Wendell's Battery, the Old First New York Field Artillery, and Jamaica's Own are nicknames the 104th Field Artillery used during its 125 years of existence. Organized by German Americans in New York City in 1867, the 104th began as Battery K, First Regiment of Artillery. When the regiment was disbanded in 1869, Battery K survived as a separate unit. In 1882, it was redesignated First Battery, and Capt. Louis Wendel served as its commander until 1907 when he was court-martialed for numerous charges of fraud, bribery, and misconduct.

Major John F. O’Ryan, later to be first commander and namesake of the 27th Division, took command of the unit and from 1908 to 1914 transformed it into an outstanding and disciplined field artillery unit.

During this period the unit also expanded, joining with batteries from Brooklyn and the Bronx to form the Second Battalion in 1911, and then consolidated with batteries from Syracuse and Binghamton to form the First Regiment Field Artillery in 1913. In 1916, the First Regiment was sent to the Mexican Border with nearly all of the New York National Guard. In 1917 it was drafted and redesignated the 104th Field Artillery and assigned to the 27th Division for service in World War I.

After training at Plattsburgh and then Camp Wadsworth, S.C., the 104th FA arrived in France in July 1918 where it began training with French 75mm field guns in place of its 3-inch guns. In September, the 104th was sent to the Verdun sector to support the 33rd Division. Verdun had been a hotly contested region for the entire war, and as the Allies orchestrated its Grand Offensive in the last months of the war, the 104th, under constant enemy fire and gassing, provided effective rolling barrages to allow infantry troops to push the Germans westward across the Meuse River and through the Argonne Forest. As a unit, the 104th received praise for its invaluable service and four soldiers earned the Distinguished Service Cross for extinguishing a fire at a large ammunition dump amid exploding 75mm shells.

In 1929, the 104th's headquarters was moved to Jamaica and a new armory was constructed on 168th Street in 1936. From here, the 104th FA was induced into Federal service in 1940 with the 27th Division and sent to Ft. McClellan, Alabama, for training. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the 27th Division was sent to Hawaii where it was reorganized; the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 104th Field Artillery Regiment were redesignated the 249th and 104th Field Artillery Battalions and their French 75mm guns were replaced with 105mm howitzers. The 104th and 249th FA Battalions joined the 27th Division in the Central Pacific Campaign and saw some of the fiercest fighting of the war at the Marshall Islands, Saipan, and Okinawa. For its support of the 106th Regiment Combat Team and the 22nd Marine Regiment at Eniwetok Atoll in February 1944, the 104th received the Navy Unit Commendation, the only Army field artillery to be so honored throughout the entire war. After brief occupation duty at Sasebo and Niigata, Japan, the 104th and 249th along with the rest of the 27th Division was inactivated and left for home on December 26, 1945.

In 1947, the 104th and 249th were reactivated. The 249th was assigned to the 27th Division with headquarters in Syracuse and the 104th, headquartered in Jamaica, was assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division. The battalions were consolidated again in 1959 to form the 104th Artillery which in 1972 was redesignated the 104th Field Artillery and in 1992 consolidated with the 258th Field Artillery.

Battery A, 104th Field Artillery returned from France, 1919.

The Mexican Border service is represented by the lone star of Texas, the Meuse-Argonne by the oak tree and the Verdun-Fremerville Sector, Lorraine, France, by the Cross of Lorraine. The horse head signifies the regiment's horse-drawn period. The muzzle loading field gun identifies the unit as artillery and the two spikes at the rear of the cannon carriage symbolize that the 104th never retreated.

Semper Paratus
(Always Ready)