

# IVY GUNNER NEWSLETTER

February Issue



## Building Mission Readiness

### *Training Highlights*

**The IVY GUNNER Brigade...**Over the last month, 4DIVARTY executed IVY STING 2, successfully facilitated the Joint Firepower Course (JFC) Mobile Training Team (MTT) that graduated 89 Soldiers and Airmen, participated in the IVY MASS Main Planning Conference (MPC), and conducted Q-53 Radar Extended Range upgrades. Over the next two weeks 4DIVARTY will conduct an EXEVAL to qualify C BTRY, 2-12 FA's Artillery Table XV, participate in the XVIII Airborne Corps Fires Synch prior to WFX 24-05, attend IVY STING 3's Main Planning Conference, and Raider BDE's FSCX/ Artillery Table XVIII IPR #3. Additionally, the IVY GUNNERS bid a farewell to two key leaders from our team. On 28 FEB 24, we hosted the DIVARTY Change of Responsibility Ceremony at the Special Events Center (SEC), where CSM Donald Durgin relinquished responsibility to CSM Juan Lozano. On 01 MAR 24, Head Honcho Battery will conduct a Change of Command, where CPT Jessica Hartley will pass the guidon and responsibility of command to CPT Jacob Planchon.

### **Thank You to the Families and Friends of the IVY GUNNERS!**

Throughout all of the long days and weeks, knowing we have a strong support network, motivates us to persevere through any challenge. The belief in our mission, and your encouragement, fuels our determination to excel in our duties, and for that, we are immensely grateful. We cannot thank you enough for your dedication to your Soldiers and to the unit. We hope to keep making you all proud as we continue our training glidepath to excellence.

**IVY GUNNERS  
FIT TO FIGHT!**



COL Charles Knoll  
DIVARTY Commander



CSM Juan Lozano  
DIVARTY Command Sgt. Maj.

### Command Team Corner

#### Ivy Gunner Team,

Please join me in thanking CSM Durgin for his leadership and mentorship over the past two years while serving as Ivy Gunner 7. We will miss his dedication and council and wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors. Please also join us in welcoming CSM Lozano to the Ivy Gunner team as we look forward to him serving as Ivy Gunner 7.

Over the past month, the Ivy Gunner team conducted Ivy Sting 2. This was the second field training exercise in our training progression as we prepare for our Ivy Mass exercise. During Ivy Sting 2, the Ivy Gunners refined our staff processes, conducted tactical planning, validated the command post, and developed contingencies. This is important as we strive to build lethal teams and ready people! The lessons that we learned better prepares us for our next field training exercise and would not be possible without our Ivy Gunner Soldiers. As we continue our training glidepath, I ask that everyone continues to refer to the calendar and take a proactive approach to prepare for us to be in the field. Lastly, I ask that everyone stay connected to your respective CFRRs to get the most up-to-date information.

STEADFAST AND LOYAL!

IVY GUNNERS!



CPT Jessica Hartley  
Battery Commander



1SG Kofi Kyereme  
Battery First Sgt.

# Battery Command Team Corner

*Greetings, Head Honcho family!*

Head Honchos were busy the month of February. From IVY STING 2, change of command inventories, equipment upgrades, and certifications, every Soldier was engaged and absolutely crushed every mission. Head Honchos had four Basic Leader Course graduates this month (SPC Shim, SPC Jones, SPC Emery, and SPC Harrison) and one SLC graduate (SSG Soto). I will be relinquishing command on 1 March 2024 to CPT Planchon and am heartbroken to no longer be in command of this incredible Battery with phenomenal Soldiers. I am proud to be a Head Honcho and will carry that forever. 1SG and I cannot express how truly blessed and grateful we are of the hard-working Soldiers we have in this unit.

## **Unite and Conquer!**



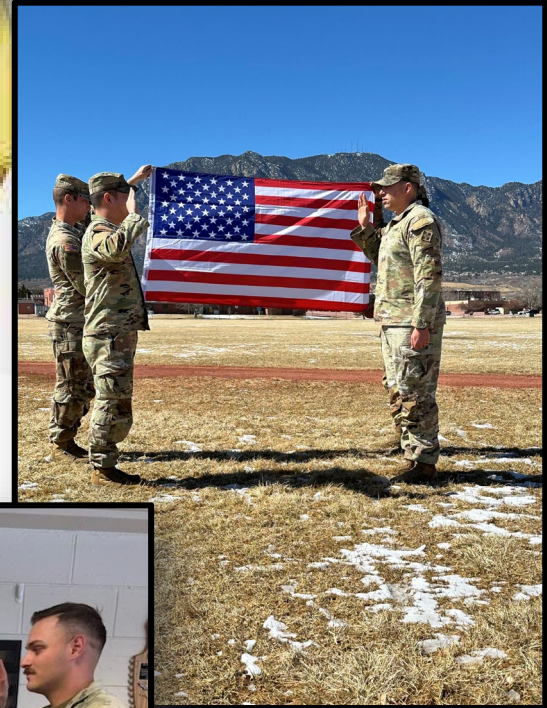
**Soldier Highlights -**  
*Right Picture:* SSG Kelly's re-enlistment

*Bottom Picture:* SSG Barnes' re-enlistment



**Soldier Highlights -**  
*Top Picture:* HHB Soldier of the Week - CPL Walthall

*Left Picture:* SSG Madrigal's indefinite re-enlistment







# READY COMPANY ROUNDUP

## KIOSK

A new food kiosk is hitting the READY company scene making grabbing food easy for everyone! With a variety of quick and tasty options, this kiosk is all about convenience and deliciousness. Say goodbye to long waits and hello to easy, delicious meal on the go!

POC: SSG Street 115<sup>th</sup> QM CO  
MON-FRI 1600-1800  
Weekend/DONSA 0900-1700



## PAINTING

Our multi-talented team is giving the workspace a fresh fresh look with a splash of paint! Adding a pop of color is just what was needed to transform the space giving it a whole new vibe.

## VALENTINES DAY CELEBRATION!

On Valentine's Day, Ready company Soldiers spread the love with delicious food and treats at the Valentines Day potluck. Soldiers and leadership brought in individual valentines to share with co-workers. What a lovely way to celebrate!



## KEYS TO CONNECTION

On Wednesdays, In-processing Soldiers and Ready Company leaders partake in Keys to Connections where Soldiers can network with Fort Carson community resources. From ACS to Finance, "K2C" is a one stop shop for learning and connecting with the community.



Come Pay Us a Visit at  
1456 IronFighter Drive

SFRG POC:

SSG Desirae Williams

Cell: (706) 664-7467

[desirae.t.williams.mil@army.mil](mailto:desirae.t.williams.mil@army.mil)

Alt POC: SGT Clay, Mazie

[Mazie.e.clay.mil@army.mil](mailto:Mazie.e.clay.mil@army.mil)





MAJ Thomas Robinson  
BDE Chaplain

## Chaplain Corner

*Greetings, Ivy Gunner family!*

### The Power of Habits

We are shaped by our habits. I wish this was optional. It is not. Let me explain.

What we do again and again and again is doing something to us. Why? Because at our core we are embodied beings. Let me illustrate with the concept of muscle memory.

When learning a new workout, it's important that we learn the basics, to get work out the right and not hurt ourselves. Overtime, as we engage in this new workout, we develop what is called muscle memory. We are able to execute the workout without even thinking about it. According to the experts, "muscle memory refers to a neurological process that occurs after learning certain motor skills or movement patterns that allows you to remember how to execute these motor skills without conscious effort."

This concept is not just true of working out. We are creatures of habits. We tend to take the same route to and from work. We like our coffee a certain way, etc.

Now, if the above is accurate, that the habits we have formed are forming us, then we need to honestly ask ourselves, do we like who we are becoming through these habits of ours? Or do we need new habits to alter who we are really becoming?

Remember, what we do is doing something to us.

## Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims globally as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. For faithful adherents, Ramadan is about connecting with God and their communities. Muslims believe that it was during this month Allah (Muslims name for God) gave the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam, and told him he was in charge of carrying God's message.

Below are some of the practices that Muslims engaged in during Ramadan:

- **Fasting:** The most well-known practice during Ramadan is fasting, which involves abstaining from food and drink from dawn until sunset.
- **Prayer:** Muslims increase their prayers during Ramadan, with many attending special congregational prayers at night called Taraweeh.
- **Quranic recitation:** Many Muslims aim to read the entire Quran during Ramadan at least once, or at least a significant portion of it.
- **Charitable giving:** Ramadan is also a time for increased charitable giving, with many Muslims donating to charitable organizations or individuals in need.
- **Breaking the fast:** Muslims typically break their fast communally, with dates and water, followed by a short meal called Iftar. This meal is often a communal gathering with family and friends.
- **Increased spiritual reflection:** Many Muslims use Ramadan as a time for increased spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and a deeper connection with God.
- **Eid ul-Fitr:** The end of Ramadan is marked by a "thanksgiving" celebration called Eid ul-Fitr, which includes prayer, food, and festivities.

Now, if we have Muslim Soldiers in our formation who are choosing to observe Ramadan, our moral obligation is to support them and respect their religious observance of Ramadan.

In 2024, Ramadan is expected to begin Monday, March 11, and continue through Wednesday, April 10, enduring with the Eid ul-Fitr celebration.







LTC Donald Hayfron  
Battalion Commander



CSM Jill Steele  
Battalion Command Sgt.  
Major.

## Battalion Command Team Corner

### Battle Ready Team,

CSM Steele and I express our sincere appreciation for your unwavering dedication to the success of Operation Clean Sweep and Ivy Sting II. These operations are pivotal milestones and reflect your tireless efforts to maintain a high state of readiness. Your commitment is vital to our Battalion's mission to cultivate Ready People and foster Lethal Teams. As we face the challenges ahead, approach them with unwavering grit and determination. Your leadership and teamwork do not go unnoticed – they are integral to our collective success. Let Operation Clean Sweep and Ivy Sting II remind you of each of your invaluable contributions to the lethality of the Ivy Division. Your resilience and collaborative spirit are truly inspirational to us all. Stay focused, stay motivated, and above all, Stay Ready. Together, we will overcome any obstacle and achieve victory.

# ***Battle Ready!***



### **Staff Highlights:**

HHBN Staff setting up the Battalion Tactical Operation Center (TOC) alongside Division for a Division Exercise at the Mission Training Center (MTC)!





CPT Tyler Miranda  
Company Commander



1SG Joseph O'Donnell  
Company First Sergeant



# HSC Command Team Corner

## COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS

### HATCHET FAMILY!

HSC has been hard at work over the last month with heavy involvement in cleaning up our motor pool and containers to identify equipment to turn in and get off our hands. On the training side, HSC has been busy in planning and executing the IVY Sting series in preparation for our large summer exercise, IVY MASS. The pace our Soldiers have maintained since coming back from the holidays has remained high and will continue through the coming months. 1SG and I are extremely proud of the consistent hard work and effort put forth by members of HSC each and every day.

**"ALWAYS READY"**

#### Upcoming Events:

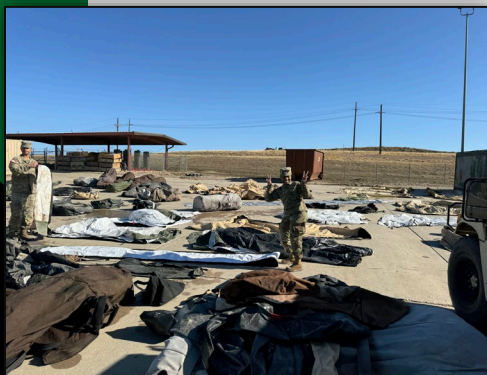
- HSC SFRG Meeting – March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Spring DONSA – March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Easter DONSA – MAR 29 - APR 1



SSG Olivier, SGT Acosta, and SGT Smith from the HSC Maintenance team reenlist at Helen Hunt Falls

### March Birthdays

LTC STAPLER	1-Mar
SPC KENNEDY	3-Mar
CPT FLETCHER	7-Mar
LTC TANG	7-Mar
LTC HAYFRON	8-Mar
SGT JIMENEZ	9-Mar
CPT CARPENTIER	10-Mar
MAJ THODOS	11-Mar
MAJ ESTEBAN	11-Mar
1LT FURRY	16-Mar
SFC STANDRING	17-Mar
MAJ RANDALL	18-Mar
CPT POULSON	19-Mar
MSG MOON	21-Mar
SGT LANGE	22-Mar
SGM TRAYLOR	23-Mar
LTC PAYTON	23-Mar
MAJ DUNKIN	23-Mar
SSG ISRAEL	24-Mar
CW2 PHARES	25-Mar
SFC STUEHSE	25-Mar
PFC ANDERSON	25-Mar
SPC LAFAELE	28-Mar
MSG WHITFIELD	29-Mar
CPT BOYD	30-Mar



HSC Soldiers inventorying and organizing excess equipment in the motor pool.



SGT Bowers receives a coin from MG Doyle for his work organizing his section's containers.







CPT Donovan Sulser  
Company Commander



1SG Kyle See  
Company 1SG



**SENTINELS**

# SISCO Company Team Corner

SISCO has been diligently training and preparing for the upcoming IVY Sting and IVY Mass exercises as well as cleaning up our work areas during Operation Clean House over the last month. Everyone in SISCO has been excelling during the high tempo of operations and will continue to make 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division great! The SISCO Command Team is incredibly proud of everyone!

## “Shields Up”

### Upcoming Events:

- Spring DONSA – March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Change of Command – 28 MAR
- Easter DONSA – MAR 29 - APR 1



Four Soldiers graduate from BLC and were laterally promoted to CPL. CPL Steven Barham, CPL Mason Cuffie, CPL Alexia Guzman, CPL Adam Huskey



RETRANS training conducted by TAC Platoon



Reenlistment of SFC Castillo (INFEF) and SGT Eickmeier (6 Years)



# The Mountain Herald

The 4ID Band's Soldier Family Readiness Newsletter



## Commander's Corner - by CW2 Mike Becker

March is a busy month for Army Band Soldiers. Here's a little of what's going on:

**M.I.O.S.:** March is "Music in Our Schools Month", where Army Bands around the country put on performances for school children of all ages to promote music education. This March, we'll be putting on concerts at schools all around Colorado Springs and even towards Denver.

**Spring Break:** During the last week of March, we've kept our schedule more open so families can plan a trip for Spring Break...(sorry Brass Quintet, there's a performance on Friday, but the rest of the week is yours)! My intent is to maximize your Soldier's availability to take leave that week.

**Band Recital:** We'd like to give families an opportunity to hear their Soldier play. Join us for our first Band recital! Performance groups will perform some of their favorite pieces just for our Band Families. *April 19, 6pm at the Band Hall—bring some snacks and treats!*

In this issue:

- ◆ Commander's Corner
- ◆ Hail and Farewell
- ◆ Highlights

## Highlights



Soldiers maintain vehicles weekly. SSG Kersh is instructing Band Soldiers on what to check for on our Humvee.



Year round our Soldiers work on their marching skills; pictured here during a "drill band" session, led by SSG Larson!





## Highlights - Band Ski Trip

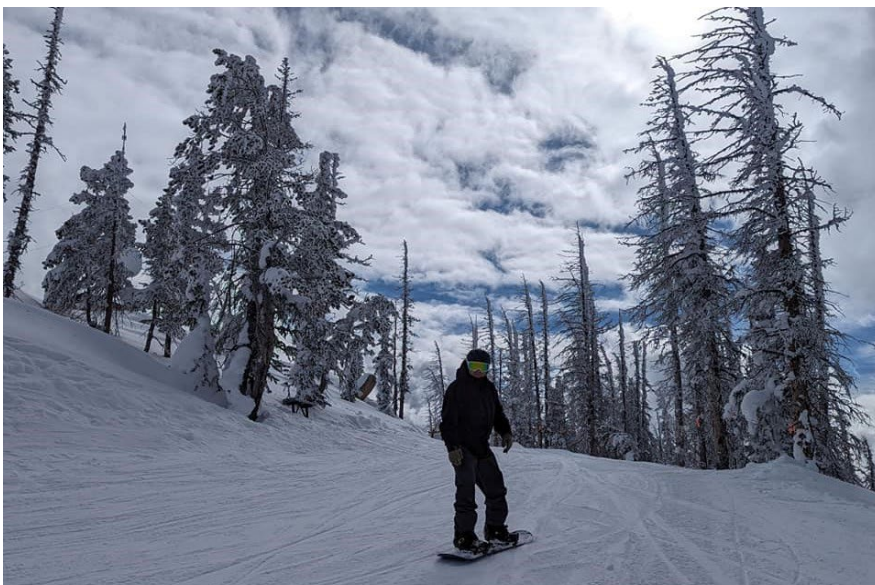
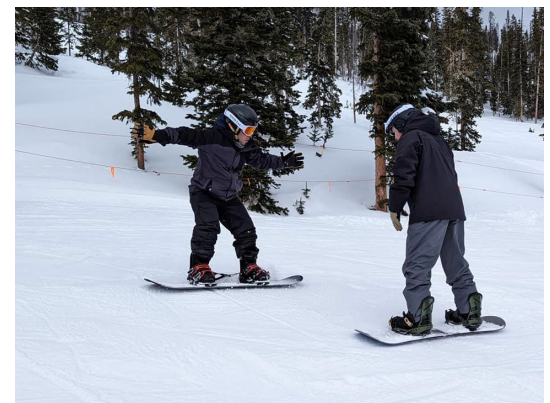


**41D Band Soldiers enjoyed a unit ski trip at Monarch Mountain, sponsored by Warrior Adventure Quest through Outdoor Recreation.**

It's been two years since the Band went on a ski trip, but this was a trip to remember! Once a year, the "Warrior Adventure Quest" program sponsors a unit high-adrenaline outdoor activity to boost esprit-de-corps and foster

resilience. Lift tickets and equipment rentals are all free for Soldiers, and clothes rentals are also available from Outdoor Recreation (MWR).

Because the winter is typically less busy for the Band than the summer, we like taking to the slopes for a ski trip! This year the snow was perfect for skiing and snowboarding. For many of our Soldiers, this was their first time picking up a snow sport. Several of the Soldiers from the previous trip enjoyed skiing and snowboarding so much they've taught their kids and made it a hobby.



**SFC Greenberg learned to snowboard last year's Band ski trip. This year he made it to the top of the mountain, sporting his progress over two years.**





# New Adventures Await

1LT Riley T. Upton, a Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, and Nuclear (CBRN) Officer, served with distinction as the 4th Infantry Division Artillery's Protection Officer from June 2022 through February 2024. Having previously served in 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade in South Korea, 1LT Upton reported to the IVY GUNNERS in June 2022 and enthusiastically assumed duties and responsibilities well-above his pay grade. Despite his lack of formal experience in Air Defense, 1LT Upton took charge of the DIVARTY's Air Defense Platoon and quickly learned their role and capability provided to 4ID so he could further facilitate their success as the Platoon Leader. 1LT Upton directly assisted in the efficient and safe deployment of the IVY GUNNERS to the Baltics in support of Operation European Assure, Deter, and Reinforce where he provided expert Protection Warfighting Function support to Area of Operations Victory North. 1LT Upton then assisted with the successful redeployment of the DIVARTY back to Fort Carson, CO. His tireless contributions to the 4th Infantry Division Artillery are innumerable and we are grateful to have served alongside him on our Team!

1LT Upton is headed to La Crosse, Wisconsin where he will serve as a CBRN Officer in the Wisconsin National Guard and rejoin his wife, an Army Nurse in the Wisconsin National Guard. Good luck, Riley! IVY GUNNERS!



## BLC & SLC Graduations



SPC Harrison and MTX Team at BLC Graduation



SLC Graduate: SSG Soto



SPC Shim, SPC Jones, SPC Emery, and SPC Harrison

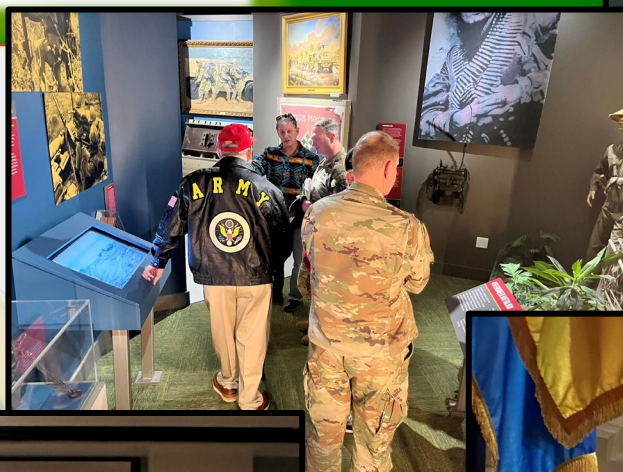


SPC Emery & SPC Jones with the Signal/S6 team at BLC Graduation

*To you, your families, and friends,  
thank you for your hard work and  
dedication to the IVY GUNNERS!*



# February Events



Ivy Sting II





# 2-12FA Change of Responsibility





## Joint Firepower Course Training



From 05 to 15 February 2024, 93 Soldiers and Airmen of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and FCCO Tenant Units attended the Joint Firepower Course MiTT training course on Fort Carson. Attendance included servicemembers from across the Fires Enterprise ranging from junior enlisted Soldiers (serving as AFATDS and TAIS operators in the JAGIC), Chief Warrant Officers (Division Targeting Officers), to Lieutenants and Captains (BN FSOs, FDOs, and Intelligence officers). After they demonstrated comprehension of the information, they received through two tests and a practical exercise, the service members received graduation certificates and ASI 5U orders to enhance their formations and the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's warfighting capabilities.

The first week of the course focused on how the Theater Air Ground System (TAGS) manages the integration of joint assets into unified action. Each class detailed how nodes within the TAGS facilitate synchronization of lethal and non-lethal assets, while maintaining a thorough common operating picture for the Joint Force Commander. Students were instructed on what each service provides to the JFC (fixed wing, rotary wing, land based and naval fires) and the types of control set in place to facilitate seamless integration into combat operations. The second week of the course, the students were challenged to put into action all the information received by participating in a three-day practical exercise, in which servicemembers were assigned duty positions to include S3, FSO, ALO, Targeting Officer, and other key staff positions.



# DIVARTY Change of Responsibility





# SPECIAL SHOUTOUTS



## February Ivy Gunner Birthday's!

CPT Alex Brink  
1LT Melanie Frederick  
WO1 Anthony Thompson  
MSG Adam Bruce  
SFC Donnie Bass  
SSG Amos Ro  
SGT Deangelo Brown  
SGT Ommelia Francis  
SGT Duane Lowe  
SGT Lazaro Reyes  
SPC Jaehyun Byun  
SPC Colten Harrison  
SPC Tremon Jones  
SPC Vincent Polizzi

WE HOPE YOU ALL ENJOYED  
YOUR SPECIAL DAY SURROUNDED  
BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

## Ivy Gunner of the Week!



SPC Civis epitomizes the DIVARTY's "F.I.R.E.S" mindset – namely in his Functional Expertise and Integration. SPC Civis' dedication to his Warfighting Function, his fellow Soldiers, and the formation, reinforce his consummate professionalism as an exemplary IVY GUNNER

## New Babies & Parents to Be Shoutouts



Congratulations to the Wynne Family on welcoming a healthy baby boy to the world! Welcome to the Ivy Gunner Family Marshall Joseph Wynne



Congratulations to the Dixon Family on finding out the gender of their newest addition to the family! They will be having a little girl that they will welcome to the world in August!

WINTER

SAFETY

TIPS

(MONTHLY REMINDER)



### **How to Prevent Pipe Bursts in Your Home:**

- Allow faucets to drip overnight and when you leave your home for vacations or trips.
- Replace air filters in your furnaces. Recommended by BBC Maintenance, every 30 days. At max, 90 days.
- Do NOT shut off your heat. When not in the home, leave your thermostat at 70 degrees.

### **Winter Car Preparation:**

- Make sure your car is serviced (i.e. oil change, brakes replaced, tires rotated or replaced, battery checked or replaced)
- Emergency kit in your car:
  - Water
  - Food
  - Blanket
  - Batteries
  - Flashlight
  - Snow chains or snow tires
  - First aid kit
  - Snow brush/ice scraper and shovel
  - Power bank for cell phones
  - Jumper cables or portable jump kit



# 4<sup>th</sup> DIVARTY Soldier-Family Readiness Group (SFRG)

*The IVY GUNNER'S SFRG forms a network of mutual support and assistance, especially during unit deployments. SFRGs provide a critical link between Soldier readiness and families. We are here to provide official, accurate command information and connect SFRG members to on/off post community resources!*

## **Routine Events:**

Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings  
Monthly BTRY SFRG Meetings

## **Upcoming March Events:**

Battery Change of Command  
Radar Certifications  
Command Discipline Program Inspection  
2-12FA Artillery Table XV's

## **Fort Carson Events**

[Fort Carson Army MWR](https://carson.armymwr.com/) -  
<https://carson.armymwr.com/>  
*Utilize FCCO MWR link to stay up to date on  
all community events and opportunities!*

## Follow Our Pages!

*facebook.com/4DivisionArtillery/  
Instagram: 4id\_divarty*





To be added to the SFRG  
email roster to receive  
updates, event details,  
newsletters and more, contact  
the unit CFRR at  
[catie.rendon@gmail.com](mailto:catie.rendon@gmail.com)

Our SFRG is made up entirely of volunteers. For inquires on how you can support your SFRG, please contact the unit Command Family Readiness Representative (CFRR), Catie Rendon at [catie.rendon@gmail.com](mailto:catie.rendon@gmail.com).

*A special thank you to all our current volunteers and members. The work you do is greatly appreciated and invaluable to our team!*



# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
C BTRY 2-12FA Artillery Table XV					BTRY Change of Command	
Radar Certifications						
 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Savings Time	ACFT				DONSA	
 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day	Radar Certifications/Command Discipline Program Inspection (19-22MAR)					
 24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday	Radar Certifications			4ID Walking Townhall	DONSA	
 31	1					
Easter Sunday	DONSA					

## BIRTHDAYS

MAJ CALEB ELLIS  
 MAJ MATTHEW VANVLIET  
 CPT ANTHONY NICHOLSON  
 CW2 KAYLA DIXON  
 CW2 JOSEPH RIDENOUR  
 MSG FELISHA JOHNSON

ISG ANTHONY SANTI  
 SFC NATHAN BLEVINS  
 SSG JAQUEZ BARDEN  
 SSG ANTONIA RIVAS  
 SGT KEVIN HOAG  
 SGT HECTOR MENDOZA  
 CPL OSCAR MENDEZJAIMES

SPC OSCAR CIVIS  
 SPC ADELINE HUEY  
 SPC TYLER OCH  
 SPC NOAH SMITH