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Contact the Friends of the Falcons First Organization

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Friends of the Falcon First

Welcome to Friends of the Falcons First Organization

The Mission of The Friends of the Falcons First Organization is to work in cohesion with the Fort Myers Rotary Club in order to provide support to the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery during their deployment operations by providing items currently unavailable to them by normal military means.

1-77 FA Newsletter

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Photos from Downrange



Superbowl Party

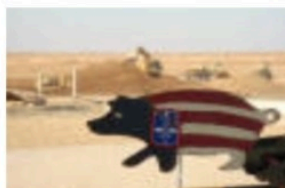
On Sunday February 1st 2009 the Falcons were rewarded with a well deserved Superbowl party. This would mark the first time that 172nd Soldiers were legally authorized to drink alcoholic beverages in the Iraqi Theatre.



Pictures from Iraq

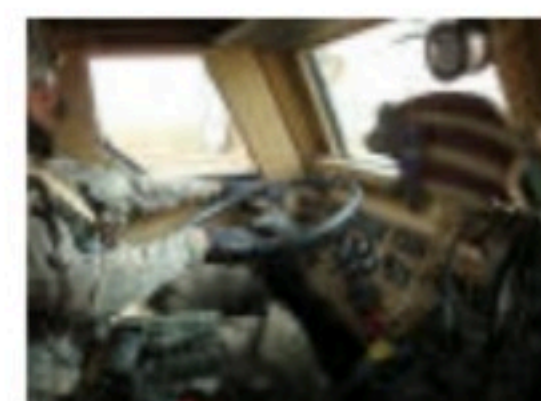
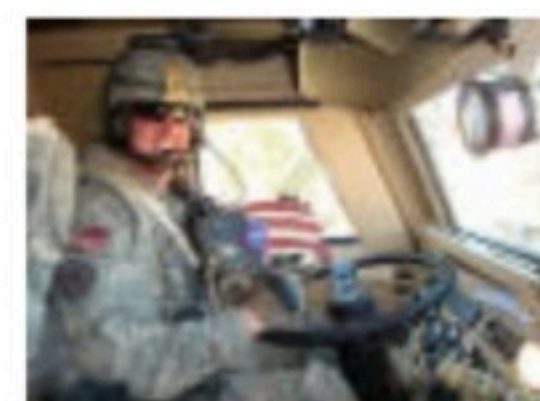
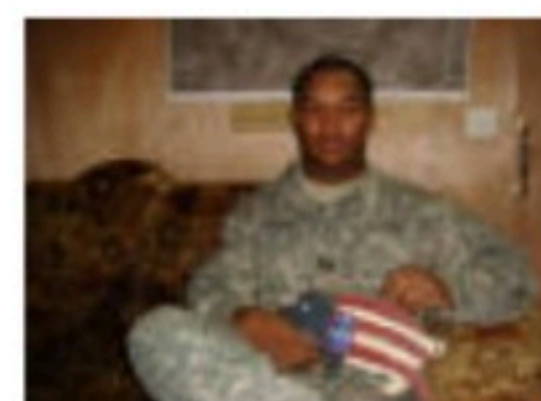
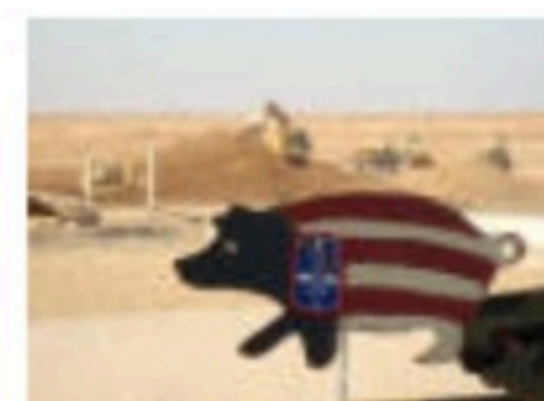
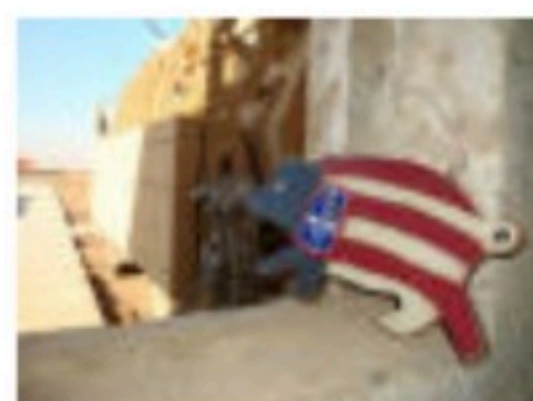
own Soldiers.

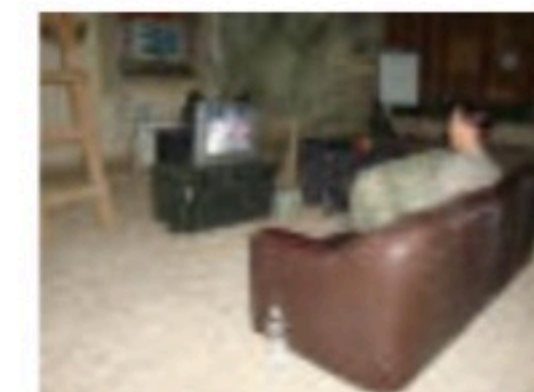
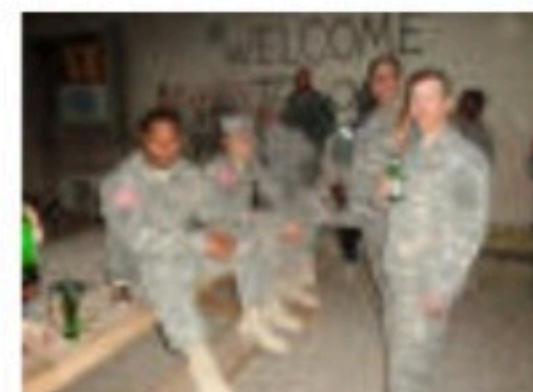
Since the deployment started there where many improvements to the areas of operation. Almost all of which have been completed by our



Flat Wilbur (Not in Schweinfurt)

Upon arrival in Iraq they pulled flat Wilbur out of his bag and introduced him to the area appropriately. These are some pictures of Flat Wilbur with his friends from the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery.





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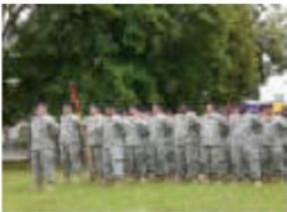
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Galleries from Rear Detachment



Rear Detachment Activation

On September 30, 2008, the Falcons First Activated the Rear Detachment.



German American Partnership Display in Wildflicken

Delta Battery conducted a layout of equipment and weapons used by the US Army to show German civilians and Soldiers what types of equipment we use day to day. Many people showed up and were interested to see what we do.



1-77 FA Battalion Christmas Party

The Battalion Christmas Party was a successful gathering of family members to enjoy a night with their children where they received their Battalion T-Shirts as gifts donated by the FRG.



Wilbur Schweinfurt ('Nuf Said)

To signify to the children of the Schweinfurt community the supporting units have devised two community wide characters to represent sponsoring units as they deploy to their respective areas of operation. Wilbur Schweinfurt is used to represent deployment to and from Iraq. An alternate character is known as Schweinella. She is used to represent deployment to Afganistan.



SES Pushup Test

The Soldiers of the 1-77 FA sponsored a push up event for the children of the community to show them the types of activities we deal with in every day army life.



SES Community Volksmarch

We sponsored the children of the SES along with other units from within the community to give the children of the community a day out where they walked from the school, past Ledward barracks, to past the local wash rack and Kessler Field to the cross road leading to the local training area where they all received an apple for their trek and then returned. Along the way each unit set up a static display of equipment the the Army uses Day to day.



Deployment Sendoffs

The families of the Falcons First showed mixed emotions when it came time for their loved ones to deploy in support of the war on terrorism. They used the opportunity to say goodbye to their loved ones and to wish them a safe return.



The Harvest Festival

The community held a harvest festival to show the spirit of Halloween. There were many events to keep families busy. The Soldiers of the community sponsored the event and had fun while supporting the families.



Falcons First Franconian Fall Formal

The Rear Detachment organized a Formal all ranks ball while the Soldiers of the unit were in Grafenwoehr preparing for the upcoming deployment. Many were in attendance, and LT. General Hunzecker spoke as a guest of the Battalion as a motivational tool.

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Photos of Falcons First's Friends

[Rotary Club of Fort Myers, FL](#)





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Charter Members

President



Kyle R. Bergstreser

Vice President



Jason A. Cole

Secretary



Tristan L. Trisvan

Treasurer



David M. Evetts

Board Member



Daron C. Curry

Board Member



Philip A. Itliong

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Constitution

ARTICLE 1: NAME, LOCATION, AND AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. The name of this organization is The Friends of the Falcons First Battalion, located in the Schweinfurt military community, Schweinfurt Federal Republic of Germany. This is a private organization operating in support of 1-77FA.

SECTION 2. This organization will operate in the Schweinfurt military community and within the guidelines set forth by USAREUR, USAG Schweinfurt, and AR 210-22.

SECTION 3. Any amendments will comply with all military regulations governing private organizations operating in the military community and supersede and previous articles or organizations and become effective at the close of the meeting in which they are adopted.

SECTION 4. This organization is established in accordance with AR 210-22 and USAREUR policy. This organization is not an instrumentality of the United States, will be self sustaining, and may not receive financial assistance of the Army or Non-appropriated Funds. Neither the United States Army nor USAREUR nor USAG Schweinfurt nor any other part of the United States Government will assume responsibility for the organization's actions or debts. This organization will not in any way duplicate or compete with non-appropriated funds instrumentality operation or appropriated fund Governmental function.

SECTION 5. All members, in accordance with host nation laws, may be personally liable to creditors, if the assets of the organization are insufficient to discharge all liabilities.

SECTION 6. All members are required to read the Constitution and By-laws upon joining the organization. Members will be required to sign a statement to that effect that they understand the provisions of this section and did in fact read the Constitution and By-laws.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1: Officers on the end of their term of office will ensure that all organization records are complete including checkbook, financial statements and meeting minutes. These items will be handed off to the new board of officers.

SECTION 2: The organization President will ensure the treasurer maintains the checkbook and financial statements. The Secretary will record all meetings and all rules and regulations are followed. The Treasurer will maintain accurate accounting records, financial statements and ensure all funds are spent in an appropriate manor. The Secretary will maintain accurate records and will record all votes and decisions made by the board of Officers.

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

SECTION 1: Meetings will be held monthly at a location determined by a majority vote of the Officers of the organization. All meetings must be comprised of at least three members of the organization. One of these members must be an Officer of the organization.

SECTION 2: Upon change of an officer and updated list to include full name, address and daytime telephone number will be forwarded to the approval authority.

SECTION 3: A copy of all meeting minutes will be forwarded to the approving authority and be signed by the president.

SECTION 4: All members of the Friends of The Falcons First Organization will be supportive and operate under both the Army Values and the values of the Blackhawk Brigade and the Falcons First Battalion. All members of the organization will have a SOFA status.

ARTICLE III: SPECIAL COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: All special committees will have a list of responsibilities and goals. When a special committee is created a date will be given that the special committee will be dissolved.

ARTICLE IV: EXPENDITURES

SECTION 1: Expenditures will be limited to supporting the Falcons First Battalion and costs of running the private organization will be kept to a minimum.

SECTION 2: Any purchases made to support the Falcons First Battalion will not exceed \$500 per purchase. Any expenditure used for this organization will be used for logistical purposes only. Petty cash will only be held by the treasurer and use must be authorized by the president.

ARTICLE V: INCOME

SECTION 1: This organization will only receive income through fundraisers and donations.

SECTION 2: Any funds used for administrative expenses will not exceed 20 % of money raised during the fund raiser.

SECTION 3: All donations will not be solicited or accepted from any person or entity seeking to do personal business in order to gain monetarily from said business with 1-77FA and it's officers, whether commissioned, non-commissioned or warranted.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL CONTROL

SECTION 1: The account records will be maintained to reflect the assets, liabilities, and financial transactions of the organization.

SECTION 2: Financial statements will be prepared every quarter signed by the president and forwarded to the approving authority. Financial statements will consist of a balance sheet profit and loss statement and fund equity statement.

SECTION 3: If the organization should ever be dissolved all assets and property will be either donated to the soldiers of the Falcons First Battalion or given to a similar organization with similar goals and values.

SECTION 4: All money over 1,000 dollars will be stored at the Community Bank on Ledward Barracks under the account name Friends of the Falcons First (Account Number: 3681426042). All money held on hand will be less than 1,000 dollars and will be insured through AIG Insurance Policy Number D53-20580

SECTION 4: The organization will reimburse the Army for utility expenses unless such use of utilities is incidental.

ARTICLE VII: BONDING

SECTION 1: When the total cash on hand, cash in bank and saleable merchandise to which any elected officer or employee of the organization has access is equal to or greater to \$1000 the organization will purchase fidelity insurance. The Insurance will be procured at the organizations expense from a commercial firm and an amount sufficient to provide full protection of assets.

ARTICLE VIII: AUDIT

SECTION 1: Auditors contracted by private organizations must comply with audit procedures, and requirements in accordance with USAREUR Private Organization and Fundraising Policy.

SECTION 2: Financial statements will be prepared upon change of treasurer as an audit is required upon change of treasurer.

SECTION 3: A corrective action reply will be forwarded to the approving authority within 30 days of an audit.

ARTICLE VIII: DONATIONS

SECTION 1: A list of all donations made throughout the year will be prepared and forwarded to the approving authority annually.

ARTICLE X: FUNDRAISING

SECTION 1: The organization will not engage in fundraising without approval from the approving authority. All fundraising will be in accordance with the criteria identified in AER 210-22 Section III.

SECTION 2: A letter requesting permission to conduct a fundraising event will be forwarded to the approving authority at least 30 days prior to the event.

SECTION 3: Participation in fundraising activities will be limited to members of the armed forces their family members and members of the civilian component of the US Armed Forces and their family members who are authorized logistical support.

SECTION 4: The organization will submit an AAR to the approving authority within 30 days of the event. The summary will consist of planning execution problems suggestions and distributions of funds.

ARTICLE XI: RESCISSION

SECTION 1: The constitution and By-Laws will be effective immediately after approval of the organization and approving authority.

SECTION 2: Upon approval of the constitution and By-Laws all previous constitutions and By-Laws are rescinded

ARTICLE XII: RESTRICTIONS

SECTION 1: There will be no official relationship between the organization's activities, official duties, and responsibilities of DOD personnel who are organization members and participants.

SECTION 2: The organization will not be created administered or operated by DOD personnel acting in an official capacity.

SECTION 3: This organization will not propagate extremists activities, advocate violence against others, or advocate the violent overthrow of the United States government.

SECTION 4: This organization nor any of its members will seek to deprive individuals of their civil rights

ARTICLE XIII: RATIFICATION

The By-Laws have been approved by a majority vote on 18 August 2008

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Unit History

The 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery was organized 11 June 1917 as Troops A and B, 19th Cavalry. Their first duty was in support of operations on the southern border against Mexican bandits (thus the cactus at the top of the crest). The unit was reorganized on 11 November 1917 as Battery A, 77th Field Artillery, and was attached to the 4th Infantry Division on 19 November. The battalion distinguished itself during five major campaigns in World War I as part of the 4th Infantry Division signified by five fleur-de-lies on the crest. At the conclusion of hostilities most of the 77th Field Artillery was present at Montfaucon when the Armistice was signed, Thus a Falcon Proper was placed on the Battalion Colors. The unit was inactivated at Camp Lewis, WA on 21 September 1921.

In preparation for World War II, the battalion was activated as Battery A, 634th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Sill in 1935. As part of the 3rd Infantry Division, the battalion saw action in the Mediterranean campaigns of WWII, including Sicily and Anzio. The unit experienced intense combat from the French Riviera through the Vosages Mountains, and later participated in the final drive into Germany. On 15 May 1945 the unit was redesignated Battery A, 77th Field Artillery Battalion, and was inactivated 4 January 1946 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

The battalion was activated 1 January 1957 at Fort Hood, and after several redesignations, became the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery. 1-77 FA arrived in Vietnam on 13 September 1965 as part of the 1st Cavalry Division. The battalion distinguished itself during action throughout Vietnam. The battalion fought gallantly during bitter fighting in battles west of Plei Me within the Pleiku Province, and for this received the Presidential Unit Citation. 1-77 FA went on to provide fires in the Chu Pong area, Bong Song, and Quang Ngai for the 1st Cavalry Division. In February 1968 the unit fought in support of I Corps during the Tet offensive and fought in Operation Pegasus to liberate the siege at Khe Sanh in April 1968. In November 1968 the battalion was shifted to the III Corps area of Quan Loi. Headquarters and C Batteries received Valorous Unit Awards for action at LZ Grant in April of 1969. Throughout the war the battalion fought with determination, pride, and valor. The battalion was awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Valorous Unit Award (FISH HOOK) for their actions.

In April, 1971, 1-77 FA, returned to Fort Hood from Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division. The last active element of the battalion, Battery A, 1-77 FA was inactivated in 1995 at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The unit was activated as a Multiple Launch Rocket System Battalion at Fort Sill on 7 June 1996.

In 2001 1-77 FA deployed an MLRS Battery to Kuwait in support of Intrinsic Action and later provided Soldiers to augment the 75th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters during two deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom that included the Sensitive Site Exploitation Task Force and the Force Field Artillery Headquarters for the 1st Cavalry Division.

In 2005 the battalion task organized and trained to perform in lieu of missions supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, arriving at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in **September and October**. The battalion inactivated on 6 March 2007 at Fort Sill Oklahoma.

The battalion was again reactivated in Schweinfurt, Germany as an M109A6 Paladin Self Propelled Howitzer Battalion on March 17th, 2008. The battalion is currently the most modern and lethal artillery battalion in the United States Army, just being fielded with embedded hardware and software to fire the Excalibur GPS guided projectile. The Battalion deployed to Iraq in support of the war on Terrorism in November 2008. They have since then increased the overall efficiency and focus of Iraq tremendously. Falcons First!

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Friends of the Falcons First Organization?

A: The primary purpose of the private organizations is to provide support, sponsorship and positive morale to the Soldiers of 1-77 FA.

Q: How can I learn more about the Falcons First Battalion?

A: Visit <http://www.172infantry.army.mil/1-77Artillery/default.htm> and read more about 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery.

Q: Is the Friends of the Falcons First a Tax Exempt private organization?

A: No it is not.

Q: If I cannot donate money to the Friends of the Falcons First, how can I still help the organization?

A: You can send care packages to the Soldiers of the unit to

FOTFF
C/O 1-77 FA
CMR 457
APO AE 09033