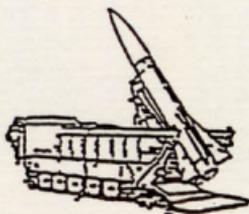
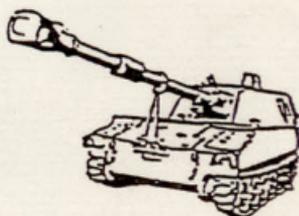
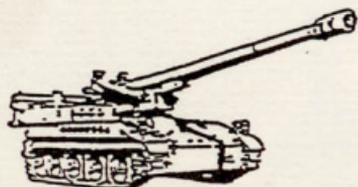


17th  
FIELD ARTILLERY  
BRIGADE

CHANGE OF COMMAND



19 DECEMBER 1990  
THUNDERBOLTS



The Officers and Soldiers of the  
17th Field Artillery Brigade

Welcome You

To the Change of Command Ceremony

Honoring

Colonel William H. Ott

Departing Commander

and

Colonel Alan A. Fox

Incoming Commander



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Formation of Troops

Presentation of Command

Inspection of Troops

\* National Anthem of the Federal Republic of Germany

\* National Anthem of the United States of America

Passing of the Colors

Remarks by Brigadier General Miller

Remarks by Colonel William H. Ott

Remarks by Colonel Alan A. Fox

Pass in Review

\* The Army Song

Reception by Special Invitation

\* Please Stand

## HISTORY OF THE 17TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

The 17th Field Artillery Brigade was initially constituted on 31 July 1918 as an element of the 17th (The Thunderbolt) Division. The Brigade was formally organized in August 1918 at Camp Bowie, Texas.

The Brigade was demobilized on 8 February 1919 at Fort Sill following the conclusion of World War I.

On October 1933, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Brigade was reconstituted as part of the regular army of the United States. Activation took place at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on 19 January 1943.

The Brigade was redesignated on 13 March 1944 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, VII Corps Artillery and served in Europe during the latter stages of World War II. The unit was inactivated on 15 November 1945 at Ord, California.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Battrey, VII Corps Artillery was again activated on 22 January 1951 at Fort Campbell Kentucky. The unit subsequently served in the Federal Republic of Germany until inactivated 21 June 1975.

The unit was redesignated as a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 17th Field Artillery Brigade on 22 August 1978 in Augsburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

The honors of the 17th Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Battery include five campaign participation credits earned during World War II.

COLONEL WILLIAM H. OTT

Colonel William H. Ott entered active duty in 1963 from Baylor University. He was commissioned in 1964 from the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He has served extensively in field artillery assignments overseas and in the states while commanding unit's at every echelon from battery through brigade and serving in key operations and personnel staff positions.

His early service included the normal field artillery assignments at Fort Sill and in Vietnam with the 2-20th Field Artillery Battalion.

Upon graduation from the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course, he was assigned back to Vietnam as a battalion staff officer and later assigned as the Field Artillery Adviser, MACV. In 1972, he returned to Fort Sill as a post staff officer for a short period of time before serving as a battery commander in the 1-17th Field Artillery Battalion and became the battalion S-3. Upon their deployment to Augsburg, Germany Colonel Ott was assigned as the battalion S-3 for the 1-18th Field Artillery and later the battalion executive officer. In 1976, he completed a Bachelor of Science degree from Cameron University. He graduated from the United States Army Command General Staff College in 1977.

While assigned in Washington, D.C. as personnel action officer in Combined Arms Division, U.S. Army Military Personnel Center, he was selected as the captains assignment officer in Field Artillery Branch. He completed a Masters Degree in personnel management from Central Michigan University.

In 1980, he began a 4 year tour of duty with the 210th Field Artillery Brigade in Germany, serving initially as the brigade operations officer and later as the brigade executive officer. He then assumed command of the 3d Battalion 37th Field Artillery at Herzo Base Germany in June 1982.

After battalion command, he returned to Washington, D.C. and became the Branch Chief, Field Artillery Branch, Combined Arms Division, Military Personnel Center. In 1986, upon graduation from the National War College, he returned to Fort Sill and initially served as the Field Artillery Personnel Proponency Officer and in January 1987 became the Director, Gunnery Department. In December 1988, Col Ott assumed command of 17th FA Brigade. He will depart today for Heidelberg where he will become the the USAREUR IG after attending the British Higher Command and Staff Course from January - March 1991.

Accompanying him to Heidelberg is his wife, Sue. Their son Bill, Jr. (24) and daughter Dana (21) remain in Lawton, Oklahoma where Bill is a Financial Advisor and Dana a junior at Cameron University.

His awards include the Silver Star, LOM, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and other foreign awards.

COLONEL ALAN A. FOX

Colonel Alan A. Fox was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery on 9 June 1971 when he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

His first assignment was with Bravo Battery, 2d Battalion, 3d Field Artillery in the 3d Armored Division at Butzbach, Federal Republic of Germany, where he served as Fire Direction Officer and Battery Executive Officer. He departed USAREUR in 1975 for the Field Artillery Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Sill, and remained at Fort Sill for assignment with the 2d Battalion, 36th Field Artillery in III Corps Artillery. He commanded Alpha Battery and served as Fire Direction Officer and Battalion S-3 prior to departing in 1979 for Advanced Civil Schooling. He attended Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where he was awarded a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology. In 1980, he attended the Naval Command and General Staff College at Newport, Rhode Island, and then was assigned to the United States Military Academy where he served as a Tactical Officer and Special Assistant for Honor in the Office of the Commandant.

He returned to Europe in 1984 and saw duty as Battalion Executive Officer for the 2d Battalion, 92d Field Artillery in V Corps Artillery at Giessen and as the Brigade S-3 for the 210th Field Artillery Brigade in VII Corps Artillery, at Herzogenaurach. He commanded the 3d Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, in the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Stewart, Georgia, from June 1987 to June 1989. He graduated from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in June 1990.

Colonel Fox's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge and Ranger Tab. He and his wife Pam have four children: Alan, 16; Bryan, 14; Courtney, 10; and Kaitlyn, 7.

COMMANDERS

17th Field Artillery Brigade

Colonel William H. Ott

Outgoing

Colonel Alan A. Fox

Incoming

CSM Walter D. Higginbotham

1st Bn, 18th FA

1st Bn, 36th FA

LTC James Coomler  
CSM Joe Mitchell

LTC Stephen Daly  
CSM Santiago Rivera

4th Bn, 12th FA

2nd Bn, 77th FA

LTC(P) Sylvester Ryan  
CSM Melvin Tillman

LTC Richard Durden  
CSM Lawrence Kraus

HHB, 17th Field Artillery Brigade

CPT William Bauer

1SG Richard Jackson



#### 4th Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment

Constituted 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as Battery D, 12th Field Artillery. Organized 7 June 1917 at Fort Meyer, Virginia, as an element for the 2nd Division (later redesignated as the 2nd Infantry Division). Inactivated 31 May 1930 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Activated 1 May 1939 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Inactivated 7 October 1939 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Redesignated 1 October 1940 as Battery D, 12th Field Artillery Battalion, and activated at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Absorbed 15 December 1941 by Battery A, 12th Field Artillery Battalion. (Battery A, 12th Field Artillery Battalion, inactivated 15 October 1948 at Fort Lewis, Washington; consolidated 10 November 1951 with Battery A, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, (active) (organized in 1917), and consolidated in a unit designated as Battery A, 12th Field Artillery Battalion).

Former Battery D, 12th Field Artillery battalion, reconstituted 20 June 1957 in the Regular Army and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 12th Field Artillery. Redesignated 10 April 1959 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Howitzer Battalion, 12th Field Artillery; concurrently, withdrawn from the Regular Army, allotted to the Army Reserve and assigned to the 81st Infantry Division. Battalion activated 1 May 1959 with Headquarters at Atlanta, Georgia. Redesignated 1 April 1963 as the 4th Battalion, 12th Field Artillery. Inactivated 31 December 1965 at Atlanta, Georgia, and relieved from assignment to the 81st Infantry Division. Redesignated 1 September 1971 as the 4th Battalion, 12th Field Artillery.

On 16 July 1987, the 12th Field Artillery Regiment was organized as a Lance Regiment comprising the 1st (Fort Sill, Oklahoma), 2nd (Herzogenaurach FRG), 3rd (Aschaffenburg FRG), and the 4th (Crailsheim) FRG Battalions. The 12th Field Artillery Regiment carries on the tradition of providing decisive supporting fires as its forebearers did in two world wars and the Korean War.

1st Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment

The Battalion's history began on 6 January 1776, when the Provincial Congress of New York voted to raise a "New York Company of Artillery," with the fiery Alexander Hamilton in command. During the Civil War, the unit was known as Battery F, distinguishing itself at the battles of Antietam and Chancellorsville. In July of 1863, the Battery participated in the crucial battle of Gettysburg as part of General Slocum's XII Corps, and the hook and star on the present Battalion shield commemorates this action. In 1898 the Battery landed in Daiquiri, Cuba, and a year later landed in the Philippines.

Shortly after the United States went to war in 1917, a cadre of officers and men of the Battery were sent to Fort Bliss, Texas, as the nucleus of the 1st Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment. The new unit was officially organized on 1 June 1917 with its primary weapon the horsedrawn 155mm howitzer. It is from this unit that the present 1st Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment has evolved and draws its official battle honors and lineage.

The Battalion was assigned to the 3rd Division on 12 November 1917, and deployed to France in May 1918. This service with the 3rd Division is represented in the background of the unit crest in the form of the shoulder patch of the 3rd division.

The French government recognized the Battalion's actions at the second battle of the Marne and awarded it the Croix de Guerre. From this citation comes the motto of the Battalion, "Per aspera ad astra" (through difficulties to the stars). It is also from honors given by the French for action in World War I that gives the members of the 18th the right to wear the Fourragere.

In February 1944, the Battalion embarked for England. The Battalion landed on Utah Beach, France on 5 July 1944, as part of the First Army, and saw its first action four days later. It participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. The Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for actions during the Battle of the Bulge. In its role as a separate light field artillery battalion, the 18th has been attached to 2 armies, 1 brigade, 8 corps, 16 divisions, and 1 cavalry group since the Normandy landing.

On 1 December 1971, the Battalion was reorganized as a 155mm self-propelled artillery unit, supporting the United States Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. On 1 October 1976, the 18th deployed to Augsburg, Germany and was assigned to the 210th Field Artillery Group, VII Corps. On 22 August 1978, it was reassigned to the 17th Field Artillery Brigade upon activation of that command.

### 1st Battalion, 36th Field Artillery Regiment

The 36th Field Artillery was organized on 7 August 1918 as a regiment of the National Army and assigned to the 12th Division as a 155mm Howitzer unit. On 8 February 1918, the 36th FA was demobilized at Camp McClellan.

The 36th FA was reconstituted in the Regular Army on 22 July 1929. Equipped with twelve "Long Toms", 155mm guns, the Battalion was assigned the mission of general support with the British Army in Tunisia from 1942 to 1943.

The Battalion was the first American heavy artillery unit committed to combat in the European theater, firing its first mission on 24 December 1942. The Battalion participated in the Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and Southern France invasions, earning eleven campaign streamers from Tunisia, Sicily, Naples, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe, North Apennines, and Po Valley.

The 36th Artillery was inactivated at Camp Kilner, New Jersey on 8 January 1946. In the spring of 1957, the 36th was designated a Gyroscope unit and prepared to depart for Germany. The Battalion arrived in Europe and was assigned to the Seventh United States Army on 13 February 1958, with its home station at Schwaebisch Hall.

On 7 July 1966 the Battalion moved to Wiley Barracks in Neu Ulm and remained there until 12 August 1968. At that time it moved to Reese Kaserne in Augsburg, where it is presently located.

On 29 May 1987, the 1st Battalion, 36th Field Artillery was designated the 1st Battalion, 36th Field Artillery Regiment.

The 1st Battalion, 36th Field Artillery Regiment has as its Partnership unit the 81st Mountain Artillery Battalion in Kempton, commanded by LTC Helmut Hitscherich.

The 2nd Battalion 77th Field Artillery Regiment

The 77th Field Artillery was created in July 1917 by redesignating the 19th Cavalry as an artillery battalion. First put to the test during World War I, the battalion courageously earned five battle streamers, participating in such key battles as Aisne-Marne and Champagne 1918. The 77th then faced a period of deactivity from 1921 until 1935. Reactivated for World War II, the soldiers of the 77th were active participants in several crucial campaigns including Sicily (with Arrowhead), Southern France (with Arrowhead, and Ardennes-Alsace). All told, the 77th was honored with eight battle streamers for two years of steady combat.

Following World War II, the 77th was again deactivated until the Korean Conflict where they were an integral segment of the Pusan Perimeter, Operation Commando, during which they won the Distinguished Unit Citation for firing 900 rounds per gun. Participation in the Vietnam Conflict followed with the 77th serving in numerous significant battles such as Counter-offensive Phase II, Tet Counter-offensive. During Vietnam the battalion was awarded a number of distinguished decorations to include the Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. Throughout the next years, the 77th underwent many changes, revisions, and periods of deactivity. The 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, (203mm SP) as it is known today, was reactivated in Augsburg, West Germany, and assigned to the 17th Field Artillery Brigade on 16 May 1988.



Battery Commanders and First Sergeants

HHB 17th BDE

Battery Commander - CPT William Bauer

First Sergeant - 1SG Richard Jackson

4-12th Field Artillery Regiment

A Battery: Commander - CPT Randy Schacht  
First Sergeant - SFC Jeffery Harrell

B Battery: Commander - CPT Michael Mahoney  
First Sergeant - 1SG Wilbert White

C Battery: Commander - CPT David Smith  
First Sergeant - 1SG Ronald Sheffield

Headquarters Battery: Commander - CPT James Messer  
First Sergeant - 1SG Michael Armstrong

Service Battery: Commander - CPT David Johnston  
First Sergeant - 1SG Ronald Fler

1-18th Field Artillery Regiment

A Battery: Commander - CPT Greg Dreisbach  
First Sergeant - 1SG Harvey Everette

B Battery: Commander - CPT Michael Miklos  
First Sergeant - 1SG Lester Clark

C Battery: Commander - CPT John Masterson  
First Sergeant - 1SG Stanley Brown

Headquarters Battery: Commander - CPT Robert Brannock  
First Sergeant - 1SG Steven Daigneault

Service Battery: Commander - CPT Victor Hall  
First Sergeant - SFC(P) Harry Jackson

1-36th Field Artillery Regiment

A Battery: Commander - CPT Marcus Hamilton  
First Sergeant - SFC Donald Redding

B Battery: Commander - CPT James Sullivan  
First Sergeant - 1SG William Jones

C Battery: Commander - CPT William Neeley  
First Sergeant - SFC Gary Baker

Headquarters Battery: Commander - CPT James Pettus  
First Sergeant - 1SG James Fitzanko

Service Battery: Commander - CPT Cleveland Gavin  
First Sergeant - 1SG Virgis Collins

2-77th Field Artillery Regiment

A Battery: Commander - CPT Daryl Harris  
First Sergeant - 1SG Michael Sneed

B Battery: Commander - CPT John Lambert  
First Sergeant - SFC Bruce Roberts

C Battery: Commander - CPT James Ashworth  
First Sergeant - 1SG Lynn Jodsas

Headquarters Battery: Commander - CPT Mark O'Brien  
First Sergeant - 1SG Robert Wagner

Service Battery: Commander - CPT Harold Fennimore  
First Sergeant - SFC Larry Dance