



# THE POWDER BAG

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery

Volume 19 Issue 1

[www.112FA.org](http://www.112FA.org)

January-February, 2017



"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation"

*George Washington*

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Commander:	Ed McCarty
Executive Officer:	Richard Tomasso
Adjutant:	Sydney Silverman
Finance Officer:	Marc Kantor
Logistics Officer:	Ed McCarty

## THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

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Publication Staff: Ed McCarty, Marc Kantor



## **COMMANDERS COMMENTS**

**Ed McCarty, Commander-CLA**

The Camden Light Artillery Association had a great 2016 with much progress and 2017 looks good for the repairs on the Armory with the work already in progress. We are looking forward to many additional successes this year.

Thanks for your patience during the Armory renovations. We held our January meeting, but after visiting the Armory during the week prior to the February meeting, it was obvious that the air quality was very poor. We cannot use the facilities as long as this condition persists, however, we do not expect that this will last long and we will continue to monitor the suitability for occupying the building. Spring will be here before we know it (since Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow) and we can start getting out to the range again, schedule to follow shortly. Hope everyone has a great holiday season with your families, looking forward to spring and club activities. See you next for the March meeting.

## **SUMMARY OF THE 7 DECEMBER 2016 MEETING**

**Sydney Silverman, Adjutant**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of The Camden Light Artillery was held on 7 December 2016 at 1815 hours and called to order by the Executive Officer. The pledge of allegiance was said by the XO and a moment of silence was observed for the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the resultant loss of life and injuries.

### **ATTENDEES**

Roll call of officers all present except for Logistics because this position remains vacant at this time.

### **SICK CALL**

The CO was not present because he was attending to his wife who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Condolences were extended to **Janine Stanton (Silverman)**.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the November 2016 meeting were accepted as reported and they were unanimously approved.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Available from the financial officer.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**15 Wreaths Across America** were donated in the name of CLAA through the efforts of **1SGT Ed Powell and Mrs. Powell**.

Vietnam Commemorative metals were presented to Ken Rought for himself and posthumously to his father. They both served in country at the same time. His wife Marge witnessed the presentation. Ken served in country 10/66 to 9/67 and from 11/67 to 6/68 and from 3/69 to 9/69 with ASA.

Brian Strecker and Marc Kantor attended The Annual St. Barbara Dinner hosted by 3-112FA in Morristown, NJ.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None to report.

#### STAFF REPORTS

None to report.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

The meeting was adjourned at 1820 hours after which a Holiday Dinner was served. Good home cooking and great comradeship.

### SUMMARY OF THE 4 JANUARY MEETING

Sydney Silverman, Adjutant

#### CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of The Camden Light Artillery was held on 4 January 2017 at 1910 hours and called to order by the Executive Officer. The pledge of allegiance and the invocation was led by our commanding officer.

#### ATTENDEES

Roll call of officers all present except for Logistics because this position remains vacant at this time.

#### SICK CALL

Bob Constantine's wife, Pat Constantine, is recovering.

Bill Baker has recurrence of his cancer.

Rich Zacamy is on the mend with a good prognosis.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the December 2016 meeting were accepted as reported and they were unanimously approved.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Available from the financial officer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The following individual names were proposed in nomination

XO- Ed Powell

Finance- Marc Kantor

Logistics- Richard Tomasso

There were no nominations from the floor.

Warren Strumpfer said that the sign in sheet is important so that the nominating committee can see who are regular attendees. We should try to get new people and more people involved with the nomination committee.

A new column is now on our website. Personal Stories and Memories and pictures.

Hard copies of the finance report and the powder bag are available at the head table and also on our website: [www.112.FA.org](http://www.112.FA.org).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The holiday meal was very good with a minimal amount of waste. Thank you to the Ladies of the CLAA.

The work on the Armory is going forward. All windows over the drill floor will be covered over except those at the east end.

When our lease is up this spring we will have to see where CLAA will meet because we could loose our meeting room. If we get the club room back, it could become our meeting room and museum. Warren Strumpfer reminded us that we only pay a small rental fee so that there is no guarantee we can keep our meeting room.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

None to report.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

There is a Go Fund Me page for Austin Freni of Atco, NJ, the young soldier assaulted on New Years Day in Philadelphia. Warren Stumpfer made a motion to make a donation to Austin. This was seconded and passed.

Ed Powell mentioned that we could think about, over the next month or two, about adopting a service group or person to donate to. Bob Constantine mentioned The American Legion or Paralyzed Vets. The Fisher House at Walter Reed was also mentioned as well as the USO. Our finance officer called to our attention that we are a small group with limited resources. He pointed out that a charitable organization spending less than 90% of its collection on their charity are to be avoided. A committee of Richard Tomasso, Frank Brown, and Tom Monaghan will work on this.

Ed Powell mentioned that his nephew with 1st Armor will be deployed to Afghanistan. Cards and care packages would be a nice thing----especially at holiday time.

Meeting adjourned at 2020 hours followed by a 50/50 and door prize drawing. Refreshments were then served.

### **2017 ANNUAL DINING OUT AND ARTILLERY REUNION**

Our 2017 Dining Out will take place at Tavistock Country Club on

**SATURDAY, 3 JUNE 2017**

### **SOMETHING TO PONDER**

"You can avoid reality, but you cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality."

Ayn Rand (1905-1982)

### **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN QUOTE**

Al DeMasi, Franklin Historian

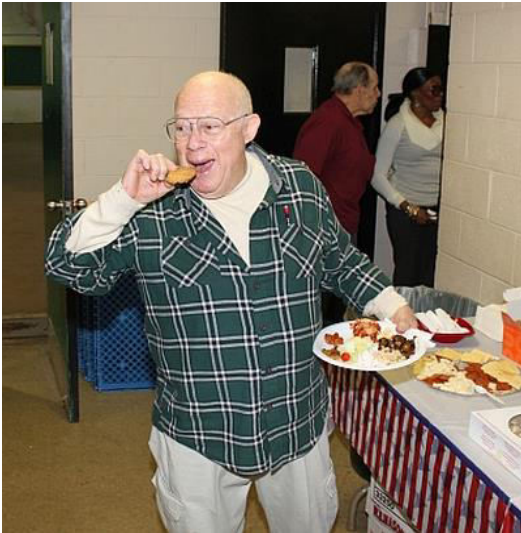


"Good wives and good plantations are made by good husbands."



Flag of the Field Artillery School, FT SILL, OK

**2016 COVERED DISH-CHRISTMAS DINNER**





## **112FA PHYSICAL FITNESS**

**Brian Strecker, Chairman**

### **BALANCE: HEEL-TO-TOW WALK**



**Tip: If you are unsteady on your feet, try doing this exercise near a wall so you can steady yourself if you need to.**

**Having good balance is important for many everyday activities, such as going up and down stairs.**

- 1. Position the heel of one foot just in front of the toes of the other foot. Your heel and toes should touch or almost touch.**
- 2. Choose a spot ahead of you and focus on it to keep you steady as you walk.**
- 3. Take a step. Put your heel just in front of the toe of your other foot.**
- 4. Repeat for 20 steps.**

## **112FA SPORTS CLUB**

**Ed McCarty, Chairman**

**The 112FA Sports Club meets at Range 14 (<http://shootnj.com/ftdixdirect.html>) at Ft Dix, NJ throughout the year. Outings and events will be posted on the web site and sent to the membership via email. The 112FA Sports Club held their meets at Range14 at Ft Dix, NJ on Saturday, 27 August 2016 and 24 September and Wednesday, 16 November. Watch your emails and the web site for additional Outings.**

## **GUN SHOW**

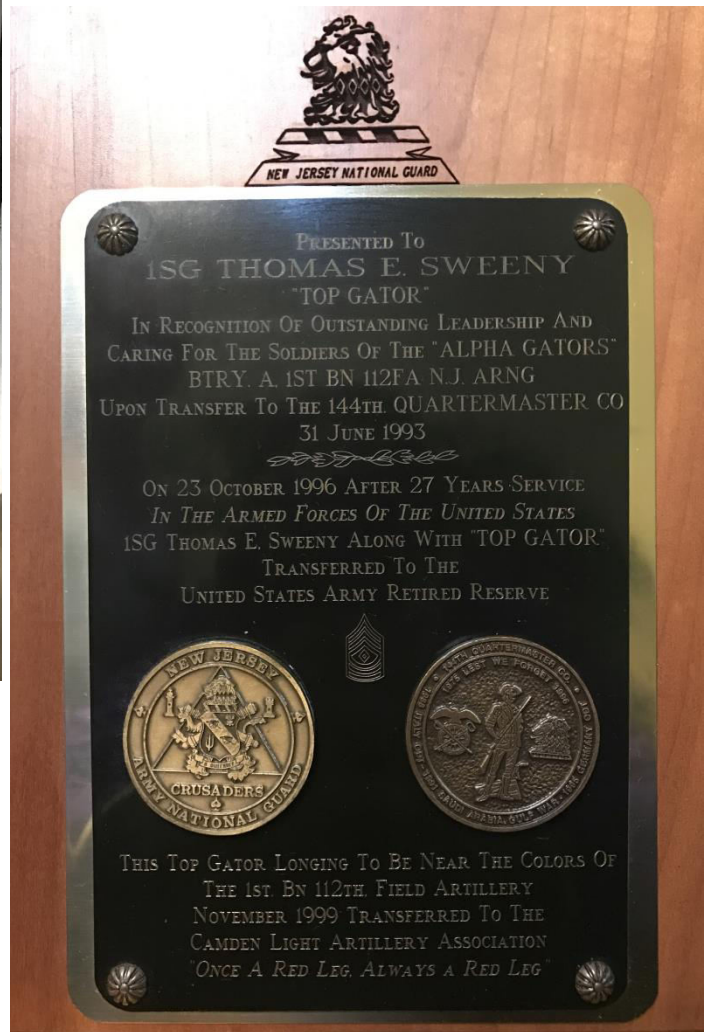
**10-12 February 2017 Oaks, PA contact Greater PHL Oaks Expo Center 610-393-3047**



\*\*\*\* *NEW COLUMN* \*\*\*\*

PERSONAL STORIES AND MEMORIES

SFC(Ret) Jose Fuentes and friend



## **WHY WE MISS RODNEY DANGERFIELD**

Marriage...it's not a word, it's a sentence.

I went to Gamblers Anonymous, they gave me 2 to 1 odds I wouldn't make it.

I was at a restaurant the other night. I asked for the check and got the check from the table next me. I leaned over and said, "Hey, buddy, I got your check". He said, "Thanks"

You know the worst part of being a proctologist? You start at the bottom and you stay there.

What a dog I got. Last night he went on the paper 4 times - 3 while I was reading it.

What a dog I got. I tried to mate her - she wants 50 biscuits.

What a dog I got, he found out we look alike, so he killed himself.

What a dog I got. His favorite bone is in my arm!

With my dog I don't get no respect. He keeps barking at the front door. He don't want to go out. He wants me to leave.

## **JUST SOME OF REASONS WE MISS RODNEY DANGERFIELD** **MORE NEXT MONTH**





**Army Chief of Staff General Mark A. Milley**  
(Credit: U.S. Army)

**Rick Maze, Editor-in-Chief**  
**AUSA Weekly Bulletin**  
**Tuesday, December 13, 2016**

The 39th Army chief of staff is plainspoken as he describes the Army’s dilemma when the service looks to the future. “Every assumption we hold, every claim, every assertion, every single one of them must be challenged,” said Gen. Mark A. Milley, a graduate of Princeton University, Columbia University and the Center for International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—only the second Army chief of staff to have an Ivy League education.

He is not talking about tinkering around the edges, as “change” often means for a 241-year-old institution that is older than the nation it protects. “The structure and organization of our Army, both operational and institutional, may change drastically,” he warned in a far-reaching speech at October’s Annual Meeting and Exposition of the Association of the U.S. Army. “We must be open-minded to that change. We may not have divisions or corps, tanks or Bradleys. We don’t know.” Sitting at the edge of the unknown isn’t an easy place, but Milley said soldiers need to embrace change without necessarily knowing where it leads. The Army, he said, must “recognize that the future is not really knowable in any kind of detail. And frankly, we are not going to get it right.”

#### **On Cusp of Fundamental Change**

But Milley is convinced that war, especially ground war, is “on the cusp of fundamental change.” The character of war—how and where it is fought and with what weapons and tactics—is undergoing “fundamental, profound and significant change.” Wars of the future will be “very highly lethal, unlike anything our Army has experienced since World War II,” Milley said. It will be hard for formations to hide on battlefields flooded with sensors, meaning survival could depend on having fast-moving, smaller forces. “If you stay in one place for longer than two or three hours, you will be dead,” Milley said. “That obviously places demands on human endurance and on equipment.” Wars are more likely to be fought in dense urban areas with more robotic weapons and with a large civilian population in the middle of the fighting, a situation that makes the enemy

elusive and combines conventional warfare with terrorism and guerilla activities. This requires “significant change in our current methods of thinking, training and fighting,” Milley said. “Army operations in complex and densely populated urban terrain are the toughest and bloodiest form of combat, and it will become the norm, not the exception, in the future,” he warned.

### Life Will Be ‘Extremely Austere’

Wars in the future are unlikely to include the comfort and stability of operating out of well-equipped bases, Milley said. “Life will almost certainly be extremely austere,” he said. “Learning to be comfortable without being seriously miserable every single minute of every day will have to become a way of life for an Army on the battlefield that I see coming.” Milley was talking about fairly rapid change for a 241-year-old institution he describes as adapting through evolution rather than revolution. Land armies will undergo fundamental changes between 2025 and 2050, he predicted. Adjusting to the future envisioned by Milley is complicated by ongoing missions and constrained resources. “We find ourselves in a difficult place. Our readiness to fight a war against a high-end, near-peer adversary has eroded in the last 15 years as we have fought, and continue to fight, terrorists and guerillas in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere,” Milley said. “We mortgaged our future. We mortgaged our future readiness and our modernization in order to adapt and sustain the fights in Afghanistan and Iraq.” The Army, he said, is “facing tough strategic choices, and we are being increasingly challenged with very capable potential adversaries clearly acting in opposition of our interests.” However, those potential adversaries should not believe the U.S. Army is weak. “Despite everything we’ve been doing, we will stop you. We will beat you harder than you have ever been beaten before. Make no mistake about that,” Milley said. “Many enemies have grossly underestimated the United States and its people in the past.”

### Fanning’s Similar Message

Army Secretary Eric Fanning has had a similar message. “I would never say broken, I would never say hollow because it is a very strong, lethal Army,” he said at an October appearance at the Center for a New American Security in Washington, D.C. “It is tired. We’re running it hard,” Fanning said. “We’ve been running it hard for a long time now, and there’s no end in sight to that [operational] tempo that has been tough on the Army, and it’s been at the expense, in some ways, of the future.” Part of the challenge is that while the U.S. has concentrated on counterterrorism and counterinsurgency, other nations “went to school on us,” Milley said. “They closely watched how we fought in ’91 and ’03. They studied our doctrine, our tactics, our equipment, our organization, our training and our leadership. In turn, they revised their own doctrines, and they are rapidly modernizing their militaries today to avoid our strengths in hopes of defeating us at some point in the future.” Fanning said the U.S. military faces a tougher challenge than adversaries. “We want victory in a decisive way,” he said. “Our adversaries just have to jam us or prevent something from happening.”

### Readiness Gains

Progress is being made on readiness, which remains Milley's top priority. "Our readiness is steadily improving across the entire formation of the United States Army, but our progress is slow," he said. "It is going to take consistent, predictable funding and much more time and effort to reach the levels we need."

#### He listed four specific improvements:

- More brigade combat teams are completing "high-end, full-spectrum" combat training center rotations. Two rotations have been National Guard brigades, and that will double in 2017. "These additional rotations are improving readiness throughout the Army but also improving our future readiness."
- Efforts are underway to increase the number of annual training days for National Guard units "so they will be able to more rapidly deploy," he said.
- Live-fire programs at training centers and home stations have expanded.
- The Army has "re-energized our forcible-entry airborne and air assault capabilities and renewed our rapid deployment capabilities with increased emergency deployment readiness exercises" to both U.S. and overseas locations.

### Money Remains a Problem

More money would be great, but predictable funding is crucial, Milley said. "Our progress is slow, and it is going to take consistent, predictable funding and much more time and effort to reach the levels we need." Fanning also defended Army spending in a speech at the October AUSA meeting. "Do we need to spend as much as the next nine nations combined? The answer is yes," Fanning said. "While other nations have to defend a small corner of the world, our commitments are global. While other nations simply have to deny, we have to project. While others have to jam, we have to penetrate. While they have to disrupt, we have to dominate."

### Weapons Woes

Overhauling the weapons-buying process is a way of improving readiness, Milley said. "We can do better," he said. "We cannot afford acquisition failures. We cannot afford systems that are late to need, and we must not send tomorrow's soldiers into harm's way with yesterday's equipment. "This is a top priority for us," Milley said. "We must do better. We can do better. We must exploit science and technology to create options for the very challenging future battlefield, and have an acquisition system that's up to the task, an acquisition system that can deliver on time and on budget." In the short term, the Army needs to focus on incremental improvements in critical existing systems that have a "high operational return," Milley said. New systems will be built "only by exception." Critical capabilities include lethality, protection, integrated air and missile defense, ground and rotary-wing mobility, and improvement to the Mission Command network, he said. Cyber capabilities, both offensive and defense, also will receive focus. Fanning agreed with the scope of the problem. "We have cut the procurement budget pretty dramatically over the last 10, 15 years," something that helps now but hurts down the road. "I worry about making sure

that the future Army has what it needs to get done whatever it's asked to do," Fanning said. There are capabilities the Army will need so it can operate in urban battles. Improvements in intelligence and reconnaissance systems are important to identify targets in a confusing urban setting, and forces will need to be able to operate independently for long periods and will need long-range precision weapons, he said. The Army will have to harden its electronic systems to defend against cyber and electronic warfare attacks, and be prepared to do without them. "We might actually have to read a paper map again," Milley said. "The ability of units to produce or purify their own water and locally manufacture their own spare parts with 3-D printing may become a necessity," he said. Supply lines may need to largely consist of autonomous systems, such as robots and remotely controlled convoys, to reduce the risk to soldiers. Soldiers also will need to be more independent and imaginative, he said. That means being able to selectively disobey orders under circumstances when they are not in communication with superiors. Milley is confident soldiers can do it. "We come from a society of improvisers, a society of tinkerers, innovators, problem-solvers, techno-savvy at an early age," he said. "Independence of action comes naturally to all Americans."

### **THE U.S. MILITARY IS A PALE SHADOW OF ITS FORMER SELF**

**Dr. Dan Goure**

**The Lexington Institute**

**EANGUS Minuteman Update**

**1 December 2016**

Once upon a time, the U.S. had a large military that was technologically superior to its adversaries in many, even most, areas. Today, the U.S. military is a pale shadow of its former self.

In 2016, the active component of the U.S. Army of 479,000 soldiers shrank to the smallest it has been since before World War II, when it had some 269,000. The number of Army combat brigades is scheduled to decline to 30 by 2018, one third fewer than there were just in 2013. The U.S. Navy, with 273 ships, is about the same size as it was prior to America's entry into World War I. At approximately 5,000 total aircraft, the U.S. Air Force is both the smallest and oldest it has been since its inception in 1947. The number of active duty squadrons in the Air Force is slated to decline to 39, less than half of the 70 that were available during Operation Desert Storm. Army, Navy and Air Force end strengths are each about 40 percent smaller than they were at the end of the Cold War. This is one of the main reasons why the Pentagon had to rely on more than a hundred thousand private contractors to provide the necessary logistics, sustainment and communications for its deployed forces when it went to war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the height of the Cold War, the U.S. maintained a two-and-a-half-war strategy: major, simultaneous wars against the Soviet Union and China plus another nation. The Nixon Administration changed the sizing criteria to one-and-a-half-wars: a major war with the Soviet Union plus a second, possibly related, conflict in the Persian Gulf or on the Korean peninsula.

**Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the political system concluded that war between major powers was virtually impossible.**

**The sizing construct for the U.S. military changed in the early 1990s to two near-simultaneous Major Regional Contingencies (MRC), reflecting the belief that the likeliest threats came from regional actors such as North Korea, Iraq and Iran. It was assumed that each MRC would require approximately the quantity of forces deployed for the then-recently-concluded Persian Gulf War. Thus, a two-MRC U.S. force would consist of 10 Army divisions, two or three division-sized Marine Expeditionary Forces, 11 aircraft carriers, 120 large surface combatants, 38 large amphibious warfare ships, 200 strategic bombers, 60 tactical fighter wings, 400–500 tankers, 250 airlifters and some 75 maritime support ships.**

**In truth, the U.S. military never had sufficient capacity to conduct two near-simultaneous MRCs. The dirty little secret among Pentagon planners is that the conflicts would have to be sequenced, possibly by six months or more, in order to allow critical assets to be redeployed from the first to the second contingency. Even the fight against Islamic terrorism strained the military's capacity in some ways. The Army had to add nearly 75,000 active duty personnel and mobilize a large fraction of the National Guard just to handle the ongoing demands of Iraq, Afghanistan and its other worldwide commitments. A special acquisition program, directed by then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, had to be undertaken to acquire sufficient drones and *Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP)* vehicles.**

**Since the end of the Cold War, reductions in the size of the military and its combat capacity was justified, first, on the basis of the diminution of the threat and, second, by reference to our technological edge over prospective adversaries and the resulting improved combat capability of the new systems that were being deployed. Neither of these arguments any longer holds true. The demand for U.S. military forces continues to grow even as their overall capacity declines. The civilian and military leadership of the Department of Defense have publicly declared that the U.S. now faces five strategic threats: Russia, China, North Korea, Iran and global Islamic terrorism. Conflict with either of the first two would constitute a major war, not a regional contingency. U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General David Goldfein testified before Congress that his service only had enough combat ready forces for one MRC and even that would require denuding all other theaters. Moreover, the U.S. military has just about run out the string on its vaunted technological superiority. We have been repeatedly warned by senior Pentagon and Intelligence Community officials that the U.S. military is losing its technological edge. Both Russia and China have invested heavily in so-called anti-access and area denial capabilities (A2/AD) that are designed to counter erstwhile U.S. advantages, particularly in air and naval power. Russia is deploying its A2/AD capabilities in ways that could preclude U.S. and NATO military operations in the Baltic, Black and eastern Mediterranean Seas. These two countries are also developing advanced power projection forces and forward bases that could deny the U.S. the ability to operate in the eastern Pacific and the Arctic. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter found the loss of U.S. technological**

superiority so threatening that he had to formulate a new investment strategy, the so-called Third Offset, specifically designed to re-establish our advantage in military capabilities.

Even regional adversaries and terrorist organizations are deploying advanced military capabilities. North Korea, a nuclear weapons state, has already deployed over a thousand ballistic missiles -- three hundred of which have the range to strike Japan and U.S. bases in the Western Pacific. Iran has ballistic missiles that can reach most of the Middle East. Tehran just received its first Russian S-300 air defense system. Hezbollah, the Shiite terrorist group, is reported to have an arsenal with tens of thousands of rockets and ballistic missiles. ISIS has employed Russian-made anti-tank guided missiles capable of destroying U.S.-made M-1 tanks operated by the Iraqi Army.

This is why many in the military shiver in their boots when they consider going up against a serious A2/AD threat. It has become such a problem that the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John M. Richardson, has banned the use of the term A2/AD because, in his words, it implies “that any military force that enters the red area faces certain defeat - it’s a ‘no-go’ zone!” Yes, the U.S. military can penetrate current A2/AD defenses, but at what price? Let’s remember that the Air Force only has 186 F-22s, the plane that was designed to penetrate advanced air defenses, and there are no more where those came from.

The U.S. Army faces similar difficulties. As the commander of all U.S. Army forces in Europe, Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, recently declared his job is to make 30,000 soldiers look like 300,000. Currently, the Army and its NATO allies lack enough forces in Europe to oppose a determined Russian offensive. In addition, neither the U.S. nor its allies have real answers to the kind of capabilities in electronic warfare, cyber offense, high volume, long range fires and tactical air defense that Russia has demonstrated in its operations in Ukraine.

The reality is that the U.S. military today is too small, with too few technological advantages and facing too many threats. There is now a very real possibility that in a future conflict, even one with a regional adversary, U.S. forces could suffer such high casualties that, regardless of the outcome, this country will lack the capabilities needed to deal with any other major contingency. During the 1972 Linebacker II bombing raids against North Vietnam, the Air Force lost some 20 B-52s. Back then, this was a small fraction of the overall fleet. Today that would be more than 10 percent; the bomber force would literally be decimated. A force that is too small to fail is one that the U.S. increasingly could be reluctant to send in harm’s way save when national survival is at risk.

*Dr. Dan Goure is a Vice President of the Lexington Institute. He served in the Pentagon during the George H.W. Administration and has taught at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown Universities and the National War College.*



**THERE IS GOOD NEWS FOR THE NEARLY 500,000 VETERANS  
LIVING IN NEW JERSEY**

(edited, author unknown)

As an honorably discharged veteran was asked a simple question, “What is the meaning of the \$3000.00 tax exemption for veterans, that is associated with, and a provision of, the recently passed legislation for the new gasoline tax increase (transportation funding)?”

To try and get some clarification, and get a consensus of opinion, concerning the veteran’s tax exemption, a dozen N.J. state legislators were contacted either by phone or e-mail. Only four replies by e-mail from the following state representatives: Deputy Speaker, Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski (D) District 19, Assemblyman Troy Singleton (D) District 7, Assemblyman Robert J. Karabinchik (D) District 18, and Raymond H. Woods Legislative Aide, Staff Services General Assembly. Those that did answer the question generally agreed that an honorably discharged veteran can take the \$3000.00 as a personal deduction against their tax year 2017 and continue every year thereafter. Then the next question would be, does this special exemption apply to all veterans within the state?

Raymond H. Woods, Legislative Aide, Legislative Office of Assembly Majority Leader Louis D. Greenwald (D) and Deputy Speaker, Assemblywomen Pamela R. Lampitt (D), answered the question by stating, the \$3000.00 tax exemption would apply to any New Jersey taxpayer who is “a veteran honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, a reserve component thereof, or the National Guard of New Jersey in a federal status.” Mr. Woods further mentioned that this designation of a veteran is based upon the definition as defined under New Jersey statute N.J.S.A 38A. As used in Chapter 3, Title 38A of the New Jersey Statute: (b) “veteran” means any person who has served in any branch of the armed forces of the United States for at least 90 days.

Mr. Ray Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Dept. Of Military and Veterans Affairs, in response to my inquiry also agreed with Mr. Woods explanation, “ As far as I can tell, the law ( the \$3000.00 tax exemption) is open to all veterans who have had an honorable separation and a DD214 as proof of active duty.” Mr. Zawacki further explained, “the restrictions that apply to Civil Service Preference do not apply here.”

This is certainly very good news for every taxpaying veteran living in New Jersey, regardless of when or where they served. Among the other provisions of the gas tax increase law, and to offset the cost of increased gas tax, there will be a slightly reduced sales tax from 7% to 6.875%, the earned income tax credit for low income workers will get increased by 5%, and the amount of money excluded on retirement income to be taxed will be increased, plus taxes on transfers of estates will be eliminated by 2018.

## **RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

<http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/new-jersey-state-veterans-benefits.html>

The online information contained at this site can be very important to the membership. Please visit the link above and review your options. You may wish to subscribe to the "military.com" web site. It always has interesting and current information on the country and all branches of the military.

## **TRICARE**

TRICARE is adding new services and screenings. Effective Jan.1, 2017, TRICARE will cover annual preventive office visits for all Prime beneficiaries 6 years of age and older. TRICARE Standard beneficiaries can receive preventive services with no cost-share or copayment through disease prevention examinations. Also, the annual well-woman exam will continue to be covered for all Prime and Standard beneficiaries under age 65 with no cost-share or copayment. If you have recently received any of these services, please be sure to save your receipts and file a claim. The regional contractors will be ready to process claims for the new preventive benefits on Nov. 14, 2016. (<http://www.tricare.mil/Resources/Claims>)

## **TRICARE FOR LIFE**

TRICARE For Life (TFL) is a Medicare wraparound coverage for TRICARE beneficiaries who have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B, regardless of age or place of residence. With TFL, you have the freedom to seek care from any Medicare-participating or nonparticipating provider, or at a military hospital or clinic on a space-available basis. Enrollment is not required, but you must pay Medicare Part B premiums.

TFL is available worldwide, in the U.S. and its territories TFL pays after Medicare, in all other OCONUS areas TFL is the first payer. (<http://www.tricare.mil/tfl>)

## **TRICARE FOR LIFE PHARMACY**

A military pharmacy is the least expensive option for filling prescriptions. At a military pharmacy, you may receive up to a 90-day supply of most medications at no cost. Most military pharmacies accept prescriptions written by both civilian and military providers. Non-formulary medications generally are not available at military pharmacies. To check the availability of a particular drug, contact the nearest military pharmacy in person or by phone.



## **HOW TO REQUEST A COPY OF YOUR DD214 or NGB22**

The process starts at the National Archives website:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Simply follow the directions found on the website for online application or click on the SF 180, complete the 'fillable' Adobe version, sign the document and mail to the appropriate location.  
(suggested by Frank Brown)

## **HOW TO REQUEST NJ RIBBONS AND AWARDS**

<http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/>

NJ Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs  
ATTN: DVS-VBB(Medals)  
PO Box 340  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

**For additional information contact:**

Telephone: (609) 530-6868/7035

Fax: (609) 530-6970 State of New Jersey



## **NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERAN'S MEMORIAL**

**1 Memorial Lane  
Holmdel, NJ 07733  
(<http://www.njvvmf.org/>)**



The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center are located within sight of each other near the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ. The Memorial brings to New Jersey a fitting acknowledgment of the valor displayed by the New Jersey residents who never returned from Southeast Asia. It commemorates the courage shown by all who served in America's armed forces during the years of the Vietnam conflict. Its companion project, the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center, provides a means to present factual and unbiased information about the era. Using exhibits, audio/visual presentations, structured programs and guest speakers, visitors are provided with a forum for ongoing discussion and an opportunity to gain a better understanding of America's most divisive period since the Civil War. Supplemental programs, such as veterans' biographies, are intended to recognize and document the contributions made by New Jersey's veterans so that their service to our nation will be preserved for future generations.





### **3-112FA MORRISTOWN, NJ**

**LTC Brian J Stramaglia  
Commanding Officer**



### **From the desk of the BN CO**

The next five months are shaping up to be busy for 3-112 FAR. The 50th IBCT is going to Fort Pickett, VA in May-June for an Exportable Combat Training Center (XCTC) rotation, so this spring will be heavy on training days. The Battalion has a MUTA 9 in February, and a MUTA 8 in March, as we work toward completing section certification, section qualification, platoon occupations, and platoon training. April will be dedicated to rail loading the vehicles for shipment for Fort Pickett.

The Battalion put together a fantastic 2016 Saint Barbara's Dining-in this past December. We were privileged to have some members of the Camden Light Artillery 1-112FA with us as we inducted two new members into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara (CPT Jeffrey Strallow, HHB Commander and CPT Jessie Barnes, C BTRY Commander).



**RRNCO**  
**NJARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion**

**SSG Joseph A Cavanagh**

**609-519-6449**

**[www.njarmyguard.com](http://www.njarmyguard.com)**



**"Explore your path to honor and become a Citizen-Soldier"**



**SGM Dywer - Operations SGM RRB**

**CSM Garcia - BN CSM RRB**

**SSG Joseph Cavanagh - CH RRNCO**

**SSG Cavanagh receives the CSM and SGM coins during a quarterly meeting for being one of the top Recruiting and Retention Battalion (RRB) recruiters in the 1st Quarter of FY17**



**328 MP COMPANY, CHERRY HILL, NJ**  
**1LT Domenico Lazzaro**  
**Commanding Officer**



**Active Shooter training with the Camden County Police Department**



## **2017 Monthly Meeting Dates**

All Meetings are at the  
**Cherry Hill Armory**  
**2001 Park Boulevard**  
**Cherry Hill, NJ**  
**7:00pm**

**Wednesday, 1 March 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 5 April 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 3 May 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 7 June 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**No July Meeting**

**Wednesday, 2 August 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 6 September 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 4 October 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 1 November 2017 Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, 6 December 2017 Christmas Party/Dinner - 6:00pm**

See your emails and our web site  
for additional events and dates of the  
**1-112FA** and **1-112FA Sports Club**

## **2017 ANNUAL DINING OUT AND ARTILLERY REUNION**

**Our 2017 Dining Out will be at Tavistock Country Club on**

**Saturday, 3 June 2017**

Watch your emails for additional information and reservation forms.  
We welcome your support by placing an ad in the adbook.



## REQUEST YOUR INPUT

We remind you that this is your newsletter. You are cordially invited to submit any information you think appropriate for the good of the command to the Commander (e-mail address on the first page of this newsletter) to be edited for inclusion in the following months' publication.

Dues are only \$30 per year and are payable 1 January of each year. Please send your dues to:

**Camden Light Artillery Association Inc.  
National Guard Armory  
2001 Park Blvd.,  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2778**





The 1-112FA Camden Light Artillery Association is proud to be a Commemorative Partner. We held our first event earlier this year and are planning future events for the summer and fall seasons. Please watch for the announcements in your emails and on our website.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducted hundreds of events in VA facilities across the nation on March 29, 2016 to recognize, honor and thank U.S. Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices as part of the national Vietnam War Commemoration. VA, along with more than 9,000 organizations across the country, has joined with the Department of Defense as a Commemorative Partner to help Americans honor our nation's Vietnam veterans. By presidential proclamation issued on May 25, 2012, the Commemoration extends from its inaugural event on Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. To learn more about the Vietnam War Commemoration, visit the U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration website."

(<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>) by military.com 4 April 2016



## **OUR MISSION**

- To promote close association, friendship, understanding and cooperation between all member of the association.
- To foster and preserve the spirit, traditions and solidarity of the Field Artillery
- To provide various communicative means for keeping all members aware and involved in association developments.
- To conduct such social activities as may provide for a continuing close relationship and camaraderie among the membership
- To develop and maintain historical records on the lineage of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 112<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery ancestors and it successors.
- To promote and support the provisions of the constitution of the United States of America.
- To provide community service to local civilian and military communities in time of need.

## **WEB SITE**

[www.112FA.org](http://www.112FA.org)

## **E-MAIL ADDRESS**

[112FA.CLA@gmail.com](mailto:112FA.CLA@gmail.com)

## **FACEBOOK PAGE**

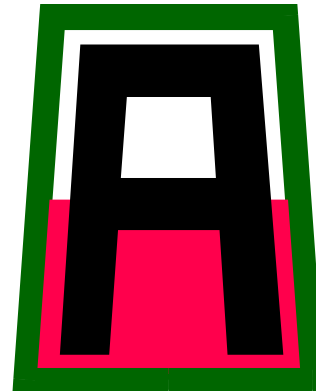
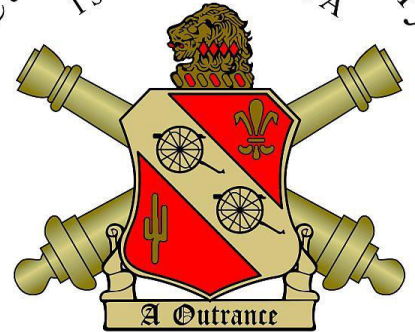
our name on Facebook is

**CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY**





Camden Light Artillery  
1st BN 112th FA





## **2010 Afghanistan - M777**

((courtesy-SPC Gallegos via COL George Bannon(USA Retired))