

Sycamore Field Artillery Unit Shows off Its Guns at Open House

Written by National Guard PAO Illinois
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SYCAMORE, IL (01/31/2013)(readMedia)-- Story by Sgt. Kenneth Vasser, Unit Public Affairs Representative, Illinois Army National Guard

The artillerymen of Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery opened their armory doors to the general public, local leaders and family and friends for an open house Jan. 27, at the Sycamore Armory.

The purpose of the Open House was to give the public an opportunity to learn about the unit's history and military mission, see unit equipment and facilities, and visit with the Redlegs of Alpha Battery.

Visitors were given a presentation on the history and lineage of the unit and its involvement in various conflicts throughout history. The main event of the day was a full-speed "dry-fire" artillery demonstration that explained how the "eyes," "brains" and "brawn" of the field artillery work together to achieve mission success.

"Artillerymen work hard," said Capt. Dustin Cammack of Chicago, battery commander. "The forward observers are the "eyes," they travel with the infantry and send us target information. The fire direction center, the "brains", then processes that information into firing data. Then the gun line, known as the "brawn," uses that data to put steel on target," said Cammack. "When all things are in sync, it's a beautiful thing."

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Guests were able to see firsthand the inner workings of the technology, equipment and technical proficiency involved with modern day field artillery. The spectators observed four "dry-fire" missions as Soldiers and leaders explained and demonstrated their duties, tasks and responsibilities as artillerymen.

"The event was an overall success," said Staff Sgt. Jorge Solis of Wheaton, a cannon crew chief. "The motivation of the Soldiers was high, and the community was involved and attentative."

Spc. Levi Kammes of Crystal Lake, a cannon crew member, appreciated the local community's support.

"It was a great day and a great opportunity for the community to support the unit and really see what is within the armory walls," said Kammes.

The unit hopes to maintain its strong connection with the city of Sycamore as the Soldiers continue their commitment to serve the community and nation.

"We are truly grateful and proud of the support this unit has received from the people of Sycamore," said Cammack. "It has allowed us to be such an amazing part of American history and this town's history for nearly 100 years."

More than 40 people attended the first-ever open house at the Sycamore Armory. Notable attendees included state Rep. Bob Pritchard, 70th District, Paul Herbert, First Division Museum at Cantigny executive director, and Alison Ruble, USO of Illinois president and CEO.