



# THE POWDER BAG

## THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 Issue 1

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

January 2015



"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

<b>Commander:</b>	<b>1SG Ed Powell (USA Retired)</b>
<b>Executive Officer:</b>	<b>MAJ Richard Tomasso (USA Retired)</b>
<b>Adjutant:</b>	<b>SFC Richard Zacamy (USA Retired)</b>
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	<b>CPT Marc Kantor (USA Retired)</b>
<b>Logistics Officer:</b>	<b>1SG Ed McCarty (USA Retired)</b>

### THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

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## **COMMANDERS COMMENTS**

As I write the comments for the Newsletter, I realized that this year is my last one as Commander of the Camden Light Artillery and we need to start seeking out members who would be interested in being elected. It is important to all of us to keep this unit alive and running and we need members to step up and help out. I am willing to help anyone who may take over as Commander. My concern is that this year it was hard to even get someone to step up as Logistics Officer which would have been a good time to have learned the workings of the officers of the unit. I hope there are members who will consider this position.

**Just a Reminder!** Ad Book forms are available and it would be appreciated to get them in as soon as possible. If you are going to use the same Ad as last year, you still need to fill out a form so we may keep track of the Ads. Deadline for Ads is February 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting.

The Dining Out is coming up sooner than you think. It will be held at the Tavistock Country Club on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 5:00 pm Cocktails and Opening Ceremonies start at 6:00 pm with Dinner served at 6:30 pm. If you are planning to attend, please get your reservations in by February 16<sup>th</sup>. Invitations were e-mailed to those who have computers and some were sent by USPS for those who do not have access to a computer.

Elections are coming up for Executive Officer, Finance Officer and Logistics Officer. Elections will be held at our next meeting February 4<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Another reminder: Please let the unit know if someone you know is ill or hospitalized or has passed away recently so we can get cards out to them.

## **SUMMARY OF THE 7 JANUARY 2015 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by the CO at 7:17 pm. Pledge of Allegiance and roll call followed a roll call was taken; all officers were present. The Invocation and sick call was given by the Chaplin. Sick call indicated that Jim Hart is doing well after by-pass surgery. There were no new members or guests at the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 2014 minutes. A motion was made to raise the membership dues from \$20 to \$25. Discussion followed and a decision was made to turn it over to the By-laws committee for Article 5 and 11. Further discussion will take place at the February meeting. The Financial report showed a balance of \$1,379.47 after all expenses and reserves. A motion was made and passed to accept the report. Renovations to the Armory have not yet begun – they hope to start by the end of April when the 328MP Company is expected to be deployed. Election nominees remain the same at this time; for Executive Officer, Rich Tomasso; Finance Officer, Marc Kantor; and Logistic Officer, Ed McCarty. No one else has been nominated at this time. Elections will be held at our February 4th meeting. The Commander thanked everyone for helping set up the Holiday Cover Dish Dinner along with all who contributed the many goodies and food. We had 55 members and family attend. The meeting was ended at 8:06pm and refreshments followed.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **112FA SPORTS CLUB**

**1SGT Ed McCarty, Chairman**

**Please read from the following link. This is what is being done in the legislature of New Jersey. Is this a 'back door' subversion of the 2nd Amendment by anti-gun politicians?**

<http://www.guns.com/2014/11/04/new-jersey-lawmakers-seek-mandatory-training-for-potential-gun-owners/>

### **112FA PHYSICAL FITNESS**

**SSG Brian Strecker, Chairman**

#### **Dressing for Cold Weather:**

**(worth repeating)**

**When outdoors for extended periods in cold weather, it is important to dress in layers. Inner layers such as long underwear should be made of synthetic materials such as polyester or polypropylene. These materials tend to wick moisture away from the body. A felt or wool shirt with flannel lined trousers would be a good choice for your second layer of clothing. A fleece jacket or liner such as the CLA's polyester Polar Fleece jacket would be a choice for the next layer. Finally, an outer windproof jacket would complete the legs, arm, and trunk protection combination.**

**To keep hands warmer, mittens are better since they keep fingers together and trap heat more effectively than gloves.**

**For head and neck, wear a warm scarf and hat. In extreme cold, two layers on your head are preferable.**

**For your feet, wear boots with polyester socks and outer layer of wool socks. The polyester wicks moisture away from your feet and will help prevent blisters.**

**The Military uses the Gen III ECWCS system which is comprised of seven layers and twelve components. The components of this system are added as needed for weather conditions ranging from -60 to +40 degrees. Originally, ECWCS stood for 'Extended Cold Weather Clothing System'. In 2007, it was revised to Gen III and is now designated 'Extended Climate Warfighter Clothing System'.**

**Stay safe, stay warm!**

**The following is the next in a series of articles describing ways to work toward your physical fitness and maintaining your health.**

**This is from the National Institute on Aging at NIH (<http://go4life.nia.nih.gov/>). We will continue to bring you these important ideas.**

## Improving Your Strength

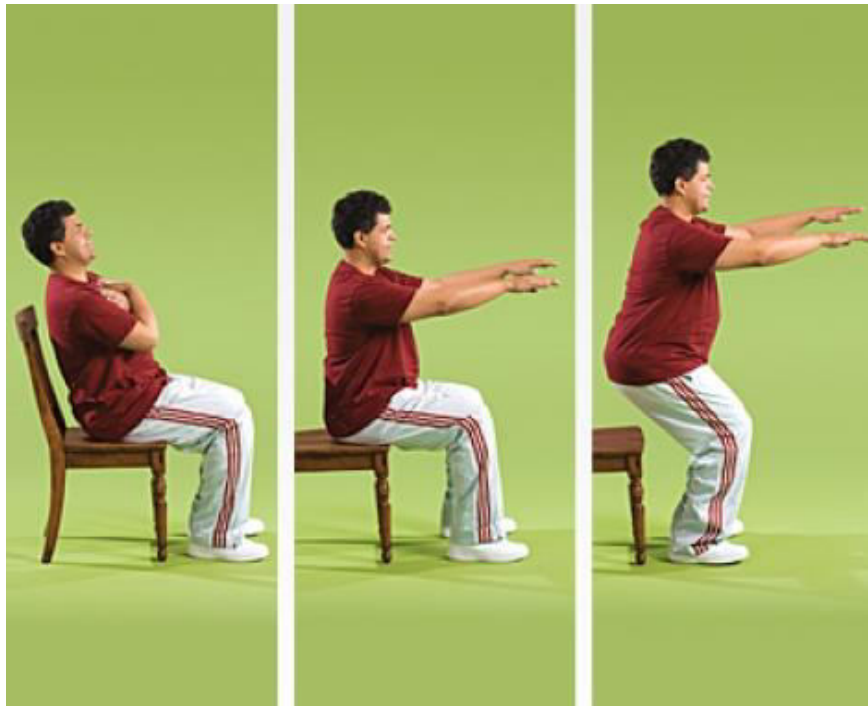
To strengthen your muscles, you need to lift or push weight. Even very small changes in muscle strength can make a real difference in function. Stronger muscles can make it easier to do everyday things like get up from a chair, climb stairs, carry groceries, open jars, and even play with your children or grandchildren. Lower-body strength exercises also will improve your balance.

### CHAIR STAND

**Targeted Muscles:** Abdomen and thighs

**What You Need:** Sturdy, armless chair

**Talk to Your Doctor:** If you have knee or back problems, talk with your doctor before trying this exercise.



**Tip:** People with back problems should start the exercise from the sitting upright position. This exercise, which strengthens your abdomen and thighs, will make it easier to get in and out of the car. If you have knee or back problems, talk with your doctor before trying this exercise.

1. Sit toward the front of a sturdy, armless chair with knees bent and feet flat on floor, shoulder-width apart.
2. Lean back with your hands crossed over your chest. Keep your back and shoulders straight throughout exercise. Breathe in slowly.
3. Breathe out and bring your upper body forward until sitting upright.
4. Extend your arms so they are parallel to the floor and slowly stand up.
5. Breathe in as you slowly sit down.
6. Repeat 10-15 times.
7. Rest; then repeat 10-15 more times.

### Safety during Exercise

**Talk with your doctor if you are unsure about doing a particular exercise, especially if you've had hip or back surgery.**

**Don't hold your breath during strength exercises. Holding your breath while straining can cause changes in blood pressure. Breathe in slowly through your nose and breathe out slowly through your mouth.**

**Breathe out as you lift or push, and breathe in as you relax.**

**For some exercises, you may want to start alternating arms and work your way up to using both arms at the same time.**

**To prevent injury, don't jerk or thrust weights. Use smooth, steady movements.**

**Muscle soreness lasting a few days and slight fatigue are normal after muscle-building exercises, at least at first. After doing these exercises for a few weeks, you will probably not be sore after your workout.**

### TRICARE FOR LIFE

To learn more about TRICARE FOR Life, please visit their webpage at <http://www.tricare.mil/tfl>



## ***Soldier Armed***

### **M109A7/M992A3 Paladin Integrated Management**

By Scott R. Gourley

One of many tactical lessons reinforced by recent combat operations is the need to accurately deliver long-range artillery fires against a broad spectrum of target types and to do so from mobile, survivable and maintainable platforms.

The current Army system used for these mission sets is the Paladin, a combination of the M109A6 155 mm self-propelled howitzer and its associated M992A2 ammunition supply vehicle. The supply vehicle is sometimes called "The Cat" because it is part of the Carrier, Ammunition, Tracked category of Army vehicles.

As the A6 howitzer designator indicates, the Paladin reflects multiple major improvement packages that have been applied to a weapon system with roots going back to the 1960s. While these packages have introduced massive improvements in tactical capabilities over the subsequent decades, a number of available maintainability, survivability and technology enhancements were not incorporated in the platform. Those enhancements are now being introduced through an upgrade known as Paladin Integrated Management (PIM). Recently redesignated as the M109A7/M992A3, the upgrade entered low-rate initial production in October 2013.

Unlike many Army systems that have entered production over the past decade, the Paladin upgrade is noteworthy because it followed standard development procedures and not the process for urgent operational needs used in many other systems. As such, it is seen as offering a number of lessons that can be applied to other acquisition programs in a post-Operation Enduring Freedom environment.

Adam Zarfoss, director of artillery programs at prime contractor BAE Systems, said the M109A7/M992A3 upgrade solves the problems that Paladin had with space, weight and power.

"We were already maxed out on electrical power generation," he said. "We consumed more power than we generated. So initially we are going to solve those problems that the soldiers have today. We are also going to address the other obsolescence problems they had, which goes to the long-term viability and sustainability of the platform."

For comparison purposes, the M109A6 generates 18.5 kilowatts (kW) of electrical power, while the new system will generate 70 kW, resulting in approximately 40 kW of reserve power that can be applied to future command, control, communications and computer equipment or other electronic growth.

The upgrade will also provide logistics benefits derived from commonality with the Bradley platform. Although they do not share the same hull structure, the new system will have

components like the engine, transmission, road arms, road wheels, torsion bars and final drives in common with the Bradley engineering change proposal (ECP) 2 configuration.

"As an example, we have the new, electronically controlled, 675-horsepower version of the V903 engine from Cummins," Zarfoss said. "We have the HMPT [hydro-mechanical power transmission] 800 series transmission from L3. We have newly designed final drives to account for the higher weights that we will be running at and Bradley will be running at, and they have all been designed in an environment to be common between the two series vehicles."

Along with the new hull designs, Zarfoss pointed to a number of significant changes to the M109A7 howitzer turret.

"We have kept the same basic turret structure that was designed during the Paladin days, but we have significantly improved its force protection and survivability through a series of modular



The M109A7 155 mm self-propelled howitzer fires at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

BAE Systems



*The next-generation M109 Paladin has upgraded armor and more onboard electronics.*

armor kits," he said. "In one of the other big changes, we have gone away from hydraulic drives to 600-volt electric drive systems."

The new electric drive systems are just one example of applying technology developed under the Non-Line of Sight-Cannon (NLOS-C) element of the Army's terminated Future Combat Systems program, which had its legacy in the earlier terminated Crusader program, Zarfoss said.

Another subsystem that is almost a direct lift from NLOS-C and Crusader is the semi-automated projectile loader/rammer. Not only is the new electric system more reliable than the old hydraulic stroke rammer it is replacing, but its ability to provide more consistent "seating" of the projectile in the tube translates to improved system accuracy.

"So we are leveraging the Army's investment in past programs and actually bringing it to bear in a real-time application that is going to be put into the hands of soldiers in the near term," he said.

The only hydraulics remaining in the upgrade design are in areas like the recoil mechanism. "We still have a requirement, and we still have the ability to elevate and traverse manually," Zarfoss said. "We've also kept all of the manual backups—the optical fire sights are all still in there—so the system has a 'soft failure mode.'"

The M109A7/M992A3 PIM program will feature work at three major sites. Through a public/private partnership, Anniston Army Depot in Alabama will perform the induction, teardown and disassembly of existing M109A6 howitzers and M992A2 ammunition support vehicles. The depot will also rebuild cannons and mounts, and it will overhaul the components that are going to be reused.

BAE Systems' facility in York, Pennsylvania, will be the site where new chassis structures—"new aluminum boxes"—are built and automotive assembly work performed. For the howitzers, the drivable automotive platforms, cab structure and gun mount will then be shipped to Elgin, Oklahoma, for final assembly, integration and testing at nearby Fort Sill.

The M992A3s, with brand new structures, will be completely fabricated in York. "The goal is to buy 66.5 sets," Zarfoss said. "The extra 'half set' is because they are going to buy one more howitzer than they are ammo carriers, and that extra howitzer is going to full-up system live-fire test. They are actually going to take two howitzers and one ammo carrier through [full-up system-level live-fire test and evaluation] and 'blow them up.'"

The production plan is structured as a base award plus three options. Army representatives, however, have recently indicated to BAE Systems that

they intend to award options two and three simultaneously, effectively making it a base plus two options.

The first production deliveries are scheduled for March 2015, with a projected build rate of approximately 1.5 howitzers and 1.5 supply vehicles per month through the low-rate initial production base plus initial option, Zarfoss said.

"The Army's plan is to 'pure fleet' with a single configuration of M109A7s and M992A3s," he said, noting that future funding profiles and build schedules would determine how long the complete build out will take.

Although Zarfoss declined to identify any possible long-term growth paths beyond the new upgrade package, it is believed future directions could range from new add-on armor packages and electronic subsystems to possible reductions in crew size.

"The real key for this program is that we have solved the immediate problem that the Army had and we have given them a platform they can grow with over time," he said. "The Army has been trying to 'eat the elephant in one bite,' but in this particular program, they said, 'Let's solve our immediate problems and then put a growth path together for the future.' So we've got trade space for weight, we generate lots and lots of electrical power, and we have the ability to grow in the longer term." ★



**328 MP COMPANY, CHERRY HILL, NJ**

**CPT Matt Neamand  
Commanding Officer**



**Members of the Staff of 328MP Company went on a survey trip to the  
Guantanamo Bay Facility.**

**Below are 1SG Moore and MSG Rivera**







**3-112FA MORRISTOWN, NJ**  
**LTC Robert Hughes**  
**Commanding Officer**



**Past and present CSM of 3-112FA**



**Leadership of 3-112FA past and present**



**RRNG**  
**NJARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion**

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**These are new recruits in the Recruit Sustainment Program learning alignment in formation at Sea Girt, NJ prior to going off to Basic Training**

**NJDMAVA Highlights**

courtesy of

**BG Steven Ferrari, USARMY NG NJARNG (US)**

**MSGT Mark C. Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO**

This is the cover of the January 29, 2015 issue. The Highlights are published on a weekly basis and emailed to those who have a valid email address on file with us. See the complete text at their new website: <http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/issues/24368>



## **IS THIS ANYWAY TO RUN A GOVERNMENT?**

(from DEFENSE NEWS, NOVEMBER, 2014)

As the Defense Department retrogrades mountains of equipment from Afghanistan, the US Army has failed to effectively report \$419.5 million worth of equipment that may have gone missing, according to a recent DoD Inspector General's (DODIG's) audit.

Some 15,600 pieces of equipment lost from the Bagram and Kandahar property redistribution yards were not reported in a timely manner by the unit responsible for tracking it, the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, according to the Oct. 30 audit.

Once the inspectors made their initial report, the units involved took immediate corrective actions which have since been "inculcated [and] applied in Army-wide actions," said Michael Cervone, chief of the supply directorate in the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics.

While it is unlikely the equipment is all truly missing — most is likely in US hands somewhere in Afghanistan — the report highlights the Pentagon's decades-long problem managing inventory, said William Greenwalt, a visiting fellow at the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies at the American Enterprise Institute.

"Doing what Wal-Mart and UPS can do, obviously the Army hasn't gotten that far," Greenwalt said. "They should have world-class inventory tracking and management, even in the war zone, with scanners, with commercial technology. You scratch your head and ask, 'Why hasn't the US military adopted these long-standing practices you see at every retailer in America?'"

Officials with the 401st did not document the property as lost because they believed it would be found as forward operating bases closed for the drawdown of forces, the audit says. However, since 2010, 309 forward operating bases have closed and only 23 percent of the equipment has been recovered.

"Once the equipment was identified as lost, the 401st AFSB did not always correctly calculate and report the total loss to the US government," an audit summary states.

Army policy recommends property losses be investigated within 75 days, but the 10 probes DODIG reviewed averaged 318 days. The brigade's commander, Col. Matthew Ferguson, said investigators searching for missing items tended to delay investigations. The unit has since created a group of five lieutenant colonels trained to conduct investigations within the 30-day standard.

In a response to the audit, Ferguson attributed some of the problems to inadequate staffing and training, and said property accountability suffered as combat intensified.

"In order to re-establish property accountability, 401st AFSB had to go back to the basic concepts of property accountability," Ferguson said. "The Property Accountable Processes and property management structure were revamped to improve property accountability. Unfortunately, the results of these changes would not be able to be realized until the 2013-2014 time frame."

**This is not the first time the DODIG has rapped the Army over lost gear. The Army lost \$586.8 million in equipment over 12 months ending in May 2013, which spurred the Army to form a task force to account for its equipment as it leaves Afghanistan.**

**Nor is this the first time a watchdog agency has faulted DoD's handling of equipment in the war zone. In 2013, DoD supply chain management made the Government Accountability Office's "high risk list" for highlighting programs most vulnerable to fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement.**

**In the past year, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) found that while the Combined Security Transition Command purchased about \$370 million in spare parts for the Afghan Army's vehicles between 2004 and 2013, the command "could not account for about \$230 million worth of spare parts and had ordered \$138 million of additional parts without sufficient accountability."**

**The US and Afghan governments have bungled record-keeping for more than 747,000 AK-47 rifles, machine guns, grenade launchers and other weapons for Afghan forces since 2004, worth about \$626 million. There is "real potential for these weapons to fall into the hands of insurgents," says a SIGAR report published in July.**

**The US was flooding Afghanistan with small arms, some 112,000 more than Afghan forces needed, said the report. Record-keeping suffered from incompatible databases, missing serial numbers and poor inventory processes. The Government Accountability Office also found that the Army and Marine Corps may have wasted more than \$100 million in one year by returning vehicles from Afghanistan they didn't need.**

**The question is whether fiscal hawks in the new Congress will track the issue. Greenwalt said lawmakers should focus on whether the problems are systemic and whether DoD has a plan to fix them.**

**"This is another one of these gotcha reports, and we know this is a problem," he said, "but how do you solve it? So Congress will be asking, 'What is the solution?'"**

**These are YOUR tax dollars!**

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

**"No Bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country."**

**GEN George S Patton**

BILL ABBOTT



"I figured you should have breakfast in bed on you Birthday.  
Can you reach the stove okay?"

### **REQUEST YOUR INPUT**

I would like to 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 \$20 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**



## **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**

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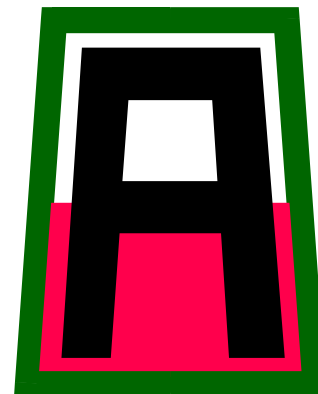
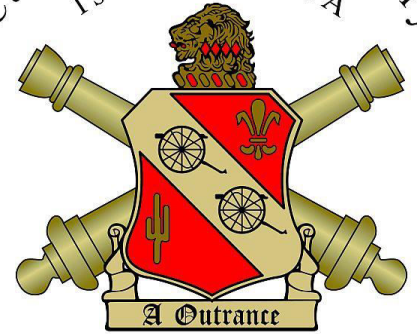
## **FACEBOOK PAGE**

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))