



Distinctive Unit Insignia

HISTORY OF THE 17th ARTILLERY PART TWO 1972 – PRESENT

On September 13, 1972, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery was activated in Korea assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division replacing the 7th Battalion, 17th Artillery which was inactivated on the same date.

The 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Reserves) on September 1, 1973 was relieved from assignment to the Third Army and assigned to the First Army

The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery deployed to Germany from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for a six months TDY period, from April 1976 to September 1976 under Increased Combat Capability Europe 1976 (ICCE 76). The battalion drew its equipment and howitzers from U.S. Army POMUS stock. The 1st Battalion was replaced by 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery in September.

The 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was inactivated on April 16, 1987 and relieved from assignment from the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea.

The 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was inactivated on March 31, 1988 and reflagged 3rd Battalion 5th Field Artillery

The 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was activated on July 16, 1988 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, under 75th Field Artillery Group, III Corps Artillery.

The 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was activated on March 31, 1988. (Reflagging of the, 2nd Battalion, 28th Field Artillery)

The 5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Reserves) was activated in the Regular Army on July 16, 1988, in Germany, and relieved from assignment to the 90th Infantry Division

OPERATION DESERT SHEILD/OPERATION DESERT STORM
1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiments
1990 - 1991

The 1st Battalion, 2nd Battalion and 3rd Battalions, 17th Field Artillery all took part in these operations. The ground war portion of Operation Desert Storm started on February 24, 1991 and ended on February 28, 1991

The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was under the 75th Field Artillery Brigade. In January 1991, the brigade was task organized under VII Corps Artillery in support of offensive operations. The 75th Field Artillery Brigade march more than 100 miles along the infamous Tapline Road and joined the 1st Infantry Division (MECH) at TAA Roosevelt as the Air War started January 15, 1991.

The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery reinforced the 4th Battalion, 5th Field Artillery (Direct Support) of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division supporting the main efforts of the VII Corps and provided fire for the 1st Infantry Division (MECH) during their breaching operations.

On February 25, 1991, the 75th Field Artillery Brigade mission changed to reinforcing the 1st Armored Division, thus beginning the "Mother of Road Marches" moving across the battlefield more than 140 miles, the 75th Field Artillery Brigade participated in the 1st Armored Division reduction of two Republican Guards Command Divisions.

The 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was under the 212th Field Artillery Brigade which was attached to the XVIII Airborne Corps and their mission was to reinforce the 24th Infantry Division Artillery (MECH). During the Air War the brigade was displaced 300 miles west and just south of the Saudi-Iraqi border. Here the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery fired the first Copperhead round in anger.

The 212th Field Artillery Brigade advanced with the lead brigade of the 24th Infantry Division as it charged into Iraq on G-Day, making contact with the enemy 120 kilometers later. The 212th Field Artillery Brigade participated in the attacks into the Euphrates River Valley and on Jalibah Airfield and advance on the Basra, culminating in the devastating Battle of Rumaylah, which cut off the Iraqi escape the Haw al Hammar Causeway. The brigade fought and helped defeat elements of the Iraqi 26th Commando Brigade, 27th and 49th Infantry, Aal Faw and Ad Nam Divisions and finally, the Nebuchadrezzer and Hammurabi Divisions.

The 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery returned to its home station at Fort Sill, Oklahoma closing in April 1991.

The 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery under the 210th Field Artillery Brigade deployed from Germany in support of the VII Corps Artillery. As the VII Corps planned to run an end sweep around Iraqi positions began to take shape the 210th Field Artillery Brigade was placed with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was placed in direct support of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment for the ground war. On February 23, the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment deployed to their final forward positions for the start of the ground war and then crossed the berm and into Iraq with the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery following. The 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery remained in direct support of the 3rd Squadron until February 26. It provided fire support for the regiment and squadron to include during the Battle of 73 Easting and was further engaged in direct fire engagements with Iraqi tanks resulting in the destruction of a FASV.

On February 26th, the 1st Infantry Division passed through the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and acquired the 210th Field Artillery Brigade, as it passed through. The 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was placed in direct support of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (MECH) until the ceasefire. At the time of the ceasefire the battalion was located along the highway between Kuwait City and Basra, Iraq. The battalion was directed to prepare preplanned artillery targeting around the negotiation site between the Iraqis and CENTCOM at Safwan.

A few weeks later the 210th Brigade and 3rd Battalion, 17th FA were placed once again in direct support of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and moved into Iraq. It occupied positions along the Euphrates River and relieved elements of the 101st Airmobile Division that were withdrawn. The battalion was heavily involved in refugee support and relief operations in the aftermath of fighting between elements of the Iraqi Army and Shia groups in southern Iraq during this period. In late April 1991 the battalion was withdrawn along with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and moved to King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia.

The battalion was then directed to road march to Dhahan, Saudi Arabia and prepare all of its equipment to be shipped to the United States. The battalion's personnel returned to Germany in May 1991; their equipment and howitzer were shipped back to the United States. Personnel from the battalion were returned to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma in December 1991 and the unit was reestablished there as part of the 212th Field Artillery Brigade.

The 3rd Battalion was awarded the Valorous Unit Award for Iraq 1991. All three battalions of the 17th participated in two campaigns: Defense of Saudi Arabia and Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

INACTIVATIONS and ACTIVATION

On May 15, 1995, the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was inactivated at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

On January 13, 1996, the 5th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was inactivated at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

On April 1, 1996 the 4th Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (Reserves) was inactivated at Raleigh, North Carolina

On May 23, 1996, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was inactivated at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

On June 5, 1996, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was activated in Korea and assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division

In the summer of 1997, the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery fielded the U.S. Army most technologically advanced howitzer system the M109A6 Paladin.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)
1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery (TF 1-17) (Copperheads)
Attached to 4th Infantry Division
March 29, 2003 to March 30, 2004

The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery “Copperheads” is a General Support Reinforcing battalion based at Fort Sill, OK. In traditional mission is to act as a counter-fire element for the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX. It is one of three M109A6 (Paladin) Howitzer battalions on Fort Sill, and the only Paladin battalion belonging to 75th BDE.

1-17 FA is composed three firing batteries (Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie) consisting of 6 howitzers each, totaling 18 for the battalion. There are two support batteries, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), and Service Battery. HHB handles the administrative requirements of the battalion, while service handles the logistics. 1-17 has a total of around 500 personnel assigned to the battalion.

For Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), 1-17 was assigned the role of Direct Support to 1-10 Cavalry Squadron, a unit under 4th Infantry Division based at Fort Hood. 1-10 CAV has over 750 soldiers, with M1 Abrams tanks, M2 Bradley Infantry Vehicles, and Kiowa Warrior helicopters.

Preparations for deployment of 1-17 FA began in late November 2002. This followed a 6 week training and evaluation for an Army External Evaluation, which took place the week of Thanksgiving. The plan for deployment called for 4th ID to enter Iraq through Turkey, thereby opening a second front in the event of a war.

In early January’03, 1-17 FA was scheduled to be one of the last few battalions left at Fort Sill, and was assigned to facilitate the deployment of other battalions from the post. 1-17 FA managed to “push” 1-12 FA (MLRS) into deployment. On the night of completion of these operations, 1-17 FA was re-scheduled to be the second unit from the post to deploy. The tentative date for deployment was January 27th.

Ultimately, the plan for 4th ID to invade Iraq from Turkey was cancelled, due to Turkish Parliaments’ denial to allow American soldiers to launch an attack from Turkey. The Turkey plan was scrapped in favor of a Kuwait plan, in which 4th ID would enter Iraq from the south from Kuwait.

1-17 FA finally got its chance to deploy on March 29, 2003. The soldiers left Fort Sill on three separate flights. The battalion staged and prepared at Camp Udairi, Kuwait. On 14 April 2003, 1-17 was the second unit of 4th ID to enter Iraq. Charlie Battery, half of Bravo, HHB and SVC were the first elements of the Copperhead Battalion to enter Iraq.

The battalion convoyed from Kuwait Border to few miles short of Baghdad. Just south of Baghdad, the battalion unloaded its heavy equipment from Heavy Equipment Trucks, and proceeded through the city. 3rd ID had arrived nearly a week before, and was still fighting in the streets as the convoy traveled through.

The Copperheads spent the night between Baghdad and a small town called Tayji (which later had several problems with insurgency). The next day, 1-10 CAV and 1-17 FA fought through Tayji, and settled in for the night about 5km north of the town.

1-17 FA shot its first mission of the war against a target dubbed "Target Saddam". Then target was part of a defensive network around Balad Airfield, now known as Life Support Area Anaconda and a major port in Iraq. 1-17 FA then traveled north to Samarra, spent a night, then to Tikrit. The Tikrit Airfield was taken, and is known as Camp Speicher, where headquarters of the 4th ID was located.

The battalion assisted 1-10 CAV in the taking of K2 Airfield near the town of Bayji, a major industrial town in Iraq. It was at this airfield where the second half of the battalion caught up. 1-10 CAV and 1-17 FA stayed at K2 until 5 May 2003, when both units received the mission to secure the Iran-Iraq Border in the Diyala Province.

1-17 FA secured key routes around the cities of Khaniquin and Mandall. Charlie Battery secured Khaniquin, Alpha Battery secured Mandal, and Bravo secured Iraq Highway 5 (situated in Between).

1-10 CAV did much of the preliminary work setting up the Eastern Diyala Border Police in June and July while 1-17 FA conducted the training of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. 1-17 FA took operational control of both organizations in early November following the reassignment of the 1-10 CAV to Tikrit in support of division operations.

Eastern Diyala Province was relatively quiet when compared to other areas such as nearby Baqubah, the province seat of government.

The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery was awarded the Valorous Unit Award and participated in two campaigns during this time period: Liberation of Iraq and Transition of Iraq.

On November 15, 2003, under the new modular force structure the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division was re-designated the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment was made organic to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment (Steel)
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division
2004 - 2005

On May 18, 2004, the 2d Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, the Steel Battalion, received the order to deploy to Iraq. What made this unique in today's Army was that the battalion was already forward deployed to the Republic of Korea, defending freedom's frontier. One day the unit and soldiers were training to face an enemy on the treacherous mountain terrain of Korea, and the next they geared up to face an enemy in the desert and streets of Iraq. Then, in Korea, going to war meant running to the motor pool, mounting up, and driving north. In a monumental transition, the battalion packed up all their gear, took two weeks of block leave, and then trained up to conduct support and stability operations in Iraq, and combat a determined insurgency.

In August, the battalion arrived in the desert of Kuwait, where they collected the battalion's equipment from the seaport, were issued more individual equipment as part of the Army's Rapid Fielding Initiative, and conducted training. The training consisted of Infantry and scout type operations, in preparation for a patrol mission on the streets of Ar Ramadi, Iraq; Forward Operating Base (FOB) defense, in preparation for the battalion's decisive mission of protecting our base from enemy intrusion; combat logistical patrols, including convoy live fire exercises, to prepare the battalion for their sustainment operations; and of course, Artillery live fire. Bravo Battery fired the first laser guided; precision munitions that we have fired in some years, guiding the Copperhead munitions to direct impacts on vehicle-sized targets. After this train-up, the battalion moved north in a Ground Assault Convoy—driving a great distance with rifles up and out, watching for the enemy.

September saw the battalion assume control of an area of operations from 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery of the 1st Infantry Division. Alpha Battery started conducting combat patrols and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) sweeps in order to maintain freedom of maneuver in the 2d Brigade Combat Team's area of operations. Bravo Battery manned the Paladin howitzers on two separate FOBs to conduct counter-fire operations; the battalion fired their first rounds in combat since the Gulf War, and suppressed enemy indirect fire systems. Charlie Battery manned guard towers in defense of a FOB with over 4,000 US armed forces service members and civilians. Both Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Service Battery provided Soldiers for outposts to give early warning of an enemy attack, and supported the rest of the battalion logistically.

Over the next 10 months, the firing batteries rotated through each job of FOB defense, patrol, and counter-fire battery. The battalion's efforts resulted in over 390 indirect fire missions, suppressing and destroying enemy weapon systems; enhanced freedom of maneuver in the brigade's area of operations; and a FOB free from direct assault and penetration. The battalion helped secure polling sites for the historic Iraqi elections, the first step towards a representational government in this country—a first in over 50 years. The battalion additionally kept up their intense stability and combat operations when the Iraqi people drafted their first constitution. Upon completion of the 2nd Battalion tour the unit returned to Fort Carson, Colorado.

The 2nd Battalion participated in two campaigns during this period: Transition of Iraq and Iraqi Governance.

Battery A received the 2005 Henry A. Knox Best Active Component Award Winner for their action for their deployment to Ar Ramadi, Iraq 2004-2005.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)
1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment (Copperheads)
2005 - 2007

The 1st Battalion Commander, Battalion' Command Sergeant Major and 15 personnel from Headquarters Battery deployed to Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq in October 2005 were they served as the Mayoral Section.

The firing batteries of the battalion deployed to serve as convoy and convoy security. Battery B, deployed in November 2005, Battery C in December 2005 and Battery A in January 2006. The firing batteries served under Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 181st Transportation Battalion in Balad Iraq.

The Mayoral Section and Battery B returned to Fort Sill in October 2006. This was followed with Battery C, in December 2006 and Battery A in January 2007.

Batteries A, B, C were awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation and participated in two campaigns during this time period: Iraqi Governance and National Resolution

In September 2006, the 537th Forward Support Company was attached to the 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment replacing Service Battery.

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDON (OEF)
3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment (Stryke First)
5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division
2009 - 2010

Since its reactivation on April 17, 2007 at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, the Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery have been training for a maneuver mission in anticipation of deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They have been executing training events to include maneuver live-fire exercise and certification through battery level. With the pending deployment to Afghanistan, the battalion re-focused, while at National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., all of its efforts on artillery core competencies and organizing to provide decentralized artillery direct support to 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team). Upon the battalion's return from NTC, 3-17 FA fielded M777A2s, conducted new equipment training and live-fire exercise, section qualification and certified nine platoon fire direction centers, additional gun sections. These tasks were conducted while the battalion and the batteries simultaneously prepared all their equipment for shipment to Afghanistan. By the time the battalion began deploying personnel in June of 2009, it had reorganized into nine firing platoons with two guns and a FDC section each. This reorganization would allow the battalion to locate firing ascents throughout southern Afghanistan and provide more flexibility and Fire support coverage to maneuver units.

Throughout June and July of 2009, the battalion deployed to Kandahar Airfield in Regional Command South. The battalion prepared for combat operations by conducting reception, staging, integration, and forward movement task, conducted limiter calibration in the Afghan desert and learning how to properly rig M777A2 for air movement.

The brigade's three infantry battalions and a cavalry regiment were given tactical control of 3-17 FA firing batteries, Alpha Battery established firing capability with three platoons in the Zabul province and provided indirect Fires to 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry and a Romanian Infantry battalion. Bravo Battery provided two firing platoons in support of 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment in Southwest Kandahar province. Charlie Battery established two firing platoons in Northern Kandahar province in support of 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry. The battalion established a fourth firing battery. Fox Battery consisting of one platoon from Bravo and Charlie Batteries, to support 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry in Western Kandahar

province. Additionally, Soldiers from 3-17 FA manned the Joint Border Control Center located at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak near the Afghanistan and Pakistan border.

The first combat test for the battalion came in August and September, 2009 during brigade operation, Operation Opportunity Hold. Charlie Battery delivered more than 300 rounds of lethal and non-lethal munition in support of the 1-17 Infantry and 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry. This operation tested the ability of the battalion to support the batteries logistically with supply, especially ammunition, and to coordinate with the brigade support battalion. The Red-legs of 3-17 FA passed the test and lessons learned for future operations in Zabul, Helmand and Maiwand provinces of Southern Afghanistan. Additionally, Charlie Battery fired the battalion's first XM982 Excalibur round in support of combat operations.

In December 2009, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) received a change of mission requiring them to secure the main supply routes and establish freedom of movement for the local populace, Afghan national security forces and coalition forces. This change required the repositioning of maneuver battalions and their supporting artillery batteries. To support this, Alpha Battery moved six times within two months. With Alpha Battery's move to Maiwand and Helmand, Foxtrot Battery was disbanded in January (2010).

Charlie Battery, also consolidate two of its firing platoons at FOB Frontenac in Northern Kandahar province, and began work establish another firing base, positioned near the volatile Baghthn Valley in Shah Wali Kot District of Kandahar province, was located on an abandoned Canadian FOB, and named : "Fire Base Baghthn. Charlie Battery, with support from 3-17, and the brigade's engineer company overall construction of perimeter defense and life sustained infrastructure. Once completed, Charlie Battery occupied FOB Bagthu with two platoons and one as a hot gun platoon and one to provide security to the firebase to include dismounted patrol, into surrounding mountains, perimeter defense and convoy logistics patrol security to and from FOB Frontenac.

As the battalion repositioned to support the brigade's freedom of movement mission, the number of platoon needed to provide Fire support decreased. The battalion maintained six firing position from January until its redeployment. The other platoons all provided maneuver support to the infantry battalions and cavalry squadron in the form of combat logistics patrol security, FOB defense and quick reaction force.

Throughout the deployment, every firing platoon was called on nightly to provide illumination Fire support of the maneuver task force, conducting counter-improvised explosive device operations and to disrupt enemy movements and operations, Targets range from planned targets along main routes of communications to target of opportunity. All platoons FDCs became extremely proficient at every type of illumination missions such as coordinated illumination and lateral spread.

Of the 6, 248 artillery rounds the battalion fired, the battalion delivered more than 3,600 illumination rounds. Other munition that the battalion utilized include the experimental XM106 infrared illumination, which received high marks from supported maneuver units and fire supporters, and the XM982 Excalibur Block 1, which was used effectively to destroy insurgent positions on multiple occasions.

The effectiveness of indirect Fires and its contribution to mission successes in a counterinsurgency environment culminated in June. As the Taliban increased operations during the traditional spring fighting seasons, 1st Battalion and special operations forces conducted operations in Northern Kandahar

utilized indirect Fires from Charlie Battery extensively to include an Excalibur mission, smoke, and high explosive, which resulted multiple enemy personnel killed in action.

This operation proved that timely and accurate indirect Fire combined with well-trained and proficient fire supports advising their maneuver commanders can have a tremendous impact on friendly success against insurgents. As part of the first Stryker Brigade to deploy to Afghanistan, 3-17 FA BN Stryke First contributed to improved security in Southern Afghanistan and provided accurate, responsive, and lethal indirect fire support to all of the 5-2 IN (SGCT) maneuver battalions, special operations, and coalition partners.

The 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment participated in two campaigns during this time period: Consolidation II and Consolidation III.

The 3rd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment was inactivated on September 9, 2010 and reflagged the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment. The 2nd Battalion was officially activate on October 10, 2010 at Fort Lewis, Washington

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF)
1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment (Copperheads)
2010 – 2011

July 2010- The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment battalion deploys to Afghanistan or Operation Enduring Freedom in support of the International Security Force Afghanistan (ISFA).

August 2010- Battalion is deployed across the country of Afghanistan: (Locations) Kandahar Air Field: New Kandahar Compound: Camp Dubs: Camp Jullen: Camp Phoenix: Camp Alamo: Camp Eggers: Camp Stone: FOB Lindsey: Camp Spann: FOB Griffin: FOB Konduz: Camp Lighting: Camp Ghazni: and Shindand

Upon arrival to Afghanistan the 1-17 FAR dispersed to Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Gardez, Mazar-e-Sharit, and other cities with in Afghanistan. Some of the main missions the battalion conducted were located at the Regional Military Training Centers (RMTTC), Medical Training Advisory Group (MTAG), Afghanistan National Army (ANA), Combat Medic Course ANA Physician Assistant School, Counter Insurgency Training Center Afghanistan and many Security Force movement teams located throughout Afghanistan. Overall the battalion conducted 21 separated missions in 16 locations in five of the six regional commands of Afghanistan, having a significant impact on the overall training of more than 100,000 ANA soldiers and officers. Finally, they managed ANSF contracts, and enabled battlefield circulation by senior coalition leaders.

July 2, 2011- 1st Battalion returned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma from their tour in Afghanistan.

The 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for this tour in Afghanistan for the period July 5, 2010 to December 31, 2010 and participated in two campagna during this time period: Consolidation III and Consolidation IV.

1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment inactivated on December 11, 2013 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)

**2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division
October 10, 2009 – January 8, 2008**

The 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment deployed with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Carson, Colorado, to Baghdad, Iraq starting in October 2006. This was the second deployment of the battalion to Iraq. While at Fort Carson, the battalion inactivated Battery C and transition from a M109A6, 155mm SP howitzer battalion, to a M119A3, 105mm towed howitzer battalion.

The 2nd Brigade arrived in Eastern Baghdad at Forward Operating Base Loyalty and replaced the 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and the 2-17 FA replaced 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment and in December, the 2nd Brigade took over from the 506th.

The battalion, for the first three month, was engaged in almost daily counter-fire mission, with their howitzers, against the shiit-militias mortar and rocket attacks on the Forward Operating Base from the outskirts of Sadr City, the strong hold of the radical cleric Muqtara al Sadr and Shiite militiamen. Throughout its deployment the battalion conducted patrols, searches and raids for insurgents and provided security of the residents of Eastern Baghdad, on its own or jointly with Iraqi Army and Iraqi National Police

In January 2007, with the start of increased U.S. soldiers presents in Iraq often referred to the “surge”. Saw the arrival of the 2nd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, which took over control over part of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division’s area of operations, including Sadr City and Adhamiyah.

The 2-17 FA was in charge of Security District Karadah its and 400,000 residents, one of the Baghdad’s nine security districts.

The battalion also had at least two platoons and with other U.S. troops occupied the Zafaraniyah Joint Security Station (JSS) which help in the training of the Iraqi soldiers and police there. The platoons rotated every two weeks. The JSS was established to increase the security of the area.

The 2-17 FA arranged for the supplies and helped pulled security for the 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division and 8th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division to disturbed much needed supplies to the displaced families, in Diyala neighborhood of Baghdad, such as blankets, heaters, food and cooking oil to help in improving the quality of life for displaced families and individuals.

The battalion, also provide security, in the area, with the 1st Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division. The battalion and 80 local residents who had been hired to helped get sports field and building at the Zafaraniyah District Youth Center back into usable condition.

The battalion, with the help, harden the Zafaraniyah gas station by placing T-barriers to serve as a line of defense against vehicle-borne explosive devices attacks, Due to the barriers and combine U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces presence the insurgents were not able to use the gas station and pocket the money from black market sales which help reduce the manufacturing of explosively formed penetrators and car bombs.

With the “surge”, in March the battalion was again operated in a role liken to infantry maneuver unit conduct searches and raids against insurgents in eastern Baghdad. The battalion conducted route clearance, in the area, searching for IEDs. The battalion and local contractors closed gaps between guard rails and installed light post along roads for better illumination in an effort to make routes safer in eastern Baghdad Karada District and have an impact against emplacement of IEDs in the area. In addition, trash pickup, chucks of concrete removed and dirt piles smooth over along the roads was done combat emplacements of IEDs.

Due to the need to increase soldiers in Iraq, during the “surge”, the battalion tour was extended for three months past their original return date back to Fort Carson,

During the time frame from December 2007 to January 2008, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division redeployed to Fort Carson.

On April 18, 2008, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division was inactivated and reflagged the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment was inactivated and re-flagged as the 2nd Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Battery A and Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment and Company G, 2nd Support Battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for Iraq 2006-2008. The battalion participated in the National Resolution and Iraqi Surge Campaigns

**Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF 2012-2013)
2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division
April 2012 to January 2013**

2-17 FA arrived in late April 2012, and took responsibility for enabling Afghan Security Forces and Afghan governance entities in Shah Wali Kot, Mya Neshin and Kankrez districts of Kandahar Province of southern Afghanistan. The battalion has quite a different mission than the last time most of the Soldiers were here-this time 2-17 FA was a “battlespace owner” and essentially serve as a maneuver force headquarters and also have responsibility for managing firing platoons. It is a diverse and challenging mission in difficult terrain.

Most of the Battalion is stationed in Shah Wali Kot, at places like Forward Operating Base (FOB) Frontenac, COP (Combat Outpost) Little Blue and FOB Pacemaker. Most of the Battalion is not conducting a true artillery mission and is serving as “Redleg Riflemen”. 2/17 FA did

however, have four artillery platoons positioned throughout RC-S (Regional Command South) providing artillery fire in support of maneuver forces. 2-17 FA fired nearly 1,000 artillery rounds. Up until mid-September, the battalion had forces positioned at the Mya Neshin District Center in the Mya Neshin district. One of the Firing Batteries is supporting the Special Operations Forces Village Stability Platforms in Khakrez district as well as supporting a Security Force Assistance Team at the Khakrez District Center. Also during the time, the battalion has conducted 5 air assault operations with the battalions Afghan partners into contested territory against a determined and well-equipped enemy. The battalion partners with their Afghan Army and Police partners at every opportunity in order to enable their security operations. They are actually in the lead providing security for the people of Afghanistan, and the battalion provides those capabilities that they currently lack.

The battalion was also fortunate to have numerous attachments to the Task Force, including a Cavalry Troop, an Engineer (Sapper) Platoon, and a Stryker Infantry Platoon, These attachments have assisted the battalion tremendously in establishing security with their Afghan partners and allowing governance and economic activity flourish in these rural areas to the north of Kandahar City.

The battalion redeploy to Joint Base Lewis-McCord in early 2013. The battalion received the Valorous Unit Citation for Kandahar Province 2012-2013 and participated during the campaign Transition I.

2020

As of January 2020, there is only one battalion of 17th Artillery Field Artillery Regiment (Steel), in the regular army. The 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Washington with Headquarters Battery (Honey Badgers) , Battery A (Gator) (Firing Battery), Battery B (Bulldog) (Firing Battery), Battery C (Cobra) (Firing Battery), Battery D (Dragon) (Fire Support , FiST), Battery F (FOX) (Forward Support Company).

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