

47th Infantry Regiment Update for May 2026

1. Introduction. Greetings, I am Colonel (Retired) Kyle Feger, and I have the distinct honor of serving as your Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. My wife Pam and I were honored to attend the Regimental Reunion in Columbus and Fort Benning, GA the week of 23-26 April 2026. We had a great turnout by veterans and family members of the Vietnam War era, Global War on Terror era veterans, and a tremendous showing by our active-duty brothers in 2nd and 3rd Battalion Drill Sergeants, Officers, and Staff members. I was proud to join our new Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment, Harris Pruitt, in presenting appointment certificates to Russ Vibberts and John Richardson designating them as Honorary Sergeants Major of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, respectively. COL (R) Rob Choppa, President of the National Infantry Association (NIA) delivered an inspiring speech highlighting the Vietnam Veterans as his heroes growing up in the 60s and 70s in upstate New York. I also want to thank Chris and Jane Bresko for all they have done for the Regiment over the past four years while Chris served as the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. And kudos to the whole reunion committee for an outstanding event!

Per Army Regulation 870-21, the United States Army Regimental System exists to ensure that the lineage and history of designated units and commands accurately portrays Army history, offers the opportunity for long term identification with a numbered regiment, like the 47th Infantry, and further emphasizes the history, customs, and traditions of the Regiment. As your Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, it is my responsibility to perpetuate the history and traditions of the Regiment, thereby enhancing unit morale and esprit. I am proud to continue to be associated with the members of this unit, past, present, and future, ever since my tour commanding 2-47 IN at Fort Benning, GA in 2011-2013.

2. Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment: Harris Pruitt

Since 2006 I have attended all the 2/47 Vietnam Brothers reunions and during this time frame I have attended over 100 plus graduations and rotations and other VIP functions. It's an honor to hold this position so I can continue to be a part of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions' legacy and plan for our 2028 reunion.

3. Active-Duty Battalion Updates:

a. 2-47 IN Panthers:

Another great month in the Panther Battalion – especially for our Cadre. Kudos to LT Johnson (D Co) for placing 8th at Best Ranger Competition, Chaplain Allen and SSG Bryant

(HHC) for placing 1st at the Best Unit Ministry Team, SSG Gerlach (B Co) for making the Commandant's List at ALC, A Co for winning the BN's PT Competition, and B Co for scoring 97% in the BDE Command Supply Discipline Program inspection. Additionally, we have officers and NCOs promoting, re-enlisting, completing schools, competing in the Norwegian Ruck March and/or German Army Proficiency Badge, getting married, and having babies, so 2-47IN is a great place to be right now.

We have 3/4 companies in cycle. A Co (CPT Paschall and 1SG Hernandez) has 148 Trainees in Week 5; B Co (CPT Polanski and 1SG Benjamin) has 153 Trainees in Week 5; and D Co (CPT Seratte and 1SG St Onge) has 179 Trainees in Week 6. C Co (CPT Bellocchio and 1SG Conrad) graduated 192 new Infantrymen on 09 April, and they will pick up their next iteration on 01 May with an expected class of ~230.

We'd like to thank the 47th Regimental Association for all the events they hosted – Officer Professional Development, mixers, the ball, luncheon, etc. We are honored to have been a part of the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the NIM. One of the highlights was the Junior Officer Professional Session with some of the veterans who led their Platoons and Companies in Vietnam – specifically HSMOR Harris Pruitt, COL(R) Brice Barnes, and COL(R) John Ionoff.

b. 3-47 IN Raiders:

Over the past month the Raider Battalion saw a dynamic period of training and transition. Demon and Beast Companies proudly graduated 255 new Infantrymen. Cobra and Easy Companies began shaping new classes, focusing on foundational Soldier skills in the initial Red and White phases of training. Axemen Company has been heavily engaged in the Advanced Individual Training (AIT) phase, conducting extensive work on squad-level tactics and marksmanship. They increased their average qualification to 33, a nine-hit increase from their previous class. The companies are incorporating survivability skill training through increased rigor in developing fighting positions and concealment from sUAS. Additionally, we have begun a Battalion internal Leadership Development Program led by CSM Betanzos to better prepare our drill sergeants to teach individual to squad level tactics. The first iteration focused on teaching patrol base establishment and operations.

The Battalion's companies are focused on developing lethal and proficient Infantrymen. Axemen Company advanced their trainees' skills through comprehensive live-fire training with key weapon systems culminating in Squad Tactical Training exercises that honed leadership and patrol-base operations. Cobra Company initiated their new cycle with fundamental warfighting skills, executing their first Field Training Exercise (FTX) which introduced trainees to fieldcraft, camouflage, and night operations. Easy Company also

entered the training cycle, focusing on initial marksmanship and hand-to-hand combat to build a strong foundation for future warfighting tasks.

4. This month in Regimental History:

15 May 1917 – Constituted as 47th Infantry, Regular Army

May 1918 - the regiment arrived at [Brest, France](#), training until July. Initially assigned to Major General [George H. Cameron's 4th Division](#); the regiment was part of Brigadier General [Benjamin A. Poore's 7th Infantry Brigade](#).

May 1919 - serving in the [Army of Occupation](#) near [Koblenz](#), Germany until July 1919

May 1942 – Training at Fort Bragg, NC in preparation for the invasion of North Africa

7 May 1943 – soldiers of the regiment's 2d Battalion, were the first Allied soldiers in [Bizerte](#) Tunisia, during the North Africa Campaign.

May 1944 – Final Preparations in England for the Invasion of Normandy, France in June.

May 1945 – Combat in Germany cease with VE Day on 8 May, transition to occupation duty.

May 1967 - the regiment's 4th Battalion conducted operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone

May 1967 - 3d Battalion deployed to the Mekong Delta proper and began to conduct combat operations near Ap Bac.

19 May 1967, the 2d Brigade's headquarters came under attack on the banks of the [Mỹ Tho River](#), and the regiment's 3d Battalion was heavily engaged in thwarting the attack.

9 May 1968 – Mini-Tet (See Keith Nolan's [House to House: Playing the Enemy's Game in Saigon, May 1968](#))

1 May 1970 – C/2-47 IN leads US Attack into Cambodia (See Keith Nolan's [Into Cambodia](#))

5. New Releases and Sources of Historical Interest:

- a. "Hill 108: Vietnam 1968", [Strategy and Tactics Magazine #358](#) May-June 2026, MG(R) David T. Zabecki
- b. PBS Documentary: [The Mobile Riverine Force](#), KPBS, 13 NOV 2025, 1:29 min, <https://www.kpbs.org/news/2025/11/13/the-mobile-riverine-force>
- c. 9th Infantry Division in WW2 resources <https://worldwar2files.com/9thinfantrydivision/index.html>