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## Annual Unit History

Due NLT 01 February each year for the previous calendar year.  
Refer to 28ID Military History Program SOP, dtd. 15 August 2008, for specific guidance.

**For Calendar Year:** 2008

**Unit:** Bravo Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 107<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 2IBCT, 28ID

**Unit Address:** 151 Park Avenue, Oil City, PA> 16301

**Unit POC:** SFC Kessler, Readiness NCO

**Unit POC Phone Number:** (814) 677-2017

### I. Introduction or Forward *(A brief account on the unit's origin and its accomplishments over the years and a statement about the current period covered)*

Unit was organized in October of 1861 by CPT Robert B. Hampton originally designated as Battery F, Independent Pennsylvania Light Artillery. Battery F fought in 62 engagements during the Civil War. During the Spanish American War the unit was deployed to Puerto Rico. The unit was again mobilized for Federal service in 1916 for the Mexican Insurrection. In July 1917 the unit was mobilized for WW I and departed for France in 1918. The unit fought in several battles before its return on 22 May 1919. It was again mobilized for WWII in Feb 1941. The unit arrived in France Jul 1944. The unit fought in many battles durign WWI and returned home shortly after V-E Day. The unit was deployed to Germany during the Korean War. During the 1990's select individuals were deployed to operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. In Dec 2003 much of the Bn were mobilized for IOF II. They arrived in theater in Feb 2004 where they performed MP missions for their one year tour. During Sep 2008 again many members of the unit were deployed with the 56<sup>th</sup> Stryker Brigade for a year tout to Iraq.

Battery B 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery (105mm Towed), Pennsylvania Army National Guard, located at 151 Park Avenue, Oil City, PA. 16301 was last reorganized under Paragraph 200, MTOE 06125GNG01 CCNUM 4308 effective 2 September 2008, as per TAGPA Permanent Order #219-003, dated 6 Aug 2008. This Reorganization changed the mission of the unit from 155mm Howitzer to 105mm Howitzer as part of an IBCT.

Authorized Strength	5 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers, 89 Enlisted
Required Strength	5 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers, 89 Enlisted
Assigned Strength-01 Jan 08	4 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers, 111 Enlisted
Assigned Strength-31 Dec 08	2 Officers, 0 Warrant Officers, 120 Enlisted

### II. Organization and Administration

#### A. Organization *(Select the type of organization from the pull-down menu)*

Artillery

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## **B. Mission** (A brief mission statement and the Mission Essential Task List)

To destroy, neutralize, or suppress the enemy by cannon fire.

## **C. Personnel**

### **1. Commander and Staff** (Brief biographical sketches)

Commander: CPT David Krzak. CPT Krzak was born in Scranton, Pa. He graduated from Pittston Area High School, Yatesville, Pa., and from Elizabethtown College with a B.S. in Computer Science. CPT Krzak's career as a Guardsman began May 22, 1998 when he enlisted in the B/1-109th FA in Nanticoke, PA as a field artillery tactical data systems specialist. His military education includes Officer Candidate School and the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course. He is also a graduate of the Maneuver Control System (MCS) and FBCB2 Digital Master Trainer Course. CPT Krzak served as a platoon leader on deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 18Dec03 to 16Mar05. CPT Krzak's awards include the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ M Device; Overseas Training Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; and the General T.J. Stewart Medal. He lives in Duncannon with his wife Carissa.

First Sergeant: 1SG Bernard Grenier. 1SG Grenier is a graduate of Lewiston High School, Lewiston, ME. After graduation spent 6 years in the Marine Corps before joining the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1997. Has graduated from the following military schools; Sergeants Course, BNCOC, ANCOG, and 1SG Course. Awards and decorations include: Bronze Star; Army Commendation Medal(w/OLC); Army Achievement Medal (w/2 OLC); Army Good Conduct Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal (w/1 BSS); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal (w/ 1 BSS); Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Sea Service (w/1 BSS); NCO Professional Development Ribbon (w/ 3); United Nations Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; Joint Meritorious Unit Citation; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Naval Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation; Governors Unit Citation; Thomas White Medal; Thomas J Stewart Medal; and the Combat Action Badge. 1SG Grenier lives in Hermitage, PA.

### **2. Medal of Honor Winners** (Brief biographical sketches, if available, and a brief account of the action or a copy of the citation) ( If none, enter "NONE")

None.

### **3. Others** (Winners of Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and other) ( If none, enter "NONE")

1LT Joshua Bean, Bronze Star

## **III. Major Accomplishments during the Year**

### **A. Operations**

None

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## **B. Training and Exercises**

Unit trained up 62 of its soldiers for deployment with the 56<sup>th</sup> Stryker Brigade. Unit conducted PDT at Camp Grayling Michigan 16-30 August 2009 where it Netted the M119A2 Light Howitzer.

GDU-R Net Training

Blue Force Tracker Net Training

Centaur Net Training

DAGR Net Training

## **C. Special Events**

### **1. Unit Day Ceremonies**

None

### **2. Civil Actions (State active duty)**

None

### **3. Permanent Changes of Station**

None.

### **4. Recruiting Initiatives**

Participated in the Oil Heritage Festival in downtown Oil City by providing a recruiting booth and display equipment.

Participated in the Apple Fest in Franklin PA by supplying recruiting booth.

### **5. Other (Include community activities, morale support activities, Christmas party, etc.)**

Unit picnic took place on 7 Sep 2009 that took place at the armory.

Unit provided Howitzer salute for the Mercer 500 on Memorial Day 2008.

Unit provided Howitzer Salute for Erie Philharmonic Orchestra in Erie PA 6 Sep 2008.

## **IV. Special Equipment Fielding**

GDU-R

Centaur

Blue Force Tracker

M4 Carbines

LMTV

DAGR

M68 CCO

M1165 HMMWV

M1097 HMMWV

Sincgars model F

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## **V. Appendices**

### **A. Lineage and Honors Certificate**

For almost a century and a half, men from counties throughout Western Pennsylvania have stepped forward in time of war as Field Artillerymen. The proud history of the 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery dates back over one hundred forty-three years to October 1861 at President Abraham Lincoln's Call To Arms for the Civil War. The first Battery Commander was Captain Robert B. Hampton. Captain Hampton was a Pittsburgh native, but had made his fortune in the oil fields along Oil Creek in Venango County. After President Lincoln's Call To Arms, Captain Hampton utilized his personal wealth to recruit a Battery of men from throughout Western Pennsylvania. The Battery was officially designated as Battery F, Independent Pennsylvania Light Artillery; but was more commonly known as Hampton's Battery.

Throughout the Civil War, Hampton's Battery fought in 62 engagements. These battles included Chancellorsville in late April/early May 1863, where Captain Hampton was mortally wounded after being struck in the leg by an artillery round. Shortly thereafter in July 1863, Hampton's Battery fought in the decisive battle of Gettysburg. On July 2nd, 1863, they went into action in the Peach Orchard. There they helped repel the attack of General Longstreet's Corps on the Union's left flank. Private Casper Carlisle of Hampton's Battery was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageous action after the Confederates captured one of the Battery's cannons and were proceeding to return it to their lines. Private Carlisle single-handedly defeated the Confederates and safely returned the cannon section to Union lines. After the action on July 2nd in the Peach Orchard, Hampton's Battery was reassigned to what was believed to be a quiet sector in the center of Cemetery Ridge. The next day, July 3rd, 1863, Hampton's Battery was forced to be part of the gallant Union effort to repel Pickett's Charge. Over the course of two days of desperate fighting at Gettysburg, Battery F, Independent Pennsylvania Light Artillery had seven men killed, including the Acting Battery Commander, 1LT Joseph Miller. Three of those fallen warriors from Hampton's Battery are buried in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

The proud veterans of Hampton's Battery continued to meet as an organization for over 60 years after the Civil War. In the 1880's, they appointed a committee to write a first-hand account of their actions, engagements, and battles during the Civil War from their swearing in October 8, 1861 to their mustering out on June 26, 1865. The 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery proudly possesses copies of that first-hand account of the Civil War.

Before the turn of the century, the Battery continued to drill in Pittsburgh and proudly continued to be known as Hampton's Battery. During the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Battery was commanded by Captain Alfred E. Hunt. Captain Hunt was not only a Soldier, but also a Scientist and Industrialist. Captain Hunt is best known for inventing the process of refining bauxite into aluminum. Captain Hunt went on to found the Aluminum Company of America, better known today as ALCOA. During the Spanish-American War, the Battery was deployed to Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, Captain Hunt acquired malaria while in Puerto Rico and later, after returning stateside, died from complications at only 44.

The 107th Field Artillery was again mobilized for Federal service on June 22, 1916 during the Mexican Insurrection. The Regiment supported General Pershing along the Mexican border throughout 1916 in the pursuit of Pancho Villa before returning to Western Pennsylvania. While the mobilization proved uneventful, it was a precursor for the future of the Regiment.

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As the country prepared for the Great War, General Pershing was named as the Commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF). As General Pershing was organizing his forces for deployment, he looked to the units previously under his command along the Mexican Border to form the core of his forces, including the 107th Field Artillery Regiment. The Regiment was mobilized in July of 1917 and began training in Georgia in August of that year. The 107th Field Artillery Regiment was part of the 53rd Artillery Brigade, directly supporting the 28th Division. The Regiment remained in Georgia until May 1918 when it departed for France.

The Regiment arrived in their French training bases in early June 1918 to begin final training and equipping before deploying to the front. The 107th FA entered combat at 4:40pm August 14, 1918 during the Oise-Aisne Offensive. The Regiment remained in contact with the enemy until September 8, 1918. After repositioning, the 107th FA participated in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive from September 26th until October 9th. After the battle in the Argonne Forest, many of the units in the 28th Division were withdrawn from the line to reorganize and receive replacements. The 107th FA and much of the 28 Division Artillery moved north into Belgium to support the 91st Division consisting of units from California, Washington, and Idaho. The 107th FA remained in Belgium until the Armistice on November 11th. The Regiment returned from France in May 1919 taking part in parades in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh before demobilizing on May 22, 1919.

The Artillerymen of Western Pennsylvania were called upon again in February 1941, nine months before Pearl Harbor, to again be part of the proud 28th Division. Moving throughout the United States for training and exercises, the 107th Field Artillery did not depart for Europe until October 1943. Training continued in Wales and England until the Regiment arrived in France in late July 1944. The unit fought through the hedgerows of Normandy and helped seize the town of Le Neubourg, a key to closing the Falaise pocket. By the end of August, the 107th Field Artillery Regiment was parading along the Champs Elysees in Paris. The 107th FA entered Germany in early September 1944, remaining in continuous contact with the enemy throughout the battles of the Hurtgen Forest until late November. Units of the 28th Division were relocated to what

was supposedly a quiet sector in the Ardennes Forrest to rest and recoup. There, the men of the 107th Field Artillery Regiment participated with valor in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge. Taking heavy losses, the 28th Division was briefly pulled from the front before the final drive of the war. After V-E Day, the unit participated in occupation duties until being demobilized.

During the Korean Conflict, the 107th Field Artillery returned to Germany. Activated in September 1950, the Regiment trained at Camp Atterbury, Indiana before departing for Europe. The Regiment was stationed in the German city of Ulm for over a year. The unit conducted numerous training exercises and duties in post war Germany.

The soldiers of the regiment were not called upon again for Federal service until the mid 1990's. Select individuals participated in the NATO operations in Bosnia and later Kosovo. After September 11, 2001, 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery Soldiers performed security missions at local airports and facilities as part of Homeland Security. Battery D / 229th Field Artillery deployed to Belgium for nine months in 2002 / 2003 to provide security for U.S. Installations.

The 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery traditionally provides direct support Field Artillery fires for Armor and Mechanized Infantry Battalions of the 2nd Brigade, 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Pennsylvania Army National Guard. For their Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 Mission, the 1-107th FA

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Soldiers were mobilized on 18 December 2003 and departed Western Pennsylvania on 29 December 2003 for six weeks of intense Military Police training at Fort Dix, NJ. The 1-107th Field Artillery had the distinction of being the first Field Artillery Battalion in the nation selected to perform the demanding In Lieu Of Military Police Mission in Iraq. After arriving in the theater of operations in February 2004, the units moved north and began Military Police operations.

Battery A (Forward) was assigned to the Mosul area in northern Iraq. Battery B (Forward) was assigned to Camp Bucca in Umm Qasr in southern Iraq. While Battery C (Forward) was assigned to the Baghdad area in central Iraq. Throughout their deployment, the Artillerymen performed a wide variety of Military Police Missions including Detainee Facility Operations, Personal Security Detachments for Senior Officers / Government Officials, Base Camp Security, Check Points, and Security Patrols along the Main Supply Routes (MSR's).

#### History of the 1st Battalion, 107th Field Artillery Unit Crest

The history of 1-107th Field Artillery is told in our Unit Crest, which we are very proud of. If you look carefully at the 1-107th FA Unit Crest, you will see the background is RED, the color of the Field Artillery. Across the front, you will note the BLUE cross which denotes service with the Federal forces during the Civil War. The eight WHITE stars on top of the blue field represent the eight Battle Streamers that Hampton's Battery was awarded during the Civil War. Going around the various quadrants of the unit crest, at the 12 o'clock position the SPANISH CASTLE denotes service during the Spanish-American War in Puerto Rico in 1898. At the 9 o'clock quadrant, you will note the RATTLESNAKE. The Rattlesnake denotes service during the Mexican border conflict in 1916 when the battery was deployed with General Pershing to the southwest desert of the United States to help repel attacks on the U.S. by Poncho Villa. At the 3 o'clock position, you'll notice the FLEUR DE LIS. The Fleur de Lis represents service in France with General Pershing and the American Expeditionary Force during World War I. When the crest was originally constructed and approved in 1929, it was between the World Wars and the 6 o'clock position was empty. Later following World War II, the NORMAN AXE was added to the 6 o'clock position. The 1-107th deployed with the 28th Infantry Division into northern France shortly after D-Day and fought its way across Normandy and on into Germany. When the crest was originally constructed in 1929, the Battalion Motto became "GETTYSBURG TO THE MARNE". Denoting service at Gettysburg, its most prominent battle during the Civil War, and proudly continuing on to along the Marne River where it predominantly served during the First World War. Today, after their return from Operation Iraqi Freedom 2, many of our Soldiers have unofficially changed the Battalion Motto to "Gettysburg to the Euphrates," denoting their most recent service in Iraq.

#### **B. Unit Citations**

Campaign Participation Credit:

Civil War  
Chancellorsville  
Gettysburg

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Peach Orchard  
Pickett's Charge

WWI  
Oise-Aisne Offensive  
Meuse-Argonne Offensive

WWII  
Normandy  
Hurtgen Forest (Ardennes)  
Battle of the Bulge

OIFII

**C. Selected Orders** *(Include alert orders, mobilization orders, etc)*

None

**D. Other.**

None

**VI. Glossary** *(A list of words not commonly used, acronyms and their explanations)*

PDT - Pre Deployment Training

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