

The Beidorn Switchboard

28th Field Artillery Regimental Association

Volume 2 Edition 1 Winter 2021



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WELCOME 2021!!!



Pat & Janet Malherek, Coeditors 28th FARA Newsletter

Welcome to the Winter 2021 edition of the 28th Field Artillery Association newsletter. We hope the New Year finds everyone in good health as we look forward to finally turning the corner on the Covid-19 pandemic.

In this edition of the newsletter we have our regular input from the association board members, which includes information regarding our reunion from June 3-6, 2021, in Lawton and Fort Sill, Oklahoma!! The association will dedicate a monument to the 28th Field Artillery at this reunion!!! More information and details will be coming during the next several months.

The newsletter also includes recollections from Bill Dunham on various ski trips members of the 2/28 FA took in the 1980s....you will definitely get some good laughs reading it!!! Tommy Houston has started a new series for the Historians Corner on the "History of Beidorn Kaserne", and there are interviews with John Sneed, Bob Smith, and William Sealey.

We hope ALL our 28th FARA Family are continuing to do well and are staying healthy. We look forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in June.

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

Pat and Janet Malherek 😊

28th Field Artillery Regimental Association



**Presidents Corner
Association Update**
Tommy Houston



The Reunion...IS ON!!!

Colleagues of the 28th Artillery,

I am in hopes that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy. We have had a few scares with some of our members catching the virus but thanks to the good Lord all seem to have recovered without any significant continuing issues.

The big news is, after an entire year of delays and postponements, our Biannual Reunion is now officially on. We had tentatively had the Reunion scheduled for the last week in April but in our January, board meeting we decided to delay it one last time to the first week in June (3-6 June). We did this delay, primarily to ensure our members have a chance to receive the vaccination. The safety of the members of our Association is our primary concern, so we felt that adding one more month to schedule would not be a big issue.

The reunion this year promises to be one of our best. Lawton/Fort Sill is probably not one of your vacation destinations but there is still lots to do, and we have a pretty busy schedule. Our primary reason for holding it at Lawton Fort Sill is the dedication of our monument. We will hold the dedication ceremony on Friday, 4 June at around 0900. The staff at Fort Sill has promised us to "do it right". As of right now they are planning on having the band there as well as a color guard and the Chief of the Artillery (a Brigadier General) is tentatively scheduled to be the keynote speaker. I hope you can make it for I believe you would be proud of what you will see.

Please check out Dave Mohan's article in the Newsletter concerning the details of the Reunion. I think the Board of Directors and some member volunteers have done a great job with putting it all together and getting the cost down to something manageable. We are staying at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lawton with a nightly rate of \$100 including a free hot breakfast. Your meal on Saturday night will run you \$40 a plate.

Please check our web site and you will find instructions on how to register and how to make hotel reservations. **PLEASE GO THROUGH OUR WEB SITE AND FOLLOW THE LINK TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS. IF YOU GO TO THE HOTEL WEB SITE DIRECTLY TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION WILL NOT BE OFFERED THE 2-28 REUNION RATE.**

Do you still remember how to put on an M-17 Protective Mask? Orient an Aiming Circle and lay a Howitzer? Throw a hand grenade? Hook up a TA-312 Telephone? Well, we will see. One of the new things which was an idea of SFC(R) Bob Smith is that we will hold an OFSQT (old fart skill qualification test). We will form up into Battery teams to go through this and see how much everyone has remembered or forgotten. This should be fun!!

A couple of gentle reminders. If you have not done so already, it is time for you to pay your annual dues for those of you who are annual members. To keep it simple we have made the dues period to run from January through December. Also, please consider getting a lifetime membership and that way, you won't have to remember, and we won't have to remind you to pay your annual dues.

By the way, attendance at the Reunion for members in good standing is free. For non-members of the Association there is a conference fee of \$55. This is only fair to those of us who pay our dues and we should get benefits for being members.

I also would encourage you to purchase one of the commemorative pavers that will go around the monument. Remember the cost goes up on 1 March because, after that date the landscaper has to remove a blank brick to install yours, this costs extra.

In conclusion, I hope to see you all at our reunion in June. This marks a whole lot of work by your board of directors and we really want you to enjoy the fruits of our labors. Stay tuned to your email and we will be putting out a lot of information about the Reunion.

GUNSHOT!

Tommy Houston



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

Well, in this case, no news is bad news.

This journey began about two and a half years ago when Tommy called about his vision for an association and placing a monument at Constitution Park at Fort Sill. He asked if I would undertake the mission of creating, procuring, and installing the monument while he created our organization. Who can say, “No,” to Tommy?

I am fortunate to live about 1.5 hours from the Granite Capital of the World, Elberton, Georgia. So I visited there, found a monument sales company, Galen Mills, and began the process of creating our monument. He showed me several designs and types of granite as we toured the city.

Then I drove to Fort Sill to talk with the museum curator, Frank Siltman. Fortunately, he is a Herzo Base alumnus and was a big help. After some searching I found a landscaper who would be willing to do the work for us, 4D Landscaping in Lawton.

After creating several designs and proposing them to the Board of Directors, we settled on one for our monument. I then returned to Fort Sill to present the design to the Memorialization Board for approval. A couple of months later we received approval of our proposal.

To help fund the monument, an estimated \$25,000 project, we contacted 4-Ever Bricks in Pittsburgh, PA. They sent me a sample and were very helpful in figuring out the amount we should charge per brick to maximize our profits. The initial design required 192 bricks for the walkway and I figured we would have no problem selling that many. Boy, was I wrong. Our final design requires only 101 bricks and of that number we have sold about 58.

I then began the paperwork process. It’s amazing the amount of red tape involved when donating something to the Army. And that’s where we stand now. The paperwork has left Fort Sill and is on someone’s desk at G-9 (I didn’t even know the Gs went that high) at Fort Sam Houston, TX (IMCOM). We were advised that there should be no problem having the paperwork finalized by 1 March 2021. As of this writing that is two days away and it is still floating around somewhere in the nether regions of the Army’s bureaucracy. Without the finalization and approval nothing can go forward.

I have visited the artists in Elberton twice in February and I can tell you that the final product will be a wonder to behold.

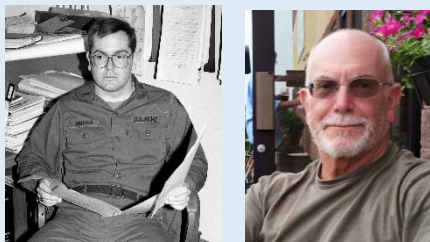
So, when the paperwork is finalized here is what will happen. The 101 bricks will be shipped from Pittsburgh to Lawton. The site will be prepared with concrete and the bricks on top. The landscaper believes it will take him about 3 weeks to complete the work. When that is done I am going to rent a U-Haul trailer and tow the monument and its base to Fort Sill. That will save a bunch of money. Then the monument will be installed.

1st Vice President...continued

Here is an aerial view of Constitution Park. Our monument will be at the 1 o'clock position to be symmetrical with the one at the 7 o'clock position.



**Hopefully, all of this will be done
by 1 April (no foolin')!!!**



2nd Vice President

Reunion Planning Moving Forward!

Dave Mohan

Greetings, 28th FARA Members! Planning for our Ft. Sill reunion is accelerating as we get closer to the date. Speaking of which, our Board of Directors pushed the previously published dates back by about 6 weeks to give everyone who wants to get vaccinated more time to get that done before traveling. The new dates are June 3-6, 2021, so mark your calendars and make your travel plans.

We have also signed a contract with the Hilton Garden Inn in Lawton to host us. We've blocked 30 rooms for our weekend, with a special rate of \$100 a night, including breakfast. To get the special rate, you **MUST** book your room through our Reunion Registration page at https://www.28fara.org/Reunion_Registration.php. Once you've completed your registration there, you'll be taken to an information page with a link to the Hilton registration for our attendees.

The schedule for the weekend will include:

Thursday, June 3: Arrival, Registration, Meet & Greet hospitality session, Uncasing of the Colors Ceremony

Friday, June 4: Monument Dedication Ceremony on Ft. Sill, Lunch in the Mess Hall, Tour of a Host Unit on post, Dinner at Mutti's German Restaurant

Saturday, June 5: Red Solo Cup Golf Challenge, Motorcycle Ride through the Wildlife Refuge, Lunch on your own, Old Fart SQT Test, Awards Banquet at the Hilton

Sunday, June 6: Breakfast at Hilton, Departure

There will be alternate activities for any spouses who have had their fill of camouflage and old war stories.

We encourage everyone to register as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly.

Thank you to our Board Members and other volunteers who are doing the planning and staffing for our reunion activities, but we could always use more help. If you'd like help with any of the events on the schedule above, please get in touch. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Ft. Sill in June!

Dave Mohan 717-542-4630

2ndVP28thFARA@gmail.com

Enlisted Member of the Board
Association Awards
Dave Davenport

I am a member of the board of directors of the 28th Field Artillery Association representing the enlisted soldiers. I was a Cook in Charlie Battery in the early 1980s. One of my jobs on the Board of Directors is that I am the leader of our **Association Awards Board**.

Awards Board Members:

Scott Deal (C Battery in the 80s)

George Hardin (B Battery and HHB in the 80s)

Danny Marksberry (Battalion Chaplain in the 80s)

Karon Price (SVC Battery and B Battery late 70s)

Danny Malone (A Battery late 60s)

We are planning on giving out several 28th FA Association Awards at our reunion this year. So far, we have come up with two individual awards and 5 group or battery awards.

They are as follows:

Individual Awards-

Base Piece Award – Given to the person who has done a preponderance of great things for the Association since our last reunion. The membership will nominate people and the Awards Board will select a winner based on the nominations from the membership.

The 8 Ball Award – For those of you who were at the Reunion in New Orleans, you know about this Award! This is a fun award given to the person who has done something funny, either lately or when they were in the battalion. People are nominated at our Reunion Banquet and the winner is selected by vote of the membership at the Reunion. I will send out more information about this award later.

Battery/Group Awards

Battery Membership Award – Given to that Battery who has the most members in good standing on the rolls at the start of the Reunion.

Battery with the most new members – Given to the Battery with the most new members since the last reunion at the start of the current reunion.

Battery with the Highest Score on the OFSQT – This is given to that battery that has the Highest Score on the OFSQT (Old Fart Skill Qualification Test)

Best Battery Award – Given to the Battery based on points awarded for membership, new membership, and OFSQT.

Red Solo Cup Golf – Given to the Foursome Team who has the best score on the Golf Challenge.



Association Awards Continued....

How I need your help.

I will put out more information about the awards later, but in the short term I need to solicit your nomination for the Base Piece Award.

The Base Piece award is a very serious award and is intended for that person who has done the most to support our Association and its Goals. The winner of this award will receive a free lifetime membership, one of the Brick Pavers at our monument, and some other additional gifts.

Please take a few minutes and think about a person you would like to nominate and provide a short justification for the award. Please send me an email with the “**Base Piece Award**” in the subject line. Keep the justification simple and write just a few bullets or sentences on why you think this person should get the award. The person does have to be a member of the Association. Please see below for the example of what information should be included.

**To make sure we can have the chance to evaluate everyone,
we would like to have your nomination input no later than March 1st.**

I would like to thank you all in advance for your support and assistance with this project. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to email me at dave.d.davenport@gmail.com

Here is an example of a Nomination:

Person Nominated: Harry Z Smithers

-Assigned to B Battery 2-28 in the 1980s as a 13B

Justification for nomination:

-Since the last reunion, Harry has been actively participating in the membership Committee, has signed up more than 10 new members

-Harry is on the Reunion Planning committee and is a lane grader for the OFSQT.

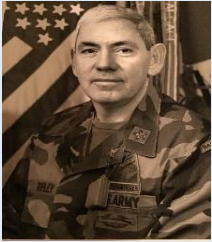
-Has been a key player in B Battery for communications. He makes sure everyone gets the word.

-Wrote an article for the 2-28 Newsletter.

-Assisted in getting a \$1,500 donation from the Bag of Doughnuts Company where he works.

-Leads the 2-28 Motorcycle Club and organized 3 rides this year in 3 different locations.





Treasurer
Report as of January 2021
Ralph Ripley

The Association continues to be in good financial condition. We grow incrementally each month. We are in our new fiscal year that started 1 October. Our financial picture through the first quarter is as follows:

Beginning Cash		\$29,269
Revenue		\$4,375
Memberships	\$645	
Contributions	\$3,000	
Memorial Bricks	\$730	
Expenses		\$4,256
Registration	\$10	
Monument	\$4,100	
Online Fees	\$146	
Current Cash Balance		\$29,388

Note: Numbers are rounded to nearest dollar

As you can see from our expenses, the process has begun for placing the monument at Ft Sill and holding the reunion. This is a phased approach where each step is reviewed and approved before we move forward. We have enough money on hand to meet estimated expenses. Thanks to the generosity of an Anonymous Donor, we have a reasonably comfortable reserve for contingencies.

The first step for the monument was the stone that has several months lead time. We have made a down payment of \$4100 on the stone. When it is received and engraved, we will pay the remaining balance of \$4500. Total cost of the stone is \$8,600. The next phase is to review and approve shipment of the monument, landscape costs and placement of memorial bricks. Those costs are estimated at an additional \$15,000. The final step is the reunion at Ft Sill. We estimate reunion costs at about \$1,000.

January is the time to renew annual memberships. There is a closing window of opportunity to have your memorial brick(s) placed at the same time as the monument. If you have not yet purchased a brick, please consider that option. We owe real debt of thanks to Madonna Stecher and Barbara Pollock who do all the hard work of maintaining our finances, memberships, and administration.



Secretary

Keeping 2-28 Alive!!!

Barbara Pollock

**Greetings & Happy New Year
2-28 FA Association Family!**

Although we are still navigating our way through our current climate of conquering this fatal coronavirus pandemic, be optimistic looking forward to traveling again safely; spending quality time with your children, grandchildren, and other relatives and friends; feeling blessed for the simple things this pause has afforded us to recognize; and coming out on the other side of this pandemic in good health and a better you.

Meanwhile, your Association has been working hard to keep things moving considering the current climate. We made a major decision in regards to moving forward with our plans to erect a 28 FARA monument in Centennial Park near the Field Artillery Museum. The ceremony will take place once we have our reunion at the Home of the Artillery, Ft Sill, OK. We continue to fundraise for this project taking sponsorships from businesses and from individual donors. So, if you are in business or want to be an individual sponsor, please let us know. You can always purchase your very own brick, or one for your First Sergeant, Commander, or one of your Soldiers. These brick pavers will be a permanent pathway leading up to our historical monument.

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

Barr	Anna
Gary	Cheek+
Eaise	Donald**
Ford Jr	Ronald*
Johnson	Michael
Lantz	Darren
Leach	Venden**
Luttner	Mark
Malone	Danny*
Price	Robert*
Raach	Daniel
Reinemann	Shari**
Sheils	James
Snitker	James+
Sumpter	Scott
Talsma	Jason

**Denotes Membership Pending - Awaiting Fees*

**Denotes Membership Renewal Pending - Awaiting Fees
+Indicates Lifetime Membership.*

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

The Stats for the Win, Place and Show:

WIN: **HHB** is in first place with 29 Association Members.

PLACE: **Charlie Battery** is in second place with 27 Association Members allowing HHB to come around the bend pushing ahead by 2 members with time to recruit more members for the win if feeling competitive.

SHOW: **Bravo Battery** is in third place with 7 Association Members with the lane open for Alpha (6 members) or Service Battery (5 members) to catch up!!!

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

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



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



We value your membership and you are the reason why we exist. We hope that you have reunited with some of your 28 FARA brothers from the past and are enjoying all that this membership has to offer. We are into our third year as an Association and we need you to keep our membership going! With that, we need all who have submitted an application to join to pay the initial \$45 fee. If you paid the initial \$45 to join in 2019 or 2020 before October 2020, we need you to renew your membership at a fee of \$25. The \$25 is due annually in Jan unless you become a lifetime member. Please see the information below that was sent out in a letter about Membership Renewal.

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

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

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

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

www.28FARA.ORG

Please review the steps and options listed below for joining.

Membership Options

Year to Year Membership:

- a) For those joining for the **first time** the fee is \$45 for your first year of membership.
- b) Membership **renewal** for 1 year is \$25.

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

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

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



LIFETIME MEMBERS



We celebrate and thank those who have chosen to be **Lifetime Members**.
We INVITE YOU to JOIN the LIFETIME MEMBERS CLUB.



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

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

*Gary Cheek
David Mohan
Jeff McCausland
Richard Swain
James Snitker
Thomas Thornton
John "Box" Williams*

**The Association thanks all who have renewed their membership or became lifetime members!!!
EACH of YOU are APPRECIATED!!!**



(HHB includes the Battalion Staff)

Total Membership: 74

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



29



6



7



27



5

Corporate Donations

(Donations of \$1,000 or Greater)

Diamond H Timber LLC



Timber LLC

Together in Hope



Bar S Meats



General Dynamics Land Systems
Of Sterling Heights, Michigan



Individual Donations

Base Piece Donations

(Donations of \$500 or Greater)

*Tommy Houston

Flank Piece Donations

(Donations of Less than \$500)

*John Donahue

*John "The Box" Williams

Brick Fundraising



Customized Brick Sample

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

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

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



28th FARA BRICK CLUB



Customized Brick Sample

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

On behalf of the organization we thank the following individuals for purchasing a Brick thus far.
The list does not necessarily represent who the bricks were purchased “for” or “in behalf of”.

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



1/2/2020	Charles Moretz X 2
1/7/2020	Thomas Houston
1/25/2020	Barbara Pollock
1/29/2020	Richard Swain
2/1/2020	William Dunham
2/2/2020	Danny Marksberry
2/6/2020	Danny Marksberry
2/6/2020	Madonna Stecher
2/7/2020	Duane Scarborough
2/14/2020	William Dunham
2/26/2020	Paul Lange Jr.
2/26/2020	Robert Greene
2/29/2020	Robert Greene
3/1/2020	Robert Scott Deal
3/9/2020	William Dunham
3/18/2020	Donald Davidson
6/1/2020	Sherman Takatori
6/2/2020	William Dunham
7/9/2020	Edward Walz
9/2/20 20	Ralph Ripley X2
9/8/2020	Frank McCook
9/18/2020	Thomas Houston X2
9/28/2020	Bill Dunham
11/4/2020	Eulis Madewell
11/12/2020	James Snitker
11/30/2020	Thomas Stecher

28th FARA BRICK CLUB *continued...*

12/8/2020	Bill Dunham X 2
1/4/2021	Scott Schwartz
1/24/2021	Ronald Ownd
1/27/2021	Ricky Earleywine
2/1/2021	Jeffrey McCausland
2/8/2021	Curtis Pendergraft
2/8/2021	William Foley
2/14/2021	David Dehnel X2 Glenda Taylor



Waiting to add more!!! ☺



Senior NCO of the Board
Everybody Fall IN!!!

Charlie Moretz



“Greetings Fellow Redlegs”

The year 2020 has sure flown by. Here we are into 2021 and things are still happening at a rapid pace. I hope you and all your families are doing well; we send our prayers to all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. I have talked with a few members and as a whole we are doing well. A few have caught the virus but have recovered.

The Association has been active through personal calls and Zoom meetings. We have all been working on the number 1 topic, “THE 2021 REUNION”. You will be glad to hear that we have pulled the lanyard and set the date for 3-6 June 2021 at beautiful Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Though today is not so “HOT”. We are having a winter storm pass through this week with temps in the lower negative numbers. And of course, snow. Up to 10 inches by morning. We all know post and most of the city will be closed. Haha

You remember those days, huddled around the potbelly stoves or hunched in the back of the 548 or duce and a half wrapped in a sleeping bag and the good ole army green blanket. Some of us were luckier than others to have the heater working in the gun. Always knew where to find Smoke though.

But the warmest was at maintenance. Seems these guys always traveled in the lap of luxury. Hot coffee as soon as you stopped, stoves going, and a warm tent. But all too often out there in the cold, greasy hands, cold fingers grasping cold steel wrenches, and repairing that which needed fixed.

I guess that is why we always came through. TEAMWORK. Each having special skills and applying them for the greater of the whole.

I think that is why this Association is growing; maturing and accomplishing things one only dreamed would happen. I know, that kept the body hydrated.

With that being said, it brings us to the reunion. This reunion has a new twist to test our acquired (but not forgotten) skills, besides the eating, storytelling, golfing, sightseeing and imbibing of liquid refreshments.

Yes, the OFSQT has been added to the events agenda. The **Old Farts Skill Qualification Test**. The team is putting one together just for our pleasure and some entertainment.

Tommy mentioned that a few members are riding their bikes down for the reunion. Let me know if you are interested in taking a tour of the Wichita’s or a poker run. We definitely need to check out the Harley store down by the hotel.

Let me mention one more thing, our main staple, **MEMBERSHIP**. We have continued to see support as the word gets out to others. Our Lifetime membership roster continues to grow. The main element is sustainment. Remember that dues are annual and that those are our operating funds. I know as I said in the beginning the year flies by and renewal is there before we know it. So just a reminder.

Thanks for all the support and hope to see all in June at the 2021 REUNION.

REDLEG

Top Moretz (retired)



1st Enlisted Member of the Board/Webmaster

George Hardin

Hi 28Fara Members,

Just a few notes on how to use our website:

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

Pay Dues: Go to Membership, Membership Dues, then choose the appropriate yearly renewal or lifetime membership purchase. You can either use Paypal or you can mail a check to our Treasurer.

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

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

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

If you are having any problems with our website or forum, please contact me at enlisted1@28fara.org or 916-581-2899. George Hardin



Chief Information Officer, Special Assistant

Dave Dehnel



Judge Advocate, Bill Savage

The upcoming 28th Field Artillery Regimental Association election is normally conducted during the bi-annual reunion. We do not have mail-in options for the elections but are exploring online election solutions so the election results can be finalized during the reunion.

Board Election Timeline based on the proposed Reunion dates June 3-6, 2021.

Phase 1. February 15-28, 2021- All existing Board members are polled to determine their preferences:

- Retain their position on the Board
- Seek another position on the Board
- Hold no position on the Board
- Feedback concerning the Board's performance and feedback about their position.

Phase 2. March 1-14, 2021 -

- Based on Phase 1, Election Committee sends an email to all members to see if any non-Board members desire a position on the Board.
- Finalize method or online tool to distribute ballots and record election results.

Phase 3. March 15 -Apr 4, 2021 - Based on the responses to fill positions based on phases 1 & 2 above, the Election Committee calls members to discuss their desire and qualifications to fill the empty positions. Additionally, the Election Committee contacts members of pre-M109 era who have expressed an interest on being on the Board.

Phase 4. April 5 - 30, 2021 - The Election Committee submits a final draft list to the Board for endless discussion and comment. Board approves list the final, final list.

Phase 5. On or about May 1, 2021 the final, final list of candidates is prepared for submission to the membership.

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

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

If you're interested in a position, would like to make a nomination, or just have questions please contact Dave Dehnel or Bill Savage.

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

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



Veterans Assistance

Unlike the IG, I am really here to help!

Frank Phillips



For God and Country

The American Legion Department of France

BELGIUM – CHINA 01 – DENMARK – ENGLAND – FRANCE – GERMANY – GREECE –
IRELAND – ITALY – NETHERLANDS – PORTUGAL – SPAIN – THAILAND

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

FRANCIS PHILLIPS – VA ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE



Celebrating Over 100 Years of Service to Veterans, God, and Country

December 2020

Fellow Veterans!

I would like to wish a happy holiday season to you and your family.

Being an accredited Veteran Service Officer, I have been able to assist several of our members in their Veteran Affairs Claims. Be it a new claim, increase or appeals. I am available to assist you in these matters.

This has been a turbulent year. Corona Virus has hit us hard. Senate is working on a bill (Senate Bill 4166 <https://legiscan.com/US/bill/SB4166/2019>) to allow the cause of death, COVID-19, to be associated with an underlying service- connected condition. Example would be someone who had service-connected lung problems and died due to COVID. It is still in the works since the introduction of the bill on July 2, 2020. This is very important, in these times, as it affects if you spouse can receive DIC (Dependent Indemnity Compensation).

Continued on next page....

In my years as being a VA rep, I am disappointed how some of our veterans think about their spouses. Many spouses are not informed that the veteran is receiving VA benefits. The spouses are not informed as to what benefits they are entitled to. Please inform your spouses as to the whereabouts of your paperwork. (DD214, claim decisions, birth certificates etc...)

There are many veterans that have not filed for a claim yet. Many of the vets believe that they are taking away money from other veterans that may need it more. This myth is not true! Congress has not set a limit as to how much the VA may disburse. Contrary, the more claims that are processed, more services will be provided to the vets.

There are quite a few Vietnam veterans that have not filed a claim yet. I have talked with many and a lot say that they do not need the money. Again, they are thinking about themselves and not thinking about their spouses. There are a lot of presumptives, that relate to Agent Orange. The Vietnam Vet just must prove, via military records, that he was in Vietnam between **January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. Just staying one day in Vietnam suffices.** (<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>)

On a much happier note, veterans receiving VA benefits will receive a Cost of Living Allowance, starting 1 December 2020, or 1.3%. It is the same with social security.

Again, please stay safe and healthy in 2021. Should you need any assistance with your VA claim, feel free to contact me.

DON'T FORGET YOUR SPOUSE! Take care .

Frank Phillips

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Chaplain's Corner

COL(R) Chaplain Danny Marksberry

Greetings,

My guess is that we all like new things! Maybe a new car, a new house or even a new job. A new baby always brings joy (especially to grandparents). A new start especially as we put 2020 in the rear-view mirror and enter 2021!

God is all about new things! Revelation 21:5 says, "He who was seated on the throne said 'I am making everything new!' The Bible teaches us about a new covenant, a new hope, a new life, a time of refreshing and at the end of this earthly life - a new body and a new glorious dwelling God is a God of new things. How comforting it is as we leave the challenges, the heartaches and discouragements that 2020 dumped in our lives to know Indeed 2021 is a new beginning. That doesn't mean that there will not be any challenges in 2021 but if we allow that confidence that God can make everything new, no matter what challenges come, that trust in God will carry us through.

Isaiah the prophet proclaimed "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youth grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40: 28-31)

In this new year may it be a new beginning as we allow God to make everything new. That we may be renewed in His strength, presence, promises and soar like eagles!

God Bless and Blessed New Year,

Chaplain Danny Marksberry

The
CHAPLAIN'S
Corner



2-28 FA Ski Team

Bill Dunham

Episode 1 - The Lieutenants Strike

A long, long time ago on a ski hill far, far away....

These stories begin in 1953 so bear with me. I was born in that year in Sterling, Colorado in the northeastern part of the state. There is not much difference between it and Kansas and Nebraska, that is to say, "There's not much there." My mother was born just south of there in Yuma, Colorado and lived with her parents and eventual 11 brothers and sisters on a farm about 20 miles from Sterling. My father was born in picturesque Buena Vista, Colorado in the heart of the Rockies. It would be difficult to find a more beautiful place anywhere. After serving in the Korean War he came home to Colorado to find that his older sister had married one of my mother's cousins and that is how my parents met. Dad worked in construction until 1959 when he re-joined the army and was stationed at Fort Carson in lovely Colorado Springs. From there he was stationed between Carson and Fort Bragg until our tour in Germany 1962-1965.

I tell you all of this because you would think that with that background, I would have been a skier. But that was for rich people not the Dunham household. I did my share of snowmobiling and sledding but never skiing.

I was home on leave in Hope Mills, NC prior to reporting to 2-28 in August 1983 when Paul Lange called me. He asked if I was ready to command HHB and I replied, "Yes sir." I didn't know it but the brigade chaplain, LTC Corbett, had put in a good word for me. We had known each other at Fort Bragg and Fort Hood. I had been stationed at Fort Bragg from 1972-1978 as a SP6 Legal Clerk and I went out the fort to visit some of my old friends. While there I visited the thrift shop and saw a pair of skis for sale (\$10). They were Atomic skis (195 cm) with Salomon bindings. Now I knew absolutely nothing about skis so I decided to turn to the only person I knew who did. Nick C. Harris had been my S-3/XO at 1-21 FA at Fort Hood and was now commanding a battalion at Fort Lewis (we knew him as the commander of Graf while we were in 2-28). So I got on an AUTOVON line and called him. He said to buy them as the bindings were worth at least that much.

2-28 FA Ski Team continued....*The Lieutenants Strike!!!*

So, I arrived in 2-28 ready to command and to learn to ski with my very own set of skis. Enter the lieutenants: Ellis, Fortanbary, Krupkowski, Ziegler, Hartmann, et al. After expressing my desire to learn to ski Bruce stepped up and said, "I can teach you, BC." Oh, what a fool I was!

After the first snowfall Bruce came to me and said, "Get your skis, poles, and boots and meet me behind my quarters at Katterbach. We will use the hill there to teach you." So away I went. Standing on the top of the hill the slope looked to me like the stuff you would see on TV with Jean Claude Killy. So began the instruction. Bruce showed me how to snowplow, how to turn, and most importantly how to get my skis downhill after I had fallen to help get myself up again. We would schuss across the hill, I would stop, walk my skis around so that I was pointing the opposite way, and repeat. After reaching the bottom we would trudge uphill and do it all over. After an hour or so Bruce declared me proficient and certified me ready to ski for real. You must remember that I was 30 years old, in my natural prime, and in pretty good shape. I was invincible! So I believed him.

I believe it was the next weekend when we all took off for Garmish-Partinkirchen.



This is a trail map from 1985. I would have skied the bunny slopes to the right center of the map just above the word Garmisch.

2-28 FA Ski Team continued....

I forget who went along on that trip, but I know it was Bruce and Karen Ellis, Mike Fortanbary, Tom Stecher, Tim Gorrell, Tommy Houston, and Bill Ziegler. They were all co-conspirators in this saga.



THE CO-CONSPIRATORS!!!

We arrived at AFRC Garmish and as is the American custom, were first in line when the lift lines opened at 0800. I learned that most Europeans don't arrive until about 1000. Bruce had not warned me that to get through the lift line I had to wend my way back and forth. So, there I was, struggling to stay standing, slowing turning to get through the line, and finally arriving at the T-bar. The what? No one had informed me of this device from Hell! Bruce said, "No sweat, BC. Just grab the bar, sit on one side of it, and let it gently pull you up the hill." In what galaxy is it that simple?

So, I finally inched my way forward and it was my turn to simply grab hold of the bar and be ever so gently pulled up the mountain. Yeah, right. The bar finally made its way around, I placed it on my fourth point of contact, and promptly leaned forward to be lifted to the heavens like a feather. Wrong! I immediately face planted with made it necessary for the T-bar line to be shut down as I extricated myself to an upright position. I was informed to lean back a little and everything would be fine. Hah! Finally, I got the hang of it and grabbed on for dear life when I made it to the top of the lift to face another circle of Hell. No one informed me that I had only 10 yards or so to get off of the T-bar and do a 180 to face downhill. How did that go? Not so good! I promptly fell necessitating a stoppage of the T-bar line again. All I could hear was, "Gottverdammst American!" Well, eventually I got pointed the correct way. Bruce and his co-conspirators looked at me and said, "Just navigate this bunny slope (it was at least a double black diamond in my eyes) like I showed you and you will be fine. We will come by periodically and see how you are doing." So, I spent the morning schussing across, stopping, turning slowly, falling, picking myself up, and repeating several times. About every hour or so the lieutenants would zip by to make sure I was still alive.

2-28 FA Ski Team continued....

About 1300 they came by and said we were going to get some food and all important bier. I found that most Europeans ski until about 1200 and take about a 2 hour lunch of wurst and bier. If the weather is nice they sit outside and sun themselves.



Not us Americans. No way, Jose. We quickly get our food and liquid refreshment and hit the slopes again. Now is when the lieutenants, led by Bruce, turned evil. "Okay, BC. We think you are ready to go to the top of the mountain (Oberfelderkopf, 2050 meters)," said Bruce with a twinkle in his eye. All we had to do was take a couple T-bars to the gondola and there would be some slopes up there I could navigate. So being, as I said before, in my natural prime and immortal, foolishly said, "Sure."



So the rest of the afternoon was uneventful with me schussing across and finally getting to the point where I would turn without stopping and only falling a couple of times per iteration down the slope. About 1700, as the light was beginning to fade I finally asked Bruce, "When do we catch the gondola to go back down?" This is when I found how truly evil the lieutenants were for Bruce calmly informed me, "They quit running 30 minutes ago." "How to you proposed I get back down to the bottom," asked I incredulously? "You are going to have to ski down. Just follow us and you will be fine," said the LTs. What a crock.

2-28 FA Ski Team continued....

So, off we went. Some of the trails were not nearly wide enough for me to snowplow across and turn and some of the parts were nearly vertical! It was only a matter of seconds before they were out of sight and the only thing I could navigate by was the lights of Garmish-Partenkirchen in the distance below. People were zipping past me, the light was fading, it was getting much colder as the sun disappeared, I was exhausted from lifting myself up countless times, and the pucker factor was definitely ratcheting up as I quickly became the only skier on the mountain. With every tumble and fall I was plotting my revenge!

I finally made it down to the easier part of the mountain and was snowplowing along when the trail forked. I opted to go to the right which turned out to be wrong. I wound up at some farmer's house and to get back to the ski trail I had to take off my skis and trudge through waist deep snow about 300 meters. The snow was probably only about a foot deep but it gets deeper every time I think about it. Now that I was back on the flat part of the trail I had no inertia to propel me so I spent the next 30 minutes polling myself to the gasthaus.

When I finally arrived everyone was on about their tenth bier and was wondering what in the world had happened to me. I was simply too exhausted to argue and simply said, "Zwei bier, bitte."



Needless to say, I slept very well that night. At 0600 the next morning everyone was up and about for another day of skiing. I, however, was sore from head to toe. Only my earlobes were not sore. There was no way I was going to be able to even think about skiing. At breakfast everyone was raving about how good the skiing was going to be since it had snowed about 4 inches overnight. Peer pressure being what it is I relented, went to the mini-PX, bought an industrial sized tube of Ben Gay, slathered myself in it, and went out to face the challenge.

You could see everyone looking at me and smelling me in the lift line. Here was yet another crazy American hitting the slopes. Everyone was correct. The skiing was excellent, and I was hooked!

Next episode: The Arrival of the Jedi - Obi-Wan Michaud-i and his Princess Shari.

If you have any additional recollections and stories you would like to share about your 2-28 skiing experiences we can include in the newsletter, please send them to newsletter@28fara.org. We would love to be able to share more stories and memories with everyone!!!

Trivia Questions

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

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

ENJOY!!!



2-28 Trivia Military Related



1. What Divisions and separate maneuver Brigades were assigned to VII Corps in the 80s?
2. What were three of the Chemical Agents we were most concerned about the Russians using if WW3 had happened?
3. What are the two principal types of Chemical Agents?
4. What was the nomenclature of the decontamination device that looked like a Fire Extinguisher?
5. What was the military name for D Cell Batteries?
6. What was the common name for Duct Tape?
7. What was the slang name for an M-35A2C?
8. On average how many times per year did 2-28 pull Guard at NATO-23
9. What was the normal length of a Battery tour at NATO-23?
10. How many increments are in a Green Bag Powder?

****Answers can be found on Page 45...**

With each issue of the Newsletter, the Editorial Staff will highlight members of the Association. To gather their memories of their time in Germany with the Battalion. To make sure we get those memories from different perspectives, we will interview Officers, NCOs, EMs and Spouses. This month's interviews are with: Colonel (Retired) John Sneed, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Bob Smith, and Staff Sergeant William Sealey.



**Interview with COL (Retired) John Sneed
FDO - C Battery/ XO - C Battery, SVC Battery / Ammo Officer - SVC Battery**

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

I was assigned to the battalion from December 1984 through June 1988. I served as FDO for C Battery 85-86, then as C Btry XO from 86-87, and SVC Btry XO/Bn Ammo Officer Jan-Jun 1988.

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

I was single, and lived in a house in Windsbach in 1985, then lived in town in Ansbach from 86-88.

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

Tommy Houston was my first BC, followed by Dave Dehnel, Pat Malherek and Rick Earleywine. Great memories of all of them. LTC Michaud was my first Battalion Commander, followed by Ralph Ripley. My First Sergeants were Moretz and Romero. They were all true professionals in every respect. Great mentors all! Fun memories: Tommy giving me a clipboard and saying "Here's your desk, Sneed. It goes with you to the supply room, arms room, NBC room and the motor pool"! Going with Pat to get our butts chewed by The Gunslinger when we both failed our safety exam at GRAF in March '85. Being with Dave on his first Graf trip as CO when one of our soldiers' kevlar helmet got shot downrange....

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

Long days and nights of intense training; morning tank trail traffic jams; ARTEPs and no sleep for three days; gunnery, gunnery and more gunnery; dust in the summer and mud and freezing rain in the winter; losing an overshoe one rainy night on a muddy hipshoot alley.

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

Probably my first trip to Graf in March '85. Because I was technically the second FDO in C Btry for a few weeks after I arrived, I missed the initial BCS fielding training the other FDOs got, so my learning curve was steep. I had an E-5 acting FDC Chief, and a short crew that first trip, so everything was hard. We survived though, and the battery shot safe and on target. I can remember stepping out of the tent extension the first time we shot coordinated Illumination, just for the relief of seeing everything 'land in the impact area!' The other tough time was when LTC Michaud asked me to be acting C Btry Commander for several weeks right after I was promoted to XO. So I did both jobs during that period, and learned a tremendous amount in the process.



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



The camaraderie that came from the experience of serving our nation with a tremendous group of soldiers, NCOs and officers. We worked hard, and we played hard too! I loved the challenge of learning and being pushed by leaders and peers to do every job well. There was the adrenaline that came with NRAS duty, 2 a.m. alerts and nuke inspections, and having seemingly unlimited ammunition to fire. And the rush that came from finishing an ARTEP or nuke inspection with flying colors, knowing that we were the best artillery battalion in Germany!

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

It isn't just one person. It's many. The officers and NCOs of course, but also great section chiefs like SSG Dallas and SSG Britton, and how they taught, cared for and trained young men and turned them into professional soldiers.

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

1SG Romero has stayed in touch regularly over the years and it has been great getting together and talking about the 'old days'.

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

TOO MANY to count!

- Nils Strombom saying "I wasn't supposed to be on active duty!"
- Looking at that kevlar helmet (the heat from the bore blast had feathered the ear pieces out into a hundred thin sheets) and seeing Dave Dehnel say " Oh man, I have to go tell the boss about this".
- Or maybe when Dwight Beach tried to jump start his Porsche with a jeep.
- Or when 1SG Romero called me in the middle of the night when a certain soldier in C Btry climbed the AFN tower and was threatening to jump. First Sergeant is standing at the bottom of the tower when I arrived at Bleidorn, and I walk up in time to hear him say "Soldier, you need to come down now. Because if you don't, I'm going to climb up there and throw you off."

- Or perhaps my first Graf trip. Pat and I successfully re-took our safety exams, but by the time I got out to C Battery's initial firing point, it was almost sunset. I walked into the FDC just as Range Control initialed a net call. We heard them but they never heard our response. They decertified us, and five minutes later The Gunslinger arrived, slinging lead! Chewed out the BC, the First Sergeant and everyone else that he passed on his way to the FDC. As he left, he look up at our OE-254 antenna. The loop was perpendicular to the pole, not parallel to it. He gave me that steely stare and barked, "Sneed, fix that *%\$#@ antenna!" I was certain I wouldn't make it through my first GRAF trip, but of course I did and now I can laugh about it!
- Sitting in the FDC at first light one morning when we were about to go hot. I smell cigarette smoke and look down the ramp into the tent extension and see a plume of smoke rising from the face end of a sleeping bag. Private Pfeffer apparently needed a little time to work himself up to getting out of the fart sack!
- Arriving at driver training at URLAS(sp?) and finding SSG Britton and the battery ammo section where they had intentionally nearly buried themselves and two new HEMMTs in mud, just for the fun of doing vehicle recovery training.
- Or the look on CPT Earleywine's face when he learned we had just run over an innocent parked car with a howitzer on a morning alert.

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

I returned to Oregon in 1988, went to grad school and obtained a Master's degree in Public Administration, got married then went back on active duty as an AGR officer in the Oregon National Guard. I served three tours (FSO, Battery Commander and S-3) with the 2-218 FA (105 mm Towed) in Portland, a tour as Professor of Military Science at University of Oregon, and various staff assignments with the 41st Infantry Brigade culminating as S-3 and XO. I deployed to Afghanistan with CJTF Phoenix in 06-07 (Trainers for the Afghan Army and Police) and served as the JTF J-3, then as senior mentor for an Afghan Army Brigade Commander on the Pakistan border. I retired in 2008 and transitioned into jobs in emergency management/disaster response in Oregon and FEMA in Seattle. I have three children and three grandsons. I re-married in 2014, and since 2016 Debby and I have been enjoying life in north Idaho. We enjoy life on a little country acreage and spend time hiking with our dogs, snowshoeing, raising a few animals and visiting with our kids and the grandbabies!



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

I would love to connect even more with the junior enlisted soldiers and NCOs who served in the battalion in those years.



**Interview with SFC (Retired) Robert "Bob" Smith
A Battery, B Battery, and C Battery
Cannoneer, Gunner, Section Chief, Gunnery Sergeant,
Chief of Firing Battery, Special Weapons Chief**

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

I was assigned to 2-28 FA twice. I started out there in 1968 in A Battery. The Battalion was a 175MM Battalion and I was a Cannoneer but, like everyone else back then, I came up through every job in the gun section.



**Sergeant (E-5) Bob Smith
pulling Guard Duty 1971**

The second time, I was assigned to the Battalion in 1981 through 1985. It felt like I was coming home. Initially I was assigned to B Battery as a Section Chief. Then I moved over to C Battery where I was a Howitzer Section Chief, Gunnery Sergeant and Chief of Firing Battery

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

I was there with my wife Linda and we lived in quarters in Katterbach.

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

My first boss on my first tour in A Battery was Sergeant Albert Younger who was my Howitzer Section Chief. He knew really knew how to train soldiers and he trained us right. Even young privates and PFCs were trained as Gunners. He was the example I used in learning to train my sections when I was a Chief and Smoke.

The second time when I was in B Battery it was SFC Dobbs and the SFC Taylor who were the Chiefs of Firing Battery. Then I moved over the C Battery and my boss was the Chief of Firing Battery Wayne Donaldson. Donaldson was all business and really pushed standards which I liked. I learned a lot from him that helped me when I replaced him as Chief of Firing Battery in Charlie Battery. When I was Smoke in C Battery my boss was the Battery XO who was Lieutenant Tim Gorrell who a very sharp and very smart officer. We made a great team there in Charlie Steel.



Bob Smith and his Gun Section at Graf 1981

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

Cold and mud, rain and snow, ice. But the great thing about Graf was that it was the place where we could really do what we were trained to do. We tried when we were back in Garrison, but it just wasn't the same. Graf was the place where I could really evaluate my soldiers in what they were supposed to know how to do. It was also the place where I really learned how to be a Section Chief, Gunnery Sergeant and Chief of Firing Battery.

What did you like best about your time in the Battalion and what were your favorite things to do after duty hours?

When I was in A Battery for my first tour, it was the cohesion of the unit, especially in the gun section. We were a close-knit group primarily because of Sergeant Younger.

The next time I was assigned to 2-28 being assigned there was like coming home. This was the place where I had “grown up” and went from a private to an NCO. Also, all the NCOs got very close in Charlie Battery. All but one of the Section Chief's in C Battery were Staff Sergeants and we were all very professional and respected each other.

My wife Linda and I spent a lot of time with the civilians. Also, during my second tour, Linda was good friends with SFC Dobbs' wife, and they were always coming up with stuff to do. While we were at Graf, Linda and the other wives would go on trips while we were away.

We also liked the Volksmarches. We loved the Volksmarches, especially the food and the beer.

Who is the person you remember the most from your tour(s)?

From my first tour it has to be my section chief, Sergeant Younger who really taught me how to soldier and be a Field Artilleryman.

On my second tour it would be my Battery Commander in Charlie Battery, Captain Houston. He could be a tough old bastard, but we all knew what he was doing was for the good of the battery as well as everybody concerned. He respected the NCOs and let us do our job and we respected him for it.

What was your toughest time in the Battalion?

That would be when they moved me from B Battery to C Battery during my second tour. I was at the top of the heap over in B Battery and had a great section, good friends. I didn't know very many people in C Battery and, back then, they had lot of problems in C Battery prior to me being reassigned there. Honestly, the whole battalion looked at the old C Battery then as kind of a joke. That changed fortunately when the new leadership came into Charlie Battery. But for me, I had to start all over again.

What was your best time in the Battalion?

When Charlie Steel won the Brigade Section Competition.

Give us an idea of what happened with you after Bleidorn?

After Bleidorn I was assigned to Fort Sill where I was part of the III Corps Artillery Nuclear Inspection team. From there I was supposed to go to Germany and to the Field Artillery but instead I was sent to Patrick Air Force Base and trained to be an Equal Opportunity NCO and was assigned near Ansbach in Crailsheim with the 7th Support Command.

After that I went back to the Field Artillery and was assigned as a Firing Platoon Sergeant to 4th Battalion 7th Field Artillery (8 inch) in Gessin at Rivers Barracks. The 4/7 FA was deactivated, and I was transferred to 5th Battalion 3rd FA (8 Inch). The 4/7 FA was the last 8-inch unit in Germany and was being converted to MLRS. I fired the last 8-inch round at Grafenwoehr while I was stationed there.

My next assignment was my last one in the Army to Fort Sill Oklahoma where I spent my last several months planning to transition to Civilian Life. Because I was on ROAD (Retired on active duty) status my commander let me have a part time job, so I drove a cab while I applied for work after I retired. I really wanted to work at the Goodyear plant located near Lawton, but they were not hiring but I kept applying for jobs. I officially retired at Fort Sill in May of 1993.



SFC (R) Bob Smith and Wife Linda at his retirement ceremony at Fort Sill

We stayed in Lawton for a while and I continued to work for the Cab company while continuing to apply for jobs at Goodyear. My wife's sister talked us into moving near her to Goose Creek, South Carolina and so we did. What was funny about it is that as soon as we got to South Carolina, I got an offer from Goodyear! But we had already moved and didn't want to move back.

It was in Goose Creek where I started my career in Law Enforcement. I worked as a Security Guard for a while then I applied and was hired as a Deputy Sherriff for Norchester County, South Carolina. I was a Deputy Sherriff for 11 years. We then moved home to Lansing Michigan. My mother was sick and Linda and I moved there to take care of her. I applied and got a job with the Eaton County Sheriff's department as a deputy and worked there for 10 years.

Then finally retired for good and could pretty much do what I wanted to do but Linda developed Cancer and I spent my time taking care of her. Linda passed away on September 19, 2019.

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

I would like to see more gatherings. I am really looking forward to attending my first 2-28 Reunion in Lawton/Fort Sill. We don't have to wait until the big ones every other year for veterans of the unit to link up and grab a beer or lunch somewhere.

What was your marital status and where did you live?

I was single and lived in the barracks the entire time I was in 2/28.

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

My section leader was SSG Young. The chief of firing battery was SFC Jones and gunnery sergeant was SSG Noor. The first sergeant was 1SG Broadwater and battery commander was CPT Malherek and then CPT Bailey.

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

When I think of “Graf” I remember cold winters, ARTEP’S, wild boars, and competition with the other guns during field exercises.



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

The toughest part of the assignment was being away from home since this was my first assignment after basic training and AIT. Learning my MOS was also a challenge.

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

Going to West Berlin/East Berlin and the basketball tournaments. In 1988 Bleidorn Kaserne Champions and the Ansbach Community Black History Month Runner-up. CPT Bailey, who was fairly tall, was the center on our basketball team. I also enjoyed the organization days and experiencing German culture.



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

The person I remember most is SP4 Ellis Frazier. We attended basic training and AIT during the same time at Fort Sill. We didn't know each other then, but when we arrived at 2/28 we realized we attended basic together so we had that connection. We socialized frequently and are still friends on Facebook.

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

The one individual from 2/28 who had the greatest impact on my life was my first section chief, SSG Young. He was a great leader who always made sure we were well trained. The gunner in that section, SGT Tucker, also made a great impression on me.

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

After I left Bleidorn in January 1989, I reenlisted and went to Ft Carson, Colorado, where I was assigned to 3/29 FA. In July 1992, I left active duty and joined the Colorado Army National Guard. In May 1993, I went back on active duty as an 11M, which is a combat fighting vehicle infantryman. I then stayed on active duty until retiring in 2008 with 22 years of service. My duty assignments included: Fort Sill, OK, in the 3rd Bn 3rd Plt; Fort Benning, GA, in the 2/58 Inf (basic training); Fort Hood, TX, 1/41 Inf 2nd AD; Camp Casey, South Korea in the 5/20 Inf, -2/9 Inf; Fort Hood, TX, in the 1/5 Cav 1st Cav Div; Moline Recruiting Station Des Moines Bn; Ft Polk, LA in the 2/4 Inf 10th Mountain Div; and Aco WTU BJACH. I served in several deployments: Operation Desert Strike Kuwait 1996, Operation Just Cause Bosnia 1999, and Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan 2006. I married my wife Katrina in 2004. We are raising six children from ages 31-13. After I retired in 2008, I worked for LMT Defense for nine years as an assembler. I am currently unemployed due to a car accident. I reside in Muscatine, Iowa.

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

I enjoy connecting with past members of 2/28. I also think it's important to remember the history of the battalion for future generations.



***This is the 1st PART of a series on the history of Bleidorn Kaserne.**

The History of Bleidorn Kaserne

By Tommy Houston

The Birth of Bleidorn

Construction began on Bleidorn Kaserne in March of 1934 under a contract from the German Army. The Kaserne's construction was part of a nationwide Military facilities expansion supervised by Albert Speer. The initial contract for construction consisted of a Headquarters Building (we used it as a mess hall), 4 barracks buildings and a motor pool consisting of 5 brick maintenance buildings. The original intent behind the construction of Bleidorn was to house an infantry regiment of the German Army.



Bleidorn under Nazi Control
(Photo from 3rd Reich in Ruins)

Included in the contract for construction was a provision for several underground rooms under what we knew as the motor pool. These rooms were used for storage of ammunition and supplies.

There are many rumors over the years that these underground rooms were connected by tunnels to other Kasernes such as Barton and Hindenburg, but this is not true. These storage rooms were simply under the footprint of the Kaserne.

Construction was completed in 1936 and the first unit to occupy the Kaserne was a Reconnaissance Battalion of the 7th Panzer Division. What most of us knew as the mess hall was actually the Headquarters building for the Battalion. During those days, the German mess hall was actually in the motor pool in the building we used as Battalion Maintenance and S-4.

It is interesting to note that the famous German General Erwin Rommel spent a great deal of time at Bleidorn. As the Commander of the 7th Panzer Division, Bleidorn and Ansbach was central to the location of the subordinate units of the Division he commanded. Rommel had a set of quarter built for him on the second floor of the Headquarters Building (mess hall). Rommel held many commanders' meetings on the First Floor of the building in a conference room that we knew as the dining area for the mess hall.

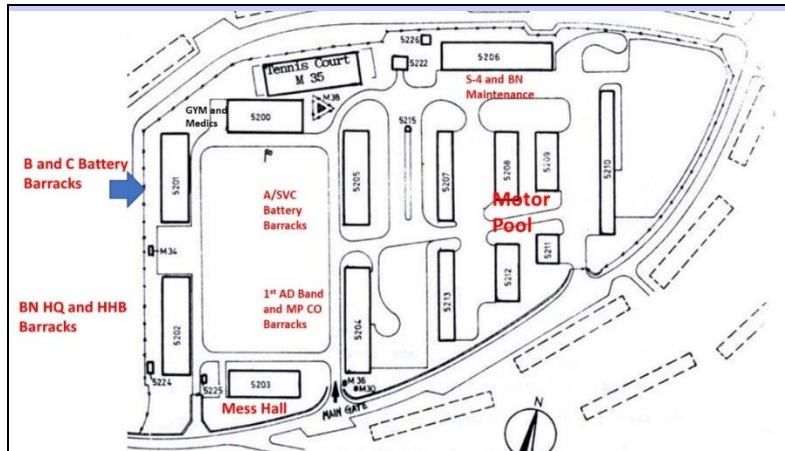


General Erwin Rommel
German Commander
7th Panzer Division

When the 7th Panzer division left Germany for the invasion of France, the Kaserne was transitioned into being a training depot for Artillery training. Thus, began Bleidorn's long legacy with the Field Artillery. It is interesting to note that, except for a few years after World War 2, Bleidorn Kaserne was always home to Field Artillery units.

Following strict German protocol, the German training base was very specific and regimented as to where troops were housed. New recruits would arrive at Bleidorn and be housed in the 2nd Building on the right as you entered the Kaserne. This building we knew as the barracks for A Battery and Service Battery. After their initial 4 week "Basic training" they would move to the other buildings depending on where they were in the training curriculum, finally ending up in the building just to the right of the main gate that, when we were there, housed the MPs and the Band. The Cadre for the school was housed in the building to the left of the Headquarters (Mess Hall) that we knew as the Battalion Headquarters/HHB Barracks.

Where the housing area currently sits was an open area which the Artillery school used as their training area. During WW2 it was just a stepped open space much like our local training area. This must have been just for dry fire, because there are no records of live artillery being fired in the vicinity of Ansbach. It was assumed that the recruits were sent to Grafenwoehr of Hohenfelds to conduct Artillery live fire training. Although live ammunition was stored on the Kaserne



There were horse stables at the low end of the training area, because during WW2, a large portion of the German Artillery remained horse drawn. The forest, across from the main gate that we used to run PT was also part of the Artillery school. At the far end of this forest there was a rifle range that the soldiers used to train with their Mauser rifles and machine guns.

It was during the days of the Kaserne being an Artillery training base that the facades above the doors were installed. The facades were cast in brick yard near Ansbach and procured by order of the Commander of the 53rd Artillery Regiment who was also the "Garrison Commander" of Beidorn.



Germans training
on the
10.5 CM Gun

The school was commanded by a German Colonel (Obrest) and a staff of cadre. The school trained soldiers on the 10.5 Centimeter lefh 18, which was the most common divisional howitzer in the German Army. The soldiers were also trained on the 15 Centimeter lefh 18 which was the second most common Divisional Howitzer. The training at Bleidorn continued up to just a few days before the US Army captured Ansbach in 1944.

Sick Call

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

Please contact the Chaplain if you know of any more.

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

***Harry Broaddus - Medical Issues**

***Willy Salary - Medical Issues**

Honors To Those Who Have Passed On

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

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



**Command Sergeant
Major David Stewart**
Battalion Headquarters



Krista Stewart
Wife of
CSM David Stewart



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



Ann Salary
Wife of
First Sergeant Salary



SFC John Spellman
B Battery



**First Sergeant
Ed Carmichael**
Headquarters Battery



Barbara Ann Carmichael
Wife of First Sergeant
Ed Carmichael, HHB



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



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



Cathy Lange
Wife of Major
Paul Lange, HHB



Linda Smith
Wife of
Sergeant First Class
Bob Smith
C Battery



**Master Sergeant
Peter Volin**
HHB



**First Sergeant
Desmond O'Keeffe**
B Battery



**Lt. Colonel
Llyle J. Barker, Jr.**
Battalion Commander



How We Can Help

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Information for the Board of Directors

President and Chairman of the Board: Tommy Houston - President@28fara.org

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

2nd Vice President/OPS: Tim Gorrell - 2ndVP@28fara.org

Treasurer: Ralph Ripley - Treasurer@28fara.org

Secretary: Barbara Pollock - Secretary@28fara.org

Sr NCO Board at Large: Charles (Top) Moretz - SrNCO@28fara.org

Enlisted Board at Large and Webmaster: George Hardin - Enlisted1@28fara.org

Enlisted Board at Large: Dave Davenport - Enlisted2@28fara.org

Veterans Affairs Officer: Frank Phillips - Francis.Phillips2@va.gov

Chief Information Officer, Special Assistant: Dave Dehnel - CIO@28fara.org

Judge Advocate: Bill Savage - JAG@28fara.org

Newsletter Editors: Pat and Janet Malherek - Newsletter@28fara.org

!!!TRIVIA ANSWERS!!!

Military Trivia Answers...

1. 3rd Infantry Division Headquartered in Wurzburg, 1st Armored Division HQ in Ansbach, 3rd Brigade 1st Infantry Division (Forward) Stationed in Goppingen, 2nd Armored Cavalry HQ at Merrill Barracks in Nurenburg
2. Nerve Agent, Blood Agent, Mustard Agent
3. Persistent and Non Persistent?
4. M-11 Decontamination device
5. BA-30
6. 100 Mile an hour tape
7. Duce in a half
8. Twice per year
9. Two Weeks
10. 5



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

Newsletter@28fara.org

ENJOY!!!

From Tommy Houston: Please see the article below. There is story behind this article. Notice who wrote it more years ago than I can remember for the Ansbach or the 210th BDE newspaper.

SFC(R) Ford, the BN Survey Chief back then from HHB posted this article on Facebook and I thought I would share it with you. Some of you might remember it. In 1986, I was commanding Service Battery and Corps Artillery gave the Battalion a slot to send a platoon to the "Mini Ranger School" down at Bad Tolz. We were the first unit from VII Corps Artillery to send anyone for the course that was supposed to be for Infantry and Tankers.

What ended up happening of all things was that we selected Battalion Ammo to be the platoon to go instead of one from the Firing Batteries. The Ammo platoon didn't have enough people so the Battalion Survey section from HHB was added to round out the Platoon. Jim Bermudez (fresh out of Ranger School) was supposed to be the OIC but he up and went on leave to get married so we sent Mark Winnicki instead as the platoon leader along with SFC Ford from Survey as the Platoon SGT.

What turned out remarkable about it is that the platoon did us proud as the bunch of truck drivers, ammo humpers and surveyors finished higher than two Platoons that was there at the same time. One was from the airborne brigade in Italy and the other was from a CAV unit. Of course since we sent Battalion Survey, the platoon set a course record for land navigation and some other areas.

I remember going down there to visit them twice, once with Ralph Ripley and once with Jeff McCausland. My starkest memory is seeing one of the Ranger Instructors yelling at Mark Winnicki who was in the Front Leaning Rest Position in 2 feet of snow because one of his soldiers didn't show up with the right gear. So the moral to this story was a bunch of truck drivers and ammo humpers and survey dudes from a Corps Artillery Unit, set some of the highest records at US Army Europe's mini ranger school as well as beat out two 'maneuver units'

I was, and still am, so very proud of them....

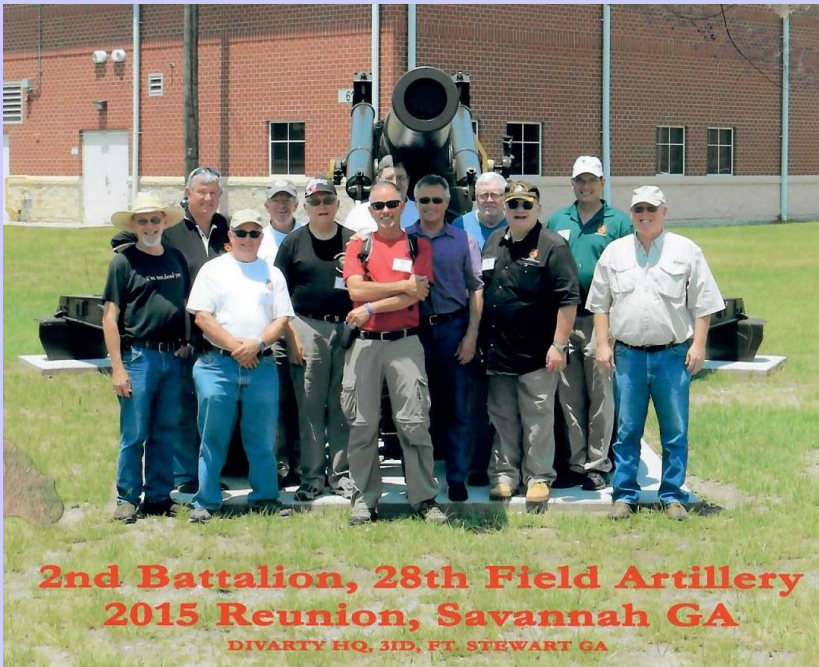


*TO GET YOU EXCITED FOR OUR NEXT REUNION...
Here are some pictures from some past reunions!!! 😊*



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

***FUN, FUN, FUN!!!
Don't miss out... 😊***



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



**KEEP
CALM
AND
CALL FOR
ARTILLERY**