



# THE POWDER BAG

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

Volume 18 Issue 2

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

March-April, 2016



"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**

We had a great time at our annual Dining Out held at Tavistock CC earlier in March. We are all looking forward to this spring and warmer weather; for the 112FA Sports Team and other spring activities. Thanks for all the hard work that went into a successful dinner. Much of this is due to the hard work of our team leaders; Marc Kantor, who compiled the Ad Book, our main revenue generator, and the gift mugs. Also, to Ed Powell for leading this fun event. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the effort; our families and friends. Ed Powell and Richard Zacamy will be getting some well deserved R & R after four years of devoted service as our leaders, a job well done, THANK YOU for your constant devotion to the unit. We will keep you posted about other planned activities by email, phone and at the meetings.

See you at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 6th 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Cherry Hill Armory.

## **SUMMARY OF THE 2 MARCH 2016 MEETING**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of The Camden Light Artillery was held on 2 March 2016 at 1905 hours and called to order by the Adjutant. The pledge of allegiance was said and invocation was given by Commander Ed McCarty.

### **ATTENDEES**

Roll call of officers called; with all officers present.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the February 2016 meeting were approved and seconded.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Dining out on March 19,2016 at Tavistock Country Club
- The front doors of the Armory will be rekeyed to aid in securing the building.
- Lum Harris mentioned that the 114th Infantry has day meetings on Wednesday starting at 10:00am at the Woodbury Armory.
- Lou Bovino informed the group that the pharmacy from McGuire will be opening a new location in Marlton. Details will follow at the April 2016 meeting.
- Comment from the floor by LTC Jake Parvin pointing out that this organization has been active for 20 years and congratulated all who have contributed to its success.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **ADJOURN**

Commander McCarty made motion to adjourn at 1950 hrs followed by refreshments.

# ACTIVITIES

## 2016 ANNUAL DINING OUT AND ARTILLERY REUNION



Saturday, 19 March 2016, Tavistock Country Club





## **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN QUOTE**

Al DeMasi, Franklin Historian



**"Words may show a man's wit, but actions his meaning."**

## **112FA PHYSICAL FITNESS**

Brian Strecker, Chairman

### **Get Moving**

It's too easy to focus on a task only to realize that you have been in almost the same position for a long period. Your neck, your back, your arms may all ache. Sitting too long in one position slows blood flow to both appendages and your brain.

**A.** Every 20 to 30 minutes. Get up and walk around the house or office, fold a load of laundry, or take out the trash. It doesn't matter what you do, change position and use the major limbs in a different way.

**B.** Do stretches at your table or where you have been sitting. Simply standing up and reaching your hands over your head and then trying to touch your toes can be enough to activate the blood flow. As winter turns to spring and the days grow longer, it's the perfect time to consider how you can lead a healthier lifestyle.

Here are 6 simple health tips for spring that almost anyone could choose to adopt:

- 1. Walk every day** – Regular walking helps reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, and stroke. It helps to lose weight and feel less stressed.
- 2. Get gardening** – mowing the lawn, raking leaves and planting spring flowers all provide moderate intensity physical exercise.
- 3. Eat seasonal produce** – some of the healthiest vegetables come into season in spring. Asparagus is high in protein, low in calories and a rich source of various vitamins. Spinach is rich in iron, and also is a good source of many vitamins, including vitamin K.
- 4. Wear sunglasses or a wide-brimmed hat** – UV rays can harm the eyes as well as the skin. Long-term exposure to sunlight also increases the risk of a type of cataract. A wide-brimmed hat can reduce the amount of UV rays that reach your face and eyes.
- 5. Cycling** – a low-impact exercise that can be done in the gym, or outdoors. Regular cycling strengthens your heart muscles, lowers your resting pulse and improves your lungs and circulation.

**6. Boost your brain** – use the new season to assess your diet and ensure you are getting enough of the right foods to aid brain and cognitive functions. Top ‘smart foods’ include blueberries for antioxidants and vitamin C, blackcurrants for vitamin C, oily fish such as salmon, mackerel and sardines for omega-3 fatty acids, nuts and seeds for vitamin E and wholegrain foods such as brown pasta and granary bread to give the brain a steady supply of energy through slow glucose release. Finally, don’t overlook water as dehydration often is a major problem with older adults.

### **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.



### **TRICARE FOR LIFE**

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

(Military.com by Amu Bushatz)

"The new Defense Department budget proposal for 2017 sent today to Congress drastically increases the cost of healthcare for military retirees under 65 and reorganizes the current Tricare system, but otherwise includes few other major military family program reforms.

Under the new proposal the primary three Tricare options -- Tricare Prime, Tricare Standard and the services used by retirees -- would be combined into two basic plans. Like the current Tricare Prime and Standard options, the newly minted Tricare Select and Tricare Choice would continue to offer free services at Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and require co-pays for services from in-network civilian providers. Like Tricare Prime, Tricare Select would require users to receive referrals for specialty care, while Tricare Choice would operate like Tricare Standard, allowing users to self-refer.

Active duty families and retirees could choose between the two plans and pay graduated fees between \$20 and \$250 for non-MTF care, depending on the service provided. As in the current Tricare Prime system, active-duty families stationed in remote areas far away from an MTF would be permitted to see in-network civilian providers without paying additional fees.

The major price changes are reserved for retirees. Under the new plan those users would be forced to pay a yearly enrollment fee through an open-enrollment type process regardless of which Tricare option they choose. Currently, retirees using Tricare Prime pay \$282.60 per year for a

single person or \$565.20 for a family, while Standard requires no enrollment fee. The new system, however, would require retirees pay a \$350 enrollment fee for individuals or \$700 for families for Tricare Select, and \$450 for individuals or \$900 for families for Tricare Choice." (see [military.com](http://military.com) for more complete information)

### **TRICARE FOR LIFE PHARMACY**

Several changes to the TRICARE pharmacy benefit took effect on Feb. 1. Co-pays for drugs filled at retail pharmacies and TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery increased slightly.

Also, TRICARE Over-the-Counter (OTC) drug coverage became a full and permanent part of the TRICARE benefit, requiring that beneficiaries pay the usual generic co-pays. If you get your drugs from a military pharmacy, or use Home Delivery to get a generic drug, you will still pay \$0. To view all the new co-pays, visit the TRICARE Prescription Costs webpage ([www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts)). Different OTC drugs will be available as well.

For more information about the OTC benefit, visit the TRICARE Over-the-Counter Drugs webpage

([www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/OvertheCounterDrugs.aspx?sc\\_database=web](http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/IsItCovered/OvertheCounterDrugs.aspx?sc_database=web))

### **PICTURE OF THE MONTH**



## **XM1156 PRECISION GUIDANCE KIT**

From ARMY Magazine, Vol. 65, No. 11, November 2015. Copyright 2015 by the Association of the U.S. Army and reprinted by permission of ARMY Magazine.

By Scott R. Gourley

**A** new tactical capability is entering Army inventories, designed to provide commanders with the option of “near precision” fires in selected battlefield scenarios. Designated as the XM1156 Precision Guidance Kit, the new capability is a course-correcting fuze kit that is used on the Army’s existing inventory of 155 mm high-explosive munitions.

The U.S. Army field artillery has long prided itself on its ability to deliver accurate indirect fire, an ability achieved through a combination of five elements or principles that have remained constant since World War I. Those elements are target location and size, firing unit location, weapon and ammunition information—for example, tube wear, muzzle velocity, projectile weight, and temperature of the propellant—meteorological information and computational procedures.

While those five principles of accuracy have remained unchanged, one related area that has witnessed significant evolution over the last decade and a half has been the introduction and refinement of “precision” fires, which are provided to U.S. warfighters by munitions like the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System-Unitary and the 155 mm Excalibur projectile.

### **Onboard GPS Guidance**

The basic design of the new Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) system incorporates onboard GPS guidance to track the 155 mm projectile location in flight, and then uses canards on the fuze to make small trajectory corrections relative to the target location.

While the canards are the only moving parts for guidance and control, other significant technology hurdles overcome in the PGK design include development and integration of a

small alternator that provides power in flight, “gun hardening” to survive launch forces and temperature extremes in flight (gun launch heat followed by rapid cooling at high altitude before rapid descent), and quick acquisition and continual lock on the GPS signal during projectile flight.

In addition to performing all standard fuze functions, PGK also incorporates a “fail-safe” option that prevents artillery round detonation if it will not impact within a prescribed distance to the target.

Col. James Bailey is U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command capability manager, brigade combat team fires, at Fort Sill, Okla. He clarified some of the related terminology behind the program.

“Accuracy refers to how close to the target a group of rounds impact,” he said. “If the center of mass of the group of rounds is centered over the target, then the mission was considered accurate. Precision refers to how tight the shot group is—in other words, how tight is the dispersion pattern of the rounds about the center of impact. If the rounds impact in a tight pattern, the precision is considered good. If the rounds are scattered out over a large area, then the precision is not good.”

Bailey said PGK improves accuracy by causing the rounds to land within 50 meters of the target, and it improves precision by reducing the dispersion of its impact points.

Those results are considered “near precision,” a distinction that becomes clear when compared with precision systems like Excalibur, which Bailey characterizes as “even more precise with a requirement for its rounds to land within 10 meters of the target.”

Bailey acknowledged that PGK’s near-precision capability



XM1156 Precision Guidance Kit



A 1st Armored Division howitzer crew fires a 155 mm high-explosive round equipped with the M1156 Precision Guidance Kit during a live-fire evaluation at Fort Bliss, Texas.



U.S. Army/Photo: Joshua Kramer

does not match the range, accuracy, fuze functions, GPS anti-jam capability or target set of Excalibur, noting that PGK still requires users to meet the five requirements for accurate fires noted previously to effectively achieve the intended results using the current stockpile of 155 mm artillery munitions.

However, he also said that PGK's near-precision results represent "a dramatic improvement" over 155 mm projectiles equipped with conventional fuzes. The net result is a reduction in the number of rounds needed to achieve the same effects as conventional munitions, resulting in more efficient and quicker target kills, lower risk of collateral damage and a reduced logistics burden.

### Decade of Development

Representatives for PGK manufacturer Orbital ATK Inc. said development of the XM1156 stretched over "nearly a decade" and that early versions were used in Afghanistan, following acquisition by the U.S. Army under urgent materiel release. "Several thousand" of the fuzes were eventually delivered to theater, allowing soldiers to train and fight with the new tactical capability in early 2013.

As that conflict wound down, the PGK program continued on its development path, passing first article acceptance testing in December 2014 and entering low-rate initial production in January.

In March, Orbital ATK announced that the company had signed a contract with the U.S. Army for additional PGK fuze production, lot acceptance testing, and delivery of the guidance fuzes for fielding to U.S. and select allied armies. Australia and Canada are the first international customers.

Meanwhile, over the last several months, new equipment training and initial U.S. Army fielding events have taken place in Germany; Fort Campbell, Ky.; and other deploying units. As of this writing, a full materiel release decision is

anticipated by the end of 2015, with production quantities expected to ramp up at that time.

In a notional description of when various fuze options—precision/near-precision/traditional—might be employed, Bailey said PGK would be employed "against the same area target sets as the basic [traditional] high-explosive projectiles to which it is affixed. These targets would include personnel, light materiel and command posts, among others."

"Excalibur's high degree of precision makes it far superior for use against point targets like structures and weapons positions," he added. "Excalibur's high precision and concentrated lethality also make it the munition of choice in situations where minimizing collateral damage is critical."

When asked about PGK impact on the fire mission process, Bailey said that there was no difference than with Excalibur: Both munitions must be fired within seven minutes of being set by an inductive electronic fuze setter.

Looking toward the future, the U.S. Army identified the exploration of anti-jam technologies as a potential future enhancement that would allow PGK to operate in GPS-degraded or -denied environments. Moreover, PGK with its integrated technologies supports the potential creation of different applications for existing weapons/weapon systems, ranging from medium-caliber ammunition to future programs for precision guidance for 120 mm mortars.

Bailey shared a final perspective on how PGK technology will improve outcomes for the warfighter, offering that maneuver commanders will be able to "expect enhanced fire support with more accurate fires by achieving first round fire-for-effect."

"Over the course of developmental and operational testing, PGK has demonstrated an accuracy of approximately 20 meters versus a requirement of 50 meters," he said, "with the caveat to achieving this enhanced accuracy being that those five requirements for accurate fires must be met." ★

## **SOMETHING TO PONDER**

**"Did you ever get the feeling the world's a Tuxedo and you were a pair of brown shoes?"  
George Gobel**



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

**The process starts at the National Archives website:**

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

**Simply follow the directions found on the website.  
(suggested by Frank Brown)**



## **WHY WE MISS RODNEY DANGERFIELD**

**"A girl phoned me and said, 'Come on over. There's nobody home.'  
I went over. Nobody was home!"**

**"I knew a girl so ugly... they use her in prisons to cure sex offenders."**

**"It's been a rough day. I got up this morning and put a shirt on and a button fell off. I picked up my briefcase, and the handle came off. I'm afraid to go to the bathroom."**

**"I went to see my doctor. 'Doctor, every morning when I get up and I look in the mirror I feel like throwing up. What's wrong with me?' He said: 'Nothing, your eyesight is perfect.' "**

**"I went to the doctor because I'd swallowed a bottle of sleeping pills. My doctor told me to have a few drinks and get some rest."**

**"Some dog I got. We call him Egypt because in every room, he leaves a pyramid. His favorite bone is in my arm. Last night he went on the paper four times - three of those times I was reading it."**

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



## **HERE'S A THOUGHT!**

Yesterday I was at Costco buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet, Owen, the Wonder Dog, and was in the check-out line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

What did she think I had, an elephant?

So, because I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse, I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and the way that it works is, to load your pants pockets with Purina Nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete (certified), so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care, because the dog food poisoned me? I told her no, I had stopped to pee on a fire hydrant and a car hit me.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard. Costco won't let me shop there anymore. Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of crazy things to say.



## **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.





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

**CPT Matt Neamand  
Commanding Officer**



**The 328MP Company is back from deployment at the Guantanamo Bay Facility.**

# **WELCOME HOME**





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





**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"**



**Women's Army Auxiliary Corps  
WWII**



**NJDMAVA Highlights**

courtesy of

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

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

**This is the cover of the March 23, 2016 issue. See the complete text and the newest issue at:**

**<https://www.dvidshub.net/publication/683/njdmava-highlights#.VQBMq-GrFc>**





## **2016 Monthly Meeting Dates**

**All Meetings are at the Cherry Hill Armory**

**7:00pm**

**Wednesday, 6 April 2016**

**Wednesday, 4 May 2016**

**Sunday, 22 May 2016 Armed Forces Day Brunch**

**Wednesday, 1 June 2016**

**NO July meeting**

**Wednesday, 3 August 2016**

**Wednesday, 7 September 2016**

**Sunday, 11 September 2016 Patriot's Day Brunch**

**Wednesday, 5 October 2016**

**Wednesday, 2 November 2016**

**Wednesday, 7 December 2016 Christmas Party and Dinner**

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

## **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)

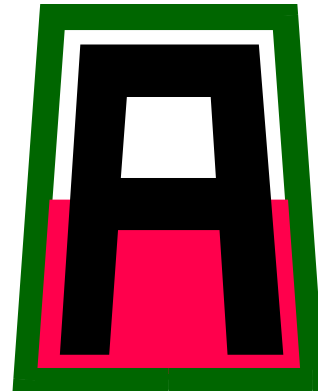
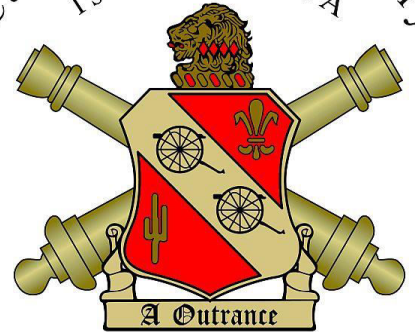
## **FACEBOOK PAGE**

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))