



THE HARD CHARGER

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - MAY 2016

Greetings HARD CHARGERS! By my count here on 25 April 2016, we have about 43 days left to make your reservations if you have not already done so. Yes, there will be a live howitzer shoot! Yes, we are going to Duncan, OK, to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum and lunch! Yes, we will be going to a pool party at Ted and Marilyn Jonosko's home! Yes, bring something for the fund-raising auction! Yes, we want to see your smiling happy face at the reunion!

And finally, yes, we will have a lot of fun!

Dan Gillotti

Access to the post for attendees without military or retiree I.D. will be, as we have noted before, an administrative challenge. If you are in this position, be sure to read the note from Jon Fizzell in this issue, and if you want to simplify the entry process, sending a completed Fort Sill form 118a to him will be the way to go. But even this will not eliminate a delay in gaining post access - only decrease the time needed to deal with it.

DON'T FORGET TO



CHECK THE WEB SITE

ROKS and a Role

As the Vietnam Commemorative pin indicates, the United States had a number of allies in the Vietnam conflict, and perhaps none were more involved with the 30th than the Koreans. From the time when the advance party from Fort Lewis arrived in country, the home base of the Battalion was in the Korean tactical area of responsibility - the TAOR. This area was controlled by the 1st Division of the Army of the Republic of Korea, known as the "Cap" ROK Division (for capital) or the "Tiger" ROK Division. Charley Battery of the 30th provided medium artillery support for the ROKs once the guns arrived. Then-lieutenant Joe Dworniczak was one of C Battery's FO's, and he recently shared these recollections of his role, interacting with the Tiger Division. Joe had joined the 30th at Fort Lewis directly from Korea, where he had just completed an overseas tour. He could have declined assignment to the 30th on that basis, but instead elected to make another overseas movement.

We left San Francisco on Navy ships - great sailing! When we arrived it was tent city for a while until we got the guns. That's when the three firing batteries went in different directions. I was assigned as an FO with the Korean Infantry on many occasions, and the guns of C Battery supported us. We saw a lot of action, particularly in the Hill 70 area near Quin Nhon. The hill towered over the rice fields for miles, and gave us great observation. We stayed with the Korean infantry for over a month, saw action every night, and one of Charley Battery's guns was up every night with a ready crew. The Koreans were very impressed with our response time, usually less than three minutes after the fire mission was sent by me.

The Koreans felt that they had to acknowledge the support we had provided, and thus it was that shortly after the mission ended, I was told to report back to Charley and then to Battalion HQ. I was told that the Tiger Division wanted to see me - I had no idea what was going on. I was picked up by chopper, flown back to the battery to clean up, put on clean (but wrinkled!) fatigues, and rushed back to the Division HQ. I was to report to the Korean CG in 30 minutes! The general gave me a letter of appreciation written in both Korean and English, expressing their appreciation for support of the 30th, as well as a Tiger Division patch. Then the general and I marched to their parade field and the entire Division passed in review with their band playing. What more could I say? The Tiger Division was impressed with me and with the 30th Field Artillery Battalion, and showed us much respect.

Joe has related in more detail some of his experiences which undoubtedly contributed to the gratitude shown by the Korean military. There should be room in future newsletters for more of his comments. The Koreans continued to provide security, intelligence information, and even such things as theater group shows, volley ball opponents (and beer!) to the Battalion, at least during the remainder of that first year in Vietnam.



Three Howitzers to be Renamed

This message was received recently from LTC Jelly:

“We are in the process of re-naming three of our howitzers. MAJ Schultz, the B Battery commander, has a great idea. We would like the past Hard Chargers to come up with 3 historical howitzer names that they would like to see put on the guns. We will then re-name and stencil the howitzer tubes out at the shoot during the reunion - small ceremony! Think it is a great way to show our appreciation for all those Hard Chargers that came before us.”

If you have a suggestion, please let Dan Gillotti or me know ASAP, so that we can add your recommendation to the mix. Time is short!

The Editor

use or copy this form to pay your dues

For those members who enroll as active members on a yearly basis, please complete this form and send it in with check as indicated. You can also take this opportunity to enroll as a lifetime member and end the annoyance of having to do this every year!

First name _____ MI _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ W/M _____ Email _____

\$15.00 check enclosed for 2016 dues ()

or \$99.00 check enclosed for lifetime membership ()

Contribution (\$) enclosed to assist with Association expenses

Mail form and check to: Jim Harris, 30th FAR Association Membership
212 Brittain Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

30th Field Artillery Regiment's 23rd Annual Reunion

7 to 10 June, 2016

Registration Form
Comfort Suites, 201 SE Interstate Drive
Lawton, OK 73501

Name(s) _____

_____ () [Please name all attending and total]

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Tel# _____ Email address if applicable _____

I will contact Comfort Suites at 1 580 248 2200 before 4 May, 2016 to make my room reservations and will identify myself as part of the 30th FAR Association Reunion. The standard room rate is \$63 per night (upgrades to larger suites are available) and the room rate includes a complementary hot breakfast.

I am enclosing a check to cover the following expenses:

Registration Fee \$20 per family (not required if only attending the banquet)	_____
Payment for lunch at Snow Hall (\$10.00) X attendees	_____
Plan to go on Chisholm Trail Outing (no charge), and number going ()yes ()no	_____
Deposit on Chisholm Trail outing lunch charge, \$5.00 per person	_____
Annual Banquet \$25 per person, (\$13 for those under twelve)	_____
Voluntary contribution to aid a less fortunate Hard Charger	_____
TOTAL Enclosed	_____

Make your checks payable to the "30th FAR Association" and mail the form with your payment to our Treasurer:

Jim Harris
212 Brittain Court
Brentwood, TN 37027

*30th Field Artillery Regiment Association Reunion
Lawton/Fort Sill, OK 7 to 10 June, 2016*

Comfort Suites

1 580 248 2200

Our reunion home during the 23rd gathering will be the Comfort Suites in Lawton, located off I-44 exit 37 at 201 SE Interstate Drive. The amenities for this all-suite hotel include free WI-FI, a week day newspaper, complementary breakfast, a gym and an indoor pool. The standard room rate is \$63 per night (larger suites are available at extra charge). To get the reunion rate, call the hotel and be sure to identify yourself as attending the 30th FAR Association reunion. The hospitality suite will be in the hotel.

Tuesday, 7 June

Welcome and sign in at the hotel. Meet and greet folks you probably haven't seen for a while. Enjoy a cold one and visit the QM display - purchase a new shirt or cap and make yourself look suave and debonair. Enjoy a walk down memory lane through the pages of the unit histories, compiled and maintained by Dan Gillotti.

Wednesday, 8 June

The General Membership meeting will begin at 0930 hours on post. Election of new board members is a key part of the agenda, but we do have the selection of sites for 2017 and 2018 already in hand, so that will not be an issue. The Memorial Service for our Fallen will follow, and a distribution of the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration pin will complete the day's formal activities. Lunch will be served in the Regimental Room.

Thursday, 9 June

On Thursday we will depart by van to Duncan, OK, to visit the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. Lunch will be enjoyed at the restaurant in the Center, where you may order from the menu. There is no charge for visiting the center, but you will have to pay for lunch. After our return to Lawton, all attendees are invited to the Janosko's for a pool party, beginning at 1800 hours at their home. Transportation plans will be announced later, if applicable.

Friday, 10 June

The morning will feature the bi-annual change of command ceremony, hopefully with better weather conditions than the last one! The afternoon is yours to enjoy prior to the Annual Dinner and World Famous Auction at the Patriot Club on post. Please see the changed situation with respect to post entry on the following page.

Fort Sill Visitor Access

The following valuable information comes from Jon Fizzell

In compliance with the new installation access controls, every person entering Fort Sill must have a valid military or Federal Civil Service ID card or a pass. Every person not in possession of a valid ID card must fill in FS form 118a (however, this is not the pass) and be cleared for access. If a person shows up without a pass, he/she will be directed to the visitor control center (VCC) on Sheridan Road. The VCC then performs a short background check. By submitting your form, you agree to a background check which uses the National Crime Information Center interstate identification index, an FBI database that includes criminal histories from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the VCC is crowded with families arriving for graduations and the wait time increases a lot. In order to expedite the process, those of you coming to the reunion who do not have the needed ID may send me a completed form, and I will take it to the VCC ahead of time. The personnel affected must still stop at the VCC to get their pass but the process will be much faster. Time will be reduced from 30-45 minutes to about 10. I will need the forms at least two weeks in advance of your arrival in Lawton. Remember, this is not "one per carload." Every person must have an individual pass or an ID card. A VA ID card is not sufficient.

My mailing address follows. There is much personal information requested on the form, so if you are not comfortable with me having it, don't send it, but even preparing it in advance of your arrival will save a little bit of time.

Mr. Jon Fizzell
Reunion Documents
9806 SE Coombs
Lawton, OK 73501

Editor's note: For you who get the newsletter by email, obtaining the form is very easy. Simply enter "FS form 118a" on your search line and it will pop right up - first item. But you cannot send an electronic copy to Jon. He has to have your signed original to take to the VCC. if you have questions, Jon can be reached at 580 442 5102.

If you get only the hard copy newsletter and are planning to attend the reunion, and have no access to email, call me at 970 685 9377 (my cell) and I will mail you a copy of the form.

YOUR QUARTERMASTER'S TWO BITS

With our reunion 2016 just around the corner, I want to ask everyone who can to join us there. While as all have already seen, there are a lot of activities on Fort Sill, much of our time for the first time will be in Lawton. Come and join us and see the old become new! And since I understand that many of you only come to the reunions because of the free reunion pins - "Yes, Virginia" - there is a new pin this time for 2016! So, see you there!

PINK SHIRTS

There will be a new Hard Charger pink shirt available at this year's reunion. The color will be a darker pink than the normal baby pink. Those shopping at the reunion will get the first opportunity to buy the shirt. We will get them posted in the On Line store after the reunion. The selling price has not been decided yet, but I do see the price being \$20 or less. Price will depend on the final cost.

HOODIES

Your Quartermaster asked at the 2007 Reunion in Colorado Springs what all would like to see added to the store's inventory. The number one answer was hoodies. There have been several attempts to supply a Hard Charger hoodie for all. The main problem with a hoodie is the space required to transport them. Well, I believe the problem has been solved. I will have everything ironed out by the time of this year's reunion. I plan to have that information available in Lawton. I will also post that same information in the post-reunion newsletter. I am planning as of this time to have a hoodie at the reunion for all to see. There may even be one up for bids at the Hard Charger auction...

AFTER THIS YEAR

Talking about reunions, remember that we will raise our banner in upper New York State next year, and in 2018 be back at Lawton and Fort Sill. At that reunion we will be celebrating the Regiment's 100th Birthday. There is already work being done for 2018 and that noteworthy event. Sorry - no "Adventures of Comma in Italy" in this newsletter, but I will share with all what one of my big regrets was from my time there next time.

Well, that's my two bits and as always, worth everything you paid for them!

Charles "Comma" Causey - OUT!

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Loveland, CO 80537

Next Issue - July 2016

Deadline for submissions - 30 June

jdynes5@comcast.net or address above

