

# 1-94 Field Artillery stands up at Strassburg

Story and photo by  
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BAUMHOLDER, Germany—The skies over Strassburg Kaserne were exceptionally clear Sept. 15 as German and American dignitaries settled in their seats under shady canopies to witness the induction of the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery into the ranks of the 1st Armored Division, Division Artillery. The guests listened politely as Col. Daniel Nolan, III, Division Artillery commander, addressed them and the five batteries of soldiers assembled on the grassy field next to Rudy's on Strassburg Kaserne.

The occasion marked the official activation of 1-94 FA and placed the battalion one step closer to full integration into America's Tank Division.

"Not only has the leadership of the battalion created this excellent organization, they moved it from Baumholder out here to Idar-Oberstein — no easy task in itself. Their impact in the community is evident. The Division Artillery is proud to be able to continue the U.S. Army's presence in this great community. I know that you sometimes feel isolated out here, but I want you to know that you and your families are never far from our thoughts," said Nolan.

The day's ceremony was mostly a symbolic gesture because, according to Nolan, "This battalion is already on the road to success. Their crews are certified and we are moving smartly into platoon and battery certification, which will culminate next February with the battalion external evaluation and certification during Rolling Steel 2001." Rolling Steel is the annual DIVARTY exercise that mobilizes



Soldiers from the newly activated 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery uncased the unit's colors during the official activation ceremony.

most of its assets out into the German countryside for realistic training, and as Nolan noted, for unit certification.

During the months, weeks and days leading up to the day's ceremony, "Our objective was focused on equipping the man, not manning the equipment," said Nolan. "We invested heavily in putting the leadership in place early and activating the battalion, provisionally, 90 days ahead of schedule."

Alluding to the many taskings which have come down the pike for the unit, Nolan said, "If the unit's numerical designation, 1-94, had not had such a historic significance, I would have been tempted to number this battalion 911. I've called on them time and again to pick up critical national and training missions, and they've never missed a beat.

"I gave them the responsibility for the salute battery and they were magnificent. I dragged the leadership to Warfighter to replace a DIVARTY staff decimated by support of Task Force Falcon in Kosovo. Delta 1-94, the

target acquisition battery, has supported numerous training events and is currently committed [to] a national contingency mission.

"Even as I continue to send them fire missions, there has never been a moment when they've flinched. Despite the crushing load of just standing up the battalion, they've executed each of these missions flawlessly. This is a testament to the adaptability of the leaders and the dedication of the soldiers.

"Artillery is, of course, the argument of kings and this is the battalion you want on your side in a debate. The 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery represents not merely a doubling of the division surface-to-surface fire power, but the means by which we would compel an adversary to see the wisdom of our will."

Lt. Col. Walter R. Cheshire, a veteran field artillery officer that was previously assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery in Baumholder, will lead the battalion through its

formative years.

"What a day. The 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery rocket radar battalion has been activated," proclaimed Cheshire. "The Division, DIVARTY and this battalion have waited in anticipation of this milestone to mark a commencement of our further integration into America's Tank Division," he said.

"The 94th FA has a proud and colorful background and the 1st Battalion looks forward to continuing that tradition," he said.

Just like Army philosophy stresses the need to function as a team, Cheshire stressed that this event represented significant effort

on the part of many people.

He first noted the efforts of the leadership of the division. "With great resolve, our commanding general has placed emphasis on the activation of this battalion and the division staff has followed suit," he said.

Taking aim closer to home, Cheshire said, "The Division Artillery commander and staff assumed significant risk and made great sacrifices in order to make this unit successful and strong."

The third leg of his attribution for the successful activation of the unit went to the Baumholder community and the 222nd Base Support

Battalion, who, according to Cheshire, gave "...outstanding support to ensure that 1-94 received a priority in allocation of precious resources."

The final compliment went to the backbone of the unit, the Iron Soldiers and their families. "Having been summoned locally and from around the world, to come together and make this a great combat team, these folks are here, standing ready to be certified as a combat capable asset for the division.

"The battalion has yet a road to travel, which will lead to combat certification and integrate them into the division, and today we stand ready to meet the challenge," Cheshire said.

## Man on the street



### What are the best and worst things about being stationed in Germany?

#### Pfc. Valerie Oberdorf

Bad Kreuznach – Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division

"Seeing and learning about the culture and history is the best part of being stationed in Germany."

"I don't dislike anything. Germany is a great place to be stationed."

#### Sgt. Saladin Aracelis

Bad Kreuznach – Company C, 141st Signal Battalion

"Learning about another culture and seeing a beautiful country is what I like best about being stationed in Germany."

"Not being able to go to a Chinese restaurant on Sunday night is the worst part about being stationed in Germany."

#### 1st Lt. Brian Witcher

Bad Kreuznach – Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division

"You can see the whole country in a matter of six hours and see different countries that are also close by."

"It is difficult to communicate if you do not know the German language."