethal field artillery Battalion in Afghanistan. Alpha Battery had operated its four radars for the entire year with an operational readiness rate of 98%, detecting untold numbers of enemy indirect fires and saving countless Coalition Forces lives. While deployed the Rear Detachment, 54<sup>th</sup> FSC, and HHB (-) continued to train and care for the families of the deployed Paratroopers. Midway through the Battalion's deployment, the Rear Detachment activated Delta Battery which was completely manned, trained and equipped for its deployment within 6 months. Never before had any Battalion been required to perform so many diverse missions separated by such great distances. All of these accomplishments were due to the hard work, dedication, and can do spirit of the Battalion's Paratroopers, earning the Warrior Battalion the reputation as "the unit that could accomplish any mission." In keeping with the tradition established by the Soldiers and Paratroopers that fought with the Battalion throughout history at places such as ST Mihiel, Bastogne, Vietnam, and Iraq, the Paratroopers of today added their chapter to the distinguished history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment while deployed in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.



**The Warrior Battalion Returns To FT Bragg**



## 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment unit organization - Present Day



The 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR was task organized with three firing batteries and six M777A2 155mm Howitzers per firing battery; for a total of 18 guns. On June 14<sup>th</sup> 2007, the Headquarters Service Battery was divided into two units, the Headquarters Battery (HHB) and newly formed 54<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Company (FSC). On May 26, 2009 Delta Battery was activated at Fort Bragg in order to support the airborne 155mm Field Artillery requirement while the BN was deployed and eventually deployed to replace Bravo Battery in Afghanistan.



In July 2008, the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade, including 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR, was placed back under the command of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division as a general support Field Artillery Battalion. While under the command of the 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN Division 1-321<sup>st</sup> AFAR was deployed to Afghanistan in support at Operation Enduring Freedom IX-X. Paratroopers and Soldiers that deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom IX and X are authorized to wear the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and the 18<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade combat patch.

## ~1-321<sup>ST</sup> COMMANDERS~

LTC James Wanovich 18 March 2010 - Present	LTC Leamon Powell ? – 28 March 1972
LTC Gene Meredith 7 June 2007 – 18 March 2010	LTC Jack Zarn 15 August 1970 - 31 December 1970
LTC Richard Fenoli 15 April 2005 – 7 June 2007	LTC Arch Ely 28 March 1970 – 14 August 1970
LTC Peter Edmonds 9 May 2003 – 15 April 2005	LTC Edward Basanez 28 July 1969 – 27 March 1970
LTC Norman K. Jacocks 13 June 2001 - 9 May 2003	LTC Richard Whittington 7 February 1969 – 29 July 1969
LTC James J. Mathis 12 June 1999 - 13 June 2001	LTC Ben Walton 7 September 1968 – 7 February 1969
LTC James R. Hickey 2 August 1997 – 12 June 1999	MAJ Robert E. Lee 20 August 1968 – 7 September 1968
LTC Monroe Warner 29 August 1995 – 1 August 1997	LTC George Peters JR 1 June 1968 – 19 August 1968
LTC Steven Parsons* 23 August 1993 – 29 August 1995	LTC William Malouche July 1967 – May 1968
LTC Jeffery Schwander 30 October 1984 – 2 October 1986	LTC Leslie Foxrney January 1966 – July 1967
LTC Russell Simonetta April 1982 – October 1984	LTC Roger Lecomte June 1965 – December 1965
LTC Robert Stryiewski ? – April 1982	LTC Paul F. Oswald 1 July 1945 - November 1945
LTC Jerry Sollinger 12 June 1978 - ?	LTC Edward L. Carmichael ? – 1 July 1945
LTC Herbert S. Simmions 15 December 1976 – 12 June 1978	LTC John M. Works 24 June 1942 - ?
LTC Hugh Socks JR 10 June 1975 – 15 December 1976	MAJ L. Frazer Banks 1918 – 26 May 1919
LTC Elmer Nabor 4 December 1973 – 10 June 1975	CPT Lewis S. Chanler Dates Unknown
LTC Thomas C. Young 4 July 1972 – 4 December 1973	MAJ Donald M. Beere 2 September 1917 - ?
MAJ Herbert Wassom 28 March 1972 – 4 July 1972	

\* Even though the 1-321<sup>st</sup> was not reactivated yet, XVIII Airborne Corps gives LTC Steven Parsons credit as a 1-321<sup>st</sup> Commander.

## ~LTC CARMICHAEL AND THE CARMICHAEL CUP~

On a date that has been instilled in airborne history, August 15th, 1942, LTG McNair signed a memo on behalf of the US Army Ground Forces that created the 82nd and the 101st Airborne Division. On this day, the 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion was reassigned to the 101st Airborne Division under the command of LTC John M. Works. However, LTC Works would not be the Commander that had the privilege of leading the new glider FA Battalion into battle across Europe. That honor was left to



LTC Edward L. Carmichael of Milwaukee, WI. Shortly after his reassignment to the 101<sup>st</sup>, LTC Carmichael took command of the Battalion. He trained the Battalion to the highest of standards, he ensured that no artillery skill was overlooked or left untrained before departure for Europe.

He led his Battalion through Nazi conquered Europe and pushed forward at every opportunity. The 321<sup>st</sup> fought in all major campaigns on the Eastern Front of WWII; from Normandy on D-Day, they glided into the Netherlands at the beginning of Operation Market Garden; they defended the front lines at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge; and then they pushed through Germany all the way to Berchtesgaden, home to Hitler's personal hideout.

Due of his outstanding dedication and leadership to his Battalion, LTC Carmichael and the rest of the 321<sup>st</sup>, were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their tireless commitment as they fought the Germans in the Ardennes Forest at Bastogne. LTC Carmichael was also awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the Battle of the Bulge.

His exceptional leadership and the success of the 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion during World War II, secured the name LTC Edward L. Carmichael in history. Officers of 1st Battalion 321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and the 18th Fires Brigade drink from the "Carmichael Cup" during the time honored tradition of inducting new officers into the airborne community during the ceremonial Prop Blast.

## ~1-321<sup>ST</sup> AFAR HONORARY COMMANDER, COL MALOUCHE ~

When the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battalion departed for Vietnam in December 1967, the Battalion was commanded by COL William Malouche. Born 7 December 1927, in New York, COL Malouche attended the United States Military Academy and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into Field Artillery in 1951.

COL Malouche's first assignment was with the 89<sup>th</sup> Airborne Battalion at Fort Campbell, KY. He deployed to Korea from 1953 to 1954 as a member of the Korean Military Advisory Group, where he earned two Bronze Stars, one with a "V" device. After he returned from Korea, COL Malouche held a Battery Command in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC for two years. He attended the Advanced Leaders Course (now the Captain Career Course) in 1956 and instructed manual gunnery for the following two years at Fort Sill, OK.

After he received his master's degree from Columbia University and attended the Command and General Staff College in 1964, COL Malouche went on to become the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Battalion Commander in June 1967. After six months in command, COL Malouche led his Battalion into combat to



Vietnam. During the six months COL Malouche commanded in Vietnam, 1-321<sup>st</sup> fired over 175,000 rounds, more than the other three Division Artillery Battalions combined. An example of the tremendous skill of the Battalion and outstanding leadership from COL Malouche was at the battle of Phouc Yen; the infantry surrounded the North Vietnamese while the Battalion pounded them with artillery for five days and nights. In the end there were over 400 enemy dead and another 107 taken prisoner. The intensity of the combat and the bravery displayed by the Soldiers and forward observers was reflected in the awarding of three Medals of Honor, from January to May 1968, to the infantry Soldiers of the Second Brigade, who the 1-321<sup>st</sup> fired in direct support of for a majority of their deployment.

For COL Malouche's outstanding leadership as the Battalion Commander and as the XO of the 101<sup>st</sup> Division Artillery from 1967-1969 he was awarded the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars with "V" Devices, two Bronze Stars for meritorious service, an Air Medal with "V" Device, two Air Medals for meritorious service and two Army Commendation Medals.

Due to COL Malouche's 26 years as a devoted Field Artillery Officer and a dedicated member of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment's Veterans Association, he has been named as the Honorary Commander of the Battalion.

**1-321<sup>ST</sup> AFAR**

**HISTORICAL**

**DOCUMENTS**

HEADQUARTERS  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 321<sup>st</sup> F.A.  
American Ex. Forces

October 18, 1918.

From: Commanding Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 321<sup>st</sup> F.A.  
To: Commanding Officer, 321 F.A.  
Subject: Ammunition on report on shortage of gas shells at position Oct. 18, 1918.

1. On the evening of October 17, 1918 there was on hand the following number of rounds of #5 gas.
  - a. In the battery position 780 rounds
  - b. At the dump approximately 1000 rounds.
2. The caissons were hauling ammunition practically all day. An especial effort was made to being up everything, especially shrapnel, left at the former position. There was some confusion in the unloading at the dump and the separation of the #5 gas from the #20 gas had not been completed. The dump was being shelled most of the day. The best information obtainable by the Battalion munitions officer was that this battalion had 90 boxes of #5 gas. This was dividing among the batteries on October 17<sup>th</sup>. The ammunition was separated by noon October 18<sup>th</sup> and the caissons were hauling again before that time.

L. Frazer Banks  
Capt. 321<sup>st</sup> F.A.  
Commanding Battalion

MEMORANDUM:

20 January 1919.

TABLE OF ALLOWANCES FOR ANIMALS.

Recent advices are that the Division is to be given a total of 6399 animals within the near future. The following table shows the maximum number allowed each organization by Tables of Organization, Series A, January 14, 1918. Organization Commanders will canvass their areas for shelter and be prepared to take care of animals to be received by them:

<u>UNITS</u>	Horses Riding	Horses Draft	Mules Riding	Mules Draft	Mules Pack
Div. Hdqrs. & Troop	141			27	
163 <sup>rd</sup> Inf. Brigade Hdqrs.	17			4	
325 <sup>th</sup> Infantry	67		10	315	
326 <sup>th</sup> Infantry	67		10	315	
164 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Brigade Hdqrs.	17			4	
327 <sup>th</sup> Infantry	67		10	315	
328 <sup>th</sup> Infantry	67		10	315	
157 <sup>th</sup> F.A. Brigade	10				
319 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery		-----Motorized-----			
320 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery	436	726	8	154	
321 <sup>st</sup> Field Artillery	436	726	8	154	
307 <sup>th</sup> Field Signal Bn.	14	12			
307 <sup>th</sup> Train Hdqrs.	39			9	1
82 <sup>nd</sup> Military Police Co.	50			8	1
307 <sup>th</sup> Ammunition Train	158	276		200	
307 <sup>th</sup> Supply Train		-----Motorized-----			
307 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Train	94	108		104	48
307 <sup>th</sup> Sanitary Train	39			71	4
307 <sup>th</sup> Engineers	94	108		104	48
319 <sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Bn.		-----Motorized-----			
320 <sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Bn.	38		13	187	
321 <sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Bn.	38		13	187	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>1848</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2474</b>	<b>53</b>

Horses Riding – 1800  
Mules Riding – 82  
Total Riding – 1882

Horses Draft – 1848  
Mules Draft – 2474  
Total Draft – 4322

Mules Pack – 53

Total allowance as per above figures 6257  
Total to be received 6399  
Over allowance 142

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL DUNCAN:

OFFICAL:

Gordon Johnson,  
Chief of Staff.

R.L. Boyd,  
Major, A.G.D., Adjutant.

DISTRIBUTION:

Down to Battalions.

HEADQUARTERS  
ARMY GROUND FORCES  
Army War College  
Washington, D.C.

320.2/9 (AB Cmd) (R)-GNGCT

August 5, 1942

SUBJECT: Activation of 82d and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Divisions.

TO: Commanding Generals  
Third Army,  
Airborne Command

1. Reference is made to letter, this headquarters, July 30, 1942, file and subject as above.
2. Paragraph 3 D of the letter referred to above is changed to read as follows:

“D. Units to comprise the two airborne divisions are assigned as follows, effective August 15, 1942:

(1) 82d Airborne Division:

Headquarters, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division  
Headquarters Company, 82d Airborne Division  
504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry (without change of station)  
325<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry  
326<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry  
376<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
319<sup>th</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion  
320<sup>th</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion  
82d Airborne Signal Company  
307<sup>th</sup> Airborne Engineer Battalion  
307<sup>th</sup> Airborne Medical Company  
407<sup>th</sup> Airborne Quartermaster Company

(2) 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division:

Headquarters, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division  
Headquarters Company, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division  
502d Parachute Infantry (without change of station)  
327<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry  
401<sup>st</sup> Glider Infantry  
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Artillery  
377<sup>th</sup> Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion  
907<sup>th</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion



101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Signal Company  
326<sup>th</sup> Airborne Engineer Battalion  
326<sup>th</sup> Airborne Medical Company  
426<sup>th</sup> Airborne Quartermaster Company

By command of LT. GEN McNAIR:

/s/ L. Duenweg

L. DUENWEG  
Captain, A.G.D.  
Ass't Ground Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:  
"A" & "H"

HEADQUARTERS 506<sup>TH</sup> PARACHUTE INFANTRY  
APO 472, UNITED STATES ARMY

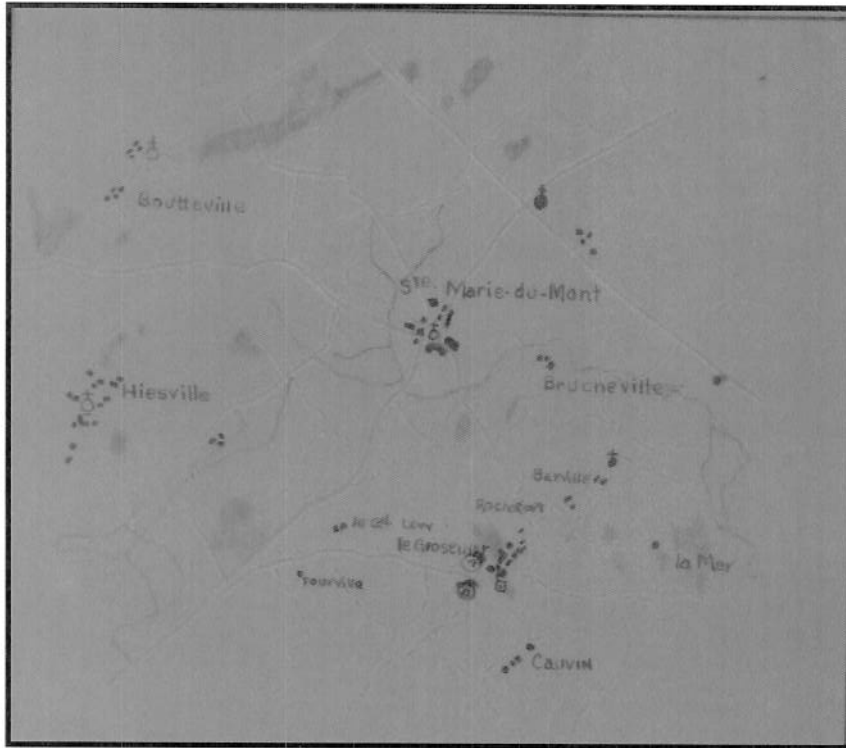
10 October 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Performance of Attached Unit.

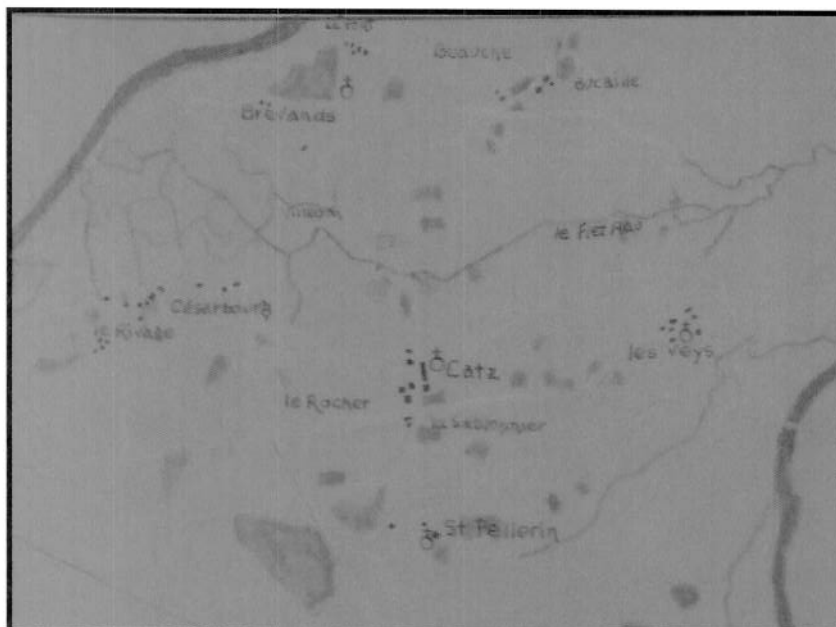
TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, 101<sup>ST</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION, APO 472,  
United States Army.

1. During the period of 4 to 7 October 1944, inclusive, the 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery was attached to the 506 R.C.T.
2. During this period of time the 506 R.C.T. was engaged in heavy fighting with the enemy on the Island northwest of Nijmegen, Holland. The 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery supported the Infantry in a most efficient manner. The work of the forward observers was superb, and the firing of the gun batteries was continually prompt and accurate to within 100 yards. Liaison between the Infantry and Artillery was smooth and harmonious.
3. The undersigned believes that the Battalion Commander, 321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, Lt. Col. Edward L. Carmichael, and his entire Battalion, are deserving of the highest credit for duty well performed.

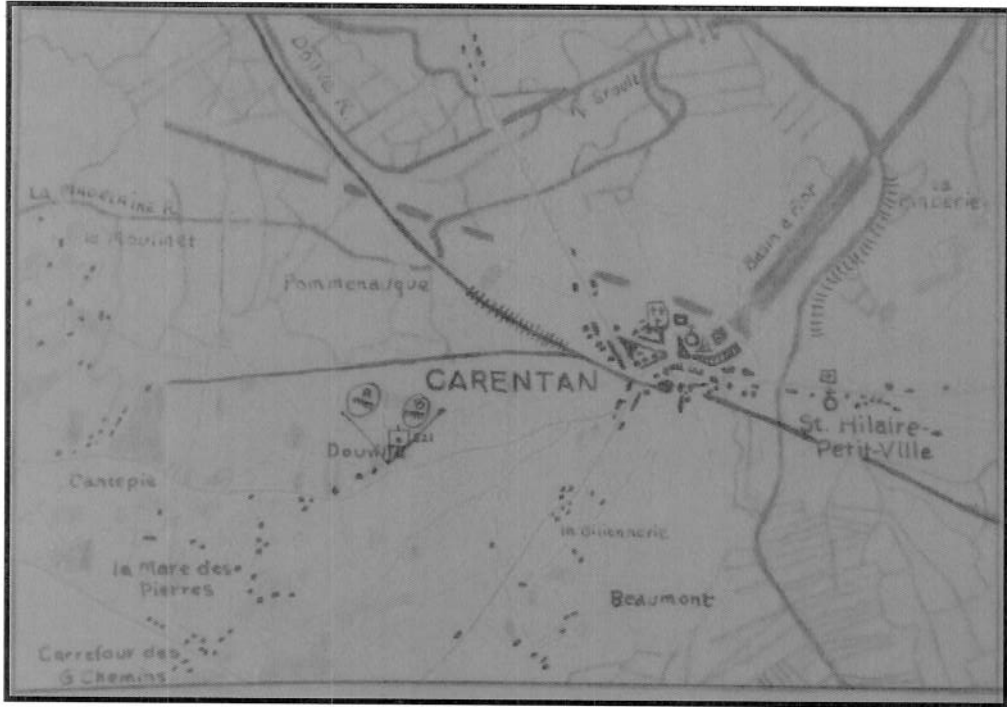
R.F. SINK  
Colonel, 506<sup>th</sup> Prcht. Infantry  
Commanding



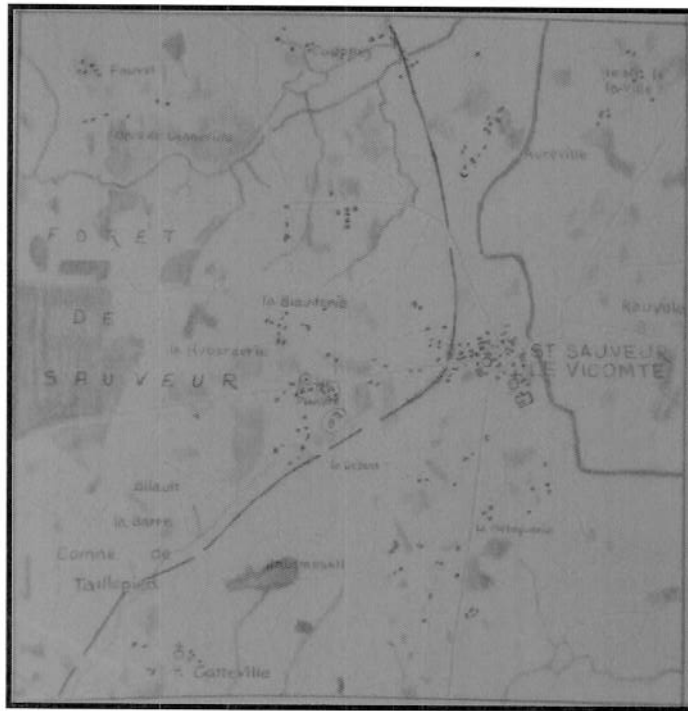
First active position of the 321<sup>st</sup> GFAB on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1944 at 1015 hours near the village of Le Groseiller



Second active position of the 321<sup>st</sup> GFAB on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1944 at 1525 hours near the village of Catz



Third active position of the 321<sup>st</sup> GFAB on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944, 1500 yards west of Carentan



Fourth active position of the 321<sup>st</sup> GFAB on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1944 at 2115 hours



Inspection on the new Pack 75mm Howitzer - WWII



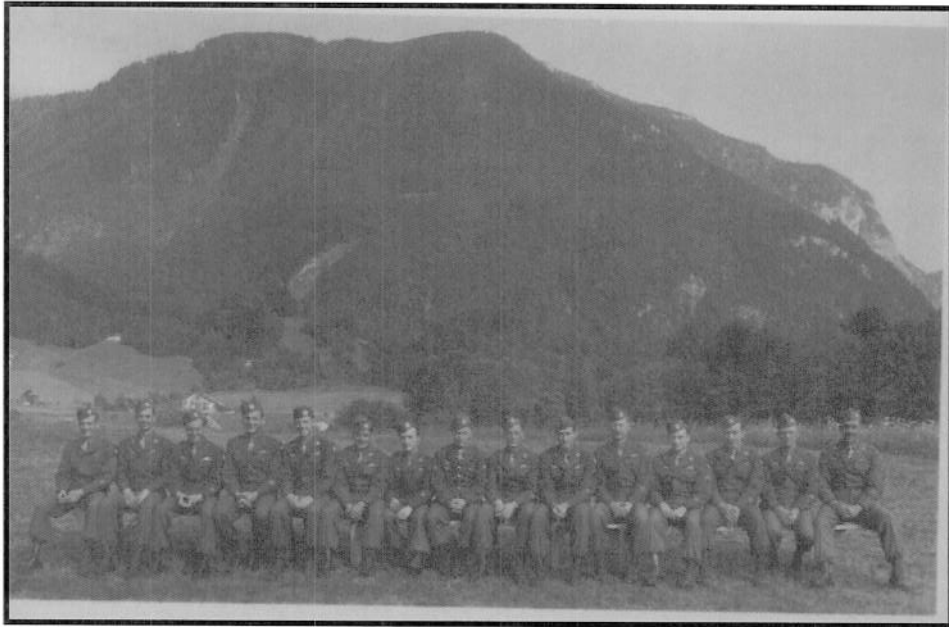
A member of the 321<sup>st</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion examines a jeep which has just been demolished by a German land mine in France on D plus 5. - WWII



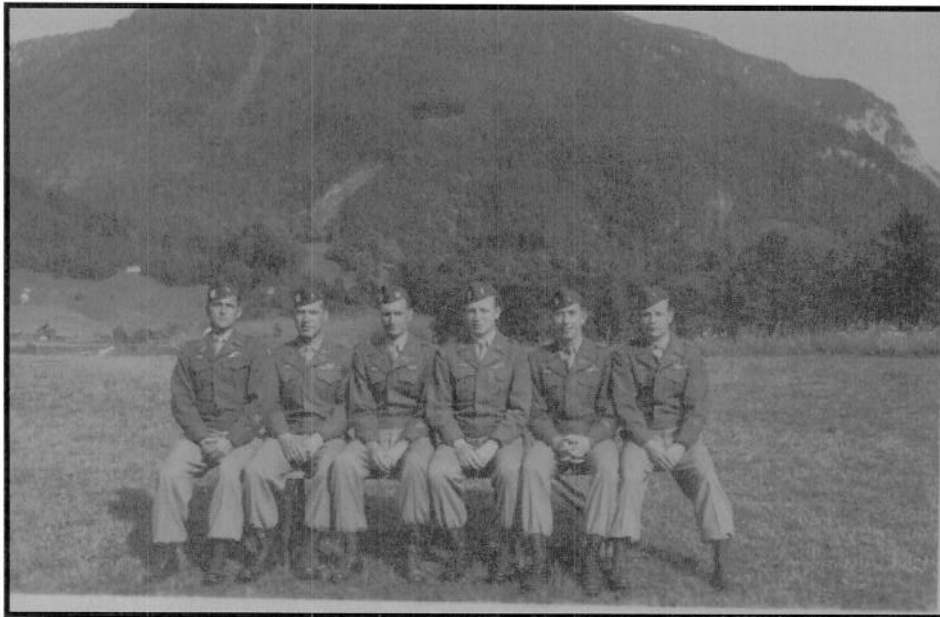
321<sup>st</sup> GFAB machine gun position - WWII



321<sup>st</sup> GFAB anti-aircraft position - WWII



Soldiers of the 321<sup>st</sup> GFAB - WWII



Officers of the 321<sup>st</sup> GFAB - WWII



Gunners at the ready position of a 106mm recoilless rifle, mounted on a jeep during a helicopter raid operation on Indian Mound RD. Fort Campbell KY. Bravo Battery 321<sup>st</sup> Division Artillery, 30 Jan 1958



PVT Richard G. Newton pulls the lanyard to fire the 49<sup>th</sup> round of Fort Campbell's salute to the Union on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1959, Ft. Campbell, KY





Soldiers of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment conduct a fire mission in Vietnam



Alpha Battery and 101<sup>st</sup> Pathfinders guide and set a 105mm Howitzer during an artillery raid at Fire Support Base Normandy in northern Military Region 1, 13 miles west of Hue



1-321<sup>st</sup> conducts a fire mission at Fire Base Sandy – Vietnam 1968



A 1-321<sup>st</sup>'s firing position at Fire Base Veghel – Vietnam 1969



Alpha Battery dismounts a Huey as the 101<sup>st</sup> reopened Firebase Blitz south of Hue  
June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1971



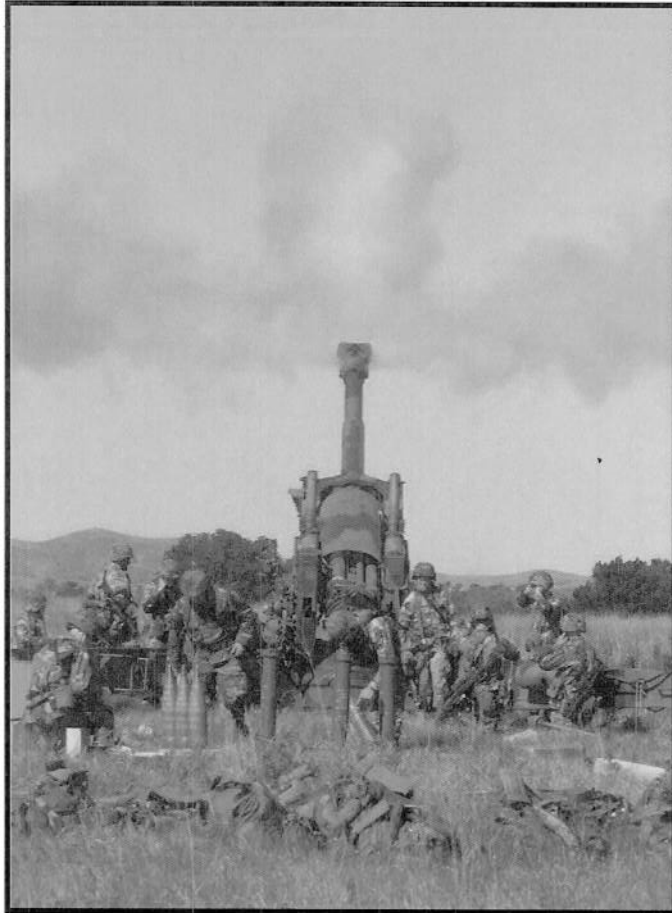
A Soldier of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Regiment uses an Aiming Circle  
to lay the M102 Howitzers in Vietnam



A member of Bravo Battery sighting a M102 105mm Howitzer in a direct fire exercise at Range 29, Fort Campbell, KY August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1972



SGT Marshall Dean, Battery B, 1-321<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, inserts a 2.75mm rocket into its launcher during test firing at Fort Campbell, KY. The new type multiple rocket launcher is being tested at Fort Campbell for the XVIII Airborne Corps, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1977



1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment fires a M198 155mm Howitzer during a training mission at Snow Ridge, Fort Sill, OK. May 2004



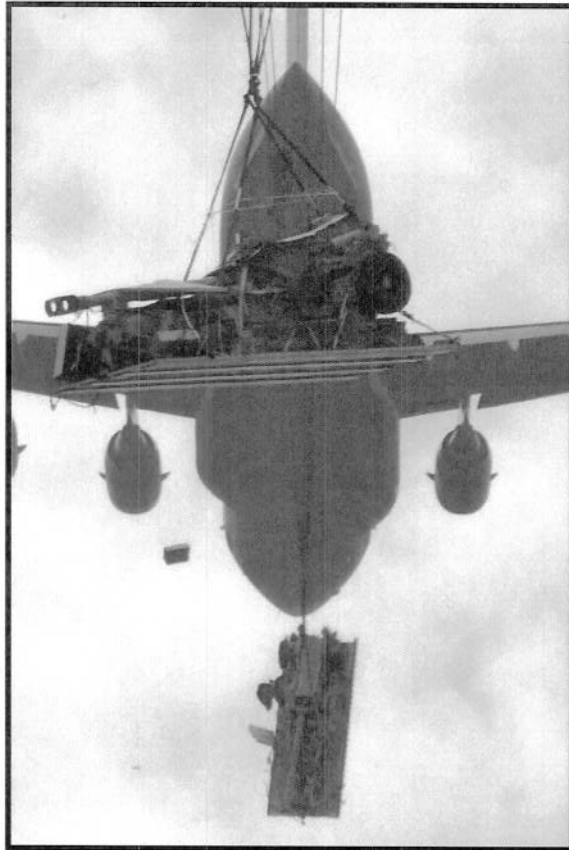
Paratroopers of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> Airborne Field Artillery Regiment conduct an Airborne Operation



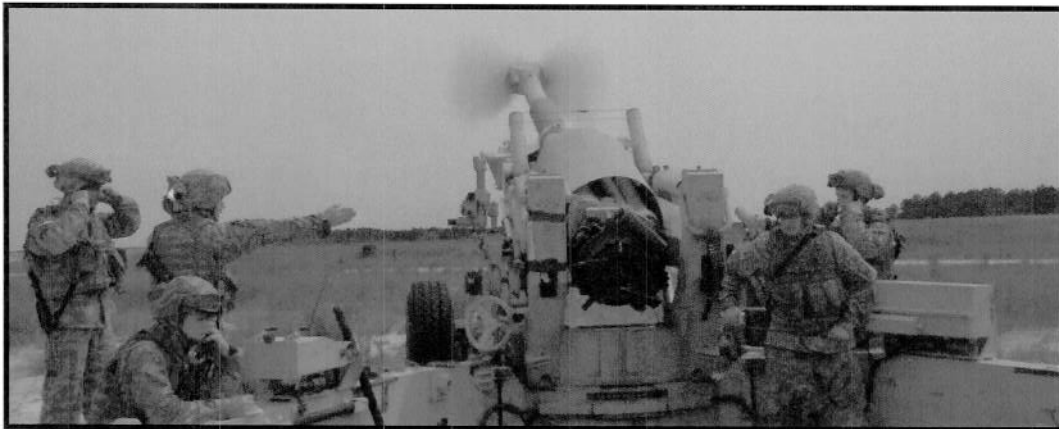
UH-77 Chinook Helicopter lifts a M198 Howitzer for an Air Assault Mission at Fort Bragg, NC.



A Warrior exits a CH-47 helicopter on Sicily Drop Zone, Fort Bragg, NC



Two M198 Howitzers on platforms float to the ground after they are dropped from a C-17 aircraft on Sicily DZ Fort Bragg, NC.



Soldiers of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> fire the M198 on Normandy DZ Fort Bragg, NC.



1-321<sup>st</sup> Soldier plugs his ears as a M198 Howitzer fires at Sicily DZ Fort Bragg, NC.



Soldiers of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> fire the M777A2 Howitzer at All American DZ Fort Bragg, NC.





Soldiers of the 1-321<sup>st</sup> fire the M777A2 Howitzer at Fort Bragg, NC.



Rounds impacting during a Battalion mass fire mission at Fort Bragg, NC.



2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Charlie Battery conducts a fire mission at FOB Wright, Afghanistan 2009



1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Bravo Battery conducts a fire mission at FOB Salerno, Afghanistan 2009



Alpha Battery Q37 Radar Section and Battery Headquarters FOB Salerno March 2009



Alpha Battery Q36 Radar section at FOB Tillman March 2009



Alpha Battery Q36 Radar section at FOB Lilley March 2009



Alpha Battery Q36 Radar Section at FOB Boris March 2009



Bravo Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon at FOB Salerno March 2009



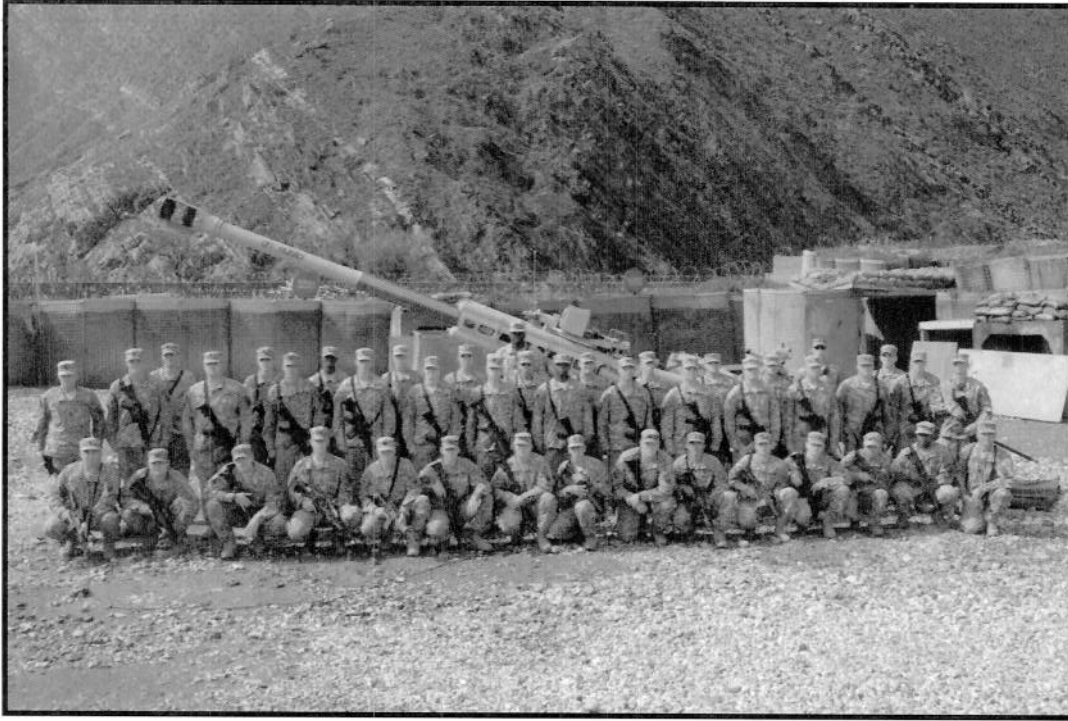
Bravo Battery 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon at FOB Zornat March 2009



Bravo Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon at Camp Clark March 2009



Bravo Battery Maneuver Platoon with their MRAPS at FOB Salerno April 2009



Charlie Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon at FOB Blessing April 2009



Charlie Battery 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon at FOB Wright April 2009



Charlie Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon at FOB Bostick April 2009

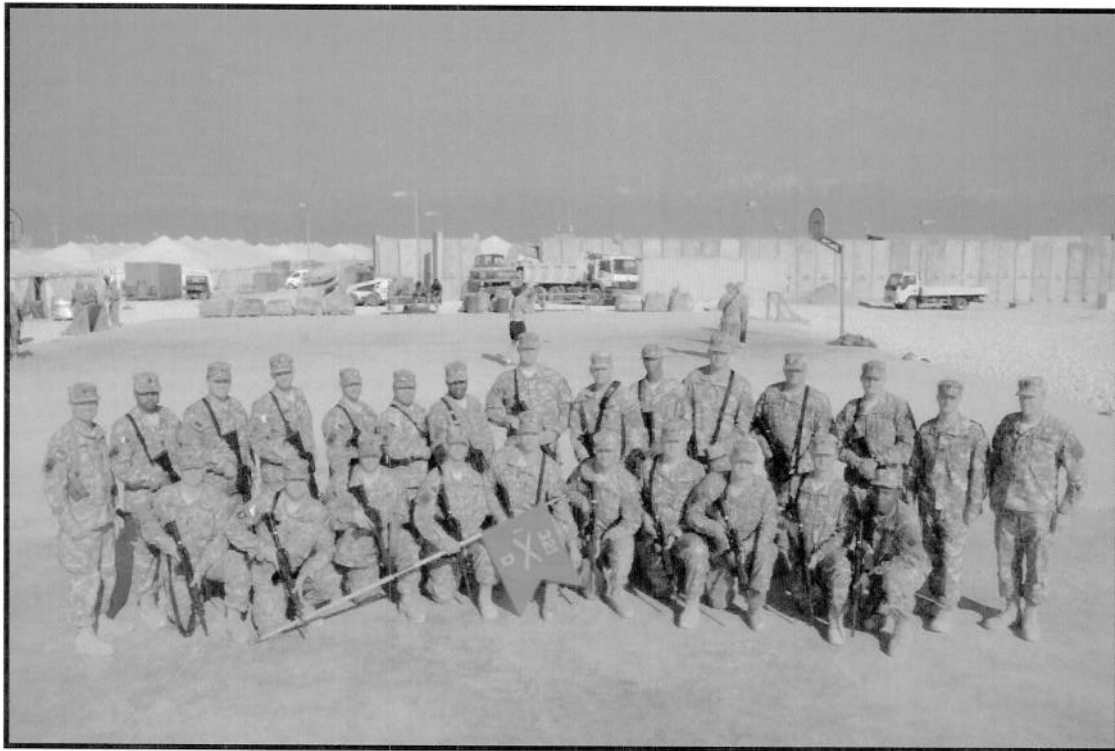


Headquarters Battery at Bagram Air Base August 2009





Brigade Command Team visit in Afghanistan September 2009



Delta Battery Regulators at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan January 2010

