

# SPARTAN SHIELD

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108TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE  
<http://www.bragg.army.mil/units/108ada/>

May 15, 2014

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## SPARTAN SHIELD

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# Commander's Column

SPARTANS! I want to welcome everyone to this inaugural edition of the Spartan Shield. This newsletter provides the command an opportunity to highlight the brigade's many exceptional achievements. It allows the Command to provide information and reinforce Army programs and standards. My intent is to showcase our Soldiers, units, and Families' activities and special events that display their commitment of service to our Army and Nation.

With this first edition, I want to capture succinctly the brigade's achievements over the past ten months. The brigade has either been training to deploy, deploying, or resetting to prepare to deploy once more. 3-4 ADAR (SKYSTRIKERS) spent last summer and fall training to meet its Deployment Expeditionary Force mission requirements, culminating in their certification to deploy in December followed shortly with their deployment to United Arab Emirates and Jordan in February 2014. Since their deployment, they have recertified to assume this mission's responsibilities, participated in various in theater exercises, trained with their Emirati and Jordanian counterparts and worked community projects supporting host nation partners. Back at Bragg, Delta and Echo Batteries sustained their mission readiness as part of the Global Response Force, recertifying their crews and training to meet standards for a no-notice alert. All around superb efforts by our Skystrikers.



2-44 ADA (STRIKE FEAR) had an equally busy and productive fall 2013. Ordered to deploy in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, the battalion transformed from an Avenger/Stinger battalion to a Counter Rockets, Artillery, and Mortar battalion in less than 78 days – an incredible achievement. In January, the battalion headquarters and Alpha Battery deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan to join Bravo Battery already in theater to employ their new weapon system. The battalion has achieved tremendous success with the Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System in Afghanistan. As the summer fighting season begins, our Strike Fear Soldiers remain on guard to defend our fellow service members on these critical joint bases. Back at Fort Campbell, HHB and Service Company welcomed home Bravo Battery in March 2014 and continue to prepare to occupy their new motor pool facilities and receive new equipment as the unit will officially transform into a C-RAM battalion in Fiscal Year 2015. The STRIKE FEAR battalion leads the way employing the Army's latest indirect fire capability.

1-7 ADA (NO FEAR) redeployed from UAE in March 2013 and spent the remainder of the year resetting its equipment and personnel. The battalion has received the latest PATRIOT equipment and software making them the most technologically advanced PATRIOT unit in the Army today. Since the beginning of 2014, the battalion has methodically trained their Soldiers to form new crews in preparation to assume the Global Response Force mission this summer and ready them for a deployment late this year to replace the Skystrikers. No Fear Soldiers and Leaders have challenged themselves to achieve excellence in their upcoming SPEAR evaluation, intent on taking home multiple BLACKJACK awards.

Finally, the Brigade Headquarters has been training for seven months in preparation to assume its deployed mission in Qatar. Certified during a Mission Rehearsal Exercise in March, the unit has already begun its movement into theater and will transition authority from 31st ADA Brigade at the end of May. The deployment will last nine months and we look forward to enhancing air and missile defense capabilities across the Middle East.

There are a couple of areas I think as a brigade we need to check azimuth on. We have had an increase in incidents of domestic violence due to Soldier indiscipline. Many of these incidents have been alcohol related. It takes courage to extricate oneself from a confrontation, but often that's the best way to defuse a volatile situation. I'd ask our Soldiers and Family members to take advantage of the many programs available at Army Community Service to get help solving a problem before it becomes a crisis.

Secondly, as a unit and as individuals we must be ruthlessly indignant to stamp out sexual harassment and assaults on our Soldiers. The Command Sergeant Major and I recently addressed this with the brigade, however its worth reinforcing that we want every Soldier and Family member to "SPEAK UP!" We must take ownership to identify harassment or potential assaults early and make the on the spot correction, regardless of rank or position. Harassment erodes the fabric of our organization and we must proactively rid our

formations of this behavior. I expect every Soldier to take action to stop sexual harassment or assaults.

To our Families, I thank you for the tremendous support provided to our Soldiers and units. They could not perform the way they do without your love and commitment. Thanks for your patience as I know the units have had some long nights as they trained. Stay connected to our deployed units. If you need assistance, please contact the unit or brigade.

As the CSM and I deploy with the Brigade, our intent is to expand on this inaugural issue to make it better. If you have feedback, please email it directly to us. I wish everyone a safe summer and we'll be in touch from Qatar.

DEEDS ABOVE WORDS!

Spartan 6



# Command Sergeant Major's Thoughts:



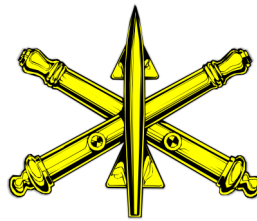
Generally, but not always, Soldiers are educated in the institutional environment, trained in the operational environment, and gain experience from all training events, exercises, deployments, competitions, boards, and ceremonies. In other words, everything we do is leader development; all events we take part in, we gain experience, hence growing and developing as leaders.

As most of our development is accomplished in the institutional and operating training domains, there is a distinct gap in self development with the 3 types being structured, guided, and personal self development. As an Army, we are not complimenting the institutional and operational domains with self development. The Army mandates the completion of Structured Self

Development (SSD) as it is now tied to promotions. SSD is the only mandatory requirement for self development. We must bridge the gap by conducting more guided and personal self development. Examples of guided self development are: recommended reading lists, studying Army Doctrine 2015 and participating in organized board study sessions for promotions, quarterly competitions and Audie Murphy Inductions. Examples of personal self development: college courses, correspondence courses, technical certifications, utilizing the Army Career Tracker (ACT) and studying on your own for promotion and quarter boards. If we sacrifice a little bit of time to develop ourselves in the areas listed above, we'll be better leaders, have better producing units, and overall a better Army.

## SPARTANS!

As the brigade headquarters staff prepares to deploy, I'd like to thank all of the Leaders, Soldiers, and Family Members that worked hard to prepare the Brigade for its upcoming mission in Southwest Asia. All the long hours during our Mission Command Exercises and staff preparations enabled a highly successful Mission Rehearsal Exercise culminating with the Brigade Casing Ceremony on 2 May 2014. All units are extremely busy either with executing deployments or executing joint exercises and preparing for upcoming deployments.



With the high training operational tempo, I'd like to take this time to emphasize the Army's number one priority—Leader Development. It's very easy to say, but difficult to accomplish if you don't have a Leader Development Strategy or Plan. We are developed as leaders from 3 basic tenets—education, training, and experience. When nested with the training domains outlined in ADP 7-0 (institutional, operational, and self development), you can create a leader development strategy tailored to your unit based on the mission and the commander's priorities.

## DEEDS ABOVE WORDS!







# Air defenders set to deploy

by, Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis  
108th ADA BDE Public Affairs



Col. Edward J. O'Neill, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, senior enlisted adviser, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, case the battalion's colors May 2, 2014 at Fort Bragg, N.C. The unit will deploy to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (US Army photos by Staff Sgt. Regina R. Machine/Released)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade cased the unit colors in a ceremony at Pope Theater, here, on May 2, 2014. The ceremony marks the unit's final preparations for its deployment to the Central Command area of responsibility. The deployment will last nine months and during that time the brigade will conduct mission command for all air defense operations across Southwest Asia, in six countries while based in Qatar.

Although the brigade previously performed this mission three years ago, the mission has expanded to include one additional Patriot firing battery in a fifth country and the Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortars (C-RAM) mission in Afghanistan. The brigade's mission is seen as crucial to U.S. national security interests in the Gulf Cooperation Council nations.

The unit executed a robust training cycle that finished with a mission rehearsal exercise designed

to push the Soldiers to their limits and challenge their ability to assume this vital mission.

The brigade will command forces from within the 108th ADA and from the 11th ADA based at Fort Bliss, Texas and the 69th ADA based at Fort Hood, Texas. The units work on a rotational cycle so that the commands build on each others' experiences, continually enhancing the capability and combat power of the air defense forces operating in theater.

The Soldiers will deploy to Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan, where they will conduct mission command for eleven Patriot batteries and C-RAM batteries in two locations in Afghanistan.

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade continue the tradition of air defenders serving tours overseas to protect U.S. interests and in response to increasingly varied and lethal threats from our adversaries in the region.





# To Protect and Defend

by, Staff Sgt. Regina R. Machine  
108th ADA BDE Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Soldiers and their Family Members know that leaving home for a deployment is just part of the job, but knowing that does not make it any easier when it's time to say goodbye.

That sentiment could not have been any clearer than when Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade left for their mission in Southwest Asia. The Skystrikers are stationed in various locations within Central Command's area of responsibility.

As Lt. Col. Patrick Costello, 3-4 ADA commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Heather Smith, senior enlisted adviser, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, case the battalion's colors, a reverent calm fell over the room, confirming to all those gathered that their loved ones will be gone for a few months. Those left behind were charged with keeping the home fires burning until their loved ones return.



Lt. Col. Patrick Costello, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Heather Smith, senior enlisted adviser, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, case the battalion's colors Feb. 16, 2014 at Fort Bragg, N.C. The unit deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (US Army photo by Staff Sgt. Regina R. Machine/Released)

## Preparing for Deployment

The battalion spent many long hours getting ready to board the plane. Much equipment had to be cleaned, inspected, serviced and tested. That equipment also had to be packed, loaded and tracked until it reached its final destination. Soldiers participated in numerous emergency deployment readiness exercises leading up to the deployment and had to certify as experts at their crafts. Through constant evaluations and training, the Skystrikers honed their skills and earned their missile system crew certifications.

## Army Family Covenant and Deployment Fair

In 2007, the Army unveiled the Army Family Covenant. This covenant is the Army's commitment to providing Soldier and Family Members with a quality of life that parallels their service and sacrifice to the Nation. The Army continues to improve Family readiness by standardizing Family programs and services, enhancing health care, improving Soldier and family housing, maintaining excellence in child, youth and social services and expanding education and employment opportunities for Family Members.



Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, await air transport for their deployment to Southwest Asia. The unit deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (US Army photo by Staff Sgt. Regina R. Machine/Released)



In keeping the Army's commitment to the Soldiers and their Families, Costello and Smith organized a deployment fair with representatives from various agencies on hand to ensure that Soldiers and Family Members are informed about the various programs that are available. Representatives from finance, legal services, military family life, the American Red Cross, and Child and Youth services were there to answer questions.

Col. Edward J. O'Neill, 108<sup>th</sup> ADA commander, reiterated the importance of staying in contact with deployed loved ones. With resources like social media and internet video chat, it is easier than ever to stay connected.

"We ask that parents, spouses, children and friends remain connected with their Soldiers. Do that through your Family Readiness Groups. Please utilize your Family Readiness Group and keep up with the unit on Facebook."

### Boarding the plane

After the Soldiers said their goodbyes to their Families and before boarding the plane, Command Sgt. Maj. Jerome Wiggins, Air Defense Artillery regi-



Col. Edward J. O'Neill, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander, Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade senior enlisted adviser, Lt. Col. Patrick Costello, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Heather Smith, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment senior enlisted adviser, shake hands with each Soldier Feb. 16, 2014 as they depart Fort Bragg, N.C. for a deployment. The unit deployed to the Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (US Army photo by Staff Sgt. Regina R. Machine/Released)

mental command sergeant major offered these words of support and sentiment.

"Do the job that you have been tasked to do. Do it to the best of your ability. If you are lacking on physical fitness, on civilian education, and whatever you need to work on; go down there and work on it. Nothing invested, nothing returned. I am proud of each and every one of you. If you want to be successful you go and do what successful people do and that is put in the work and you will reap the benefits of your success. Once again I am proud of each and every one of you. God Bless, take care and do your absolute very best."

O'Neill also wished the unit much success in their mission. "Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley and I are extremely proud of each and every one of you. We have a tremendous appreciation for your efforts and we look forward to seeing you soon as we bring the brigade forward to join you. I wish you all the best."

As the Soldiers stood in line to board the plane, they entered the next phase of their mission. Some Soldiers were eager and others were scared. This was the first time that many Soldiers left their families and the United States of America. However, they left feeling confident in the training that they received and the leadership tasked to bring them back home safely.

Excellence in training and exceeding the standards are the keys to any mission's accomplishment. Preparation for this moment did not happen overnight. Costello and Smith carefully planned and executed training events that validated the battalion as ready to accept and accomplish the mission they were assigned to do.

Please see

<https://www.myarmyonesource.com/communitiesandmarketplace/armyfamilycovenant/default.aspx> for more information regarding the Army Family Covenant.







# Spartans ready for deployment

by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis  
108th ADA BDE Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Managing extensive technological assets and a large number of highly trained Soldiers spread across several countries is just everyday business for an air defense artillery brigade headquarters. Executing these tasks under added stresses, either in combat or in training, is something extraordinary.

The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade successfully executed its Mission Readiness Exercise, March 3-13 at the Spartan Complex at Fort Bragg.

The command post exercise validated that the brigade headquarters is trained and ready to assume its mission in the United States Central Command area of responsibility.

“The exercise was a great training tool. We were able to get a real time feel for what we’ll do in a deployed environment,” said Spc. Allen D. Molina, an air defense battle management systems operator with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and a native of Roanoke, Va. “We’ll be ready to go when the mission calls. We’re always ready.” Molina deployed with the air defense artillery to Basra, Iraq



Patriot launcher crewmembers with Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, conduct missile reload training in the unit’s motor pool during the train-up to the brigade mission readiness exercise on March 3, 2014. The command post exercise validated that the brigade headquarters is trained and ready to assume its mission. (US Army photo by Staff Sgt. Regina R. Machine/Released)





Tactical command and control vehicles are parked at the tactical operations center outside the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade headquarters during the brigade's mission readiness exercise on March 12, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon Lewis / Released)

in 2009 and draws on his experiences there in his duties today.

Executing exercises like this requires a monumental effort from the brigade and from many other supporting players. The exercise planning started in November 2013. The brigade integrated lessons learned from previous exercises both within the brigade and from sister brigades' experiences. Approximately 200 Soldiers participated in the exercise.

The exercise involved Soldiers from other Army installations in Texas and Oklahoma and input from units already deployed. The brigade's higher headquarters, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, based in Fort Bliss, Texas, played a critical role, providing guidance and oversight. The brigade's sister units, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, based in Fort Sill, Okla., and the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, based in Fort Hood, Texas, also contributed vital assets and experience to the exercise. Deployed subordinate battalions of these brigades and the 108th's own subordinates provided fresh detail and added value to the exercise.

"The Spartan Brigade is ready to take this strategically important mission now. Our Soldiers are motivated, trained and have worked hard to get prepared," said Maj. Shawn H. Geib, the brigade's assistant operations officer and a native of Medina, Ohio. Geib oversaw much of the daily operations in the tactical operations center while leading and mentoring the unit's battle captains. He emphasized the importance of the brigade's teamwork and cooperation.

What the brigade experienced during the exercise was a range of scenarios the brigade might be faced with while deployed, but presented in a way to stress the unit, to expose its strengths and weaknesses. Having worked through the grueling conditions of the exercise, the unit will apply the lessons learned and improve their readiness still further.

At the end of the exercise, the brigade is validated as trained and ready to deploy to execute its mission. The unit will continue to train and strive to increase readiness because that's what the Army Values and the Warrior Ethos tell the Soldier to do.



The Spartans of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery displayed their professionalism and commitment to the profession of arms in the battery's change of command ceremony following the brigade's mission readiness exercise on April 2, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon Lewis / Released)





# 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Skystrikers!*

## SMA Chandler visit

by Sgt. Jennifer Spradlin,  
U.S. Army Central Public Affairs

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III met with Air Defense Artillery Soldiers throughout Southwest Asia during a tour of the region, Saturday through today.

The SMA expressed gratitude for the dedicated service of the Air Defense Artillery, known as ADA, branch and met with troops to address recent regulatory and policy changes. He also took the opportunity to discuss Army-wide topics such as the drawdown of the force, budget constraints and sexual assault prevention.

"I came over here to visit the Soldiers from the [ADA] units to tell them thanks for what they are doing. Their MOS (military occupational specialty) has one of the shortest dwell times in the Army right now," said Chandler, noting the multiple deployments of ADA Soldiers over the past 15 Years. "We're working to find a solution, and we appreciate their service and sacrifice. Not only theirs, but also their families."

The current deployment cycle of an ADA Soldier is one year deployed, one year at their home station, followed by another year-long deployment. With the end of the war in Iraq, and the transition in Afghanistan, most other Soldiers are on a more balanced cycle of one year deployed, two years at their home station. With a high demand for ADA capabilities, the Army will soon move to increase the number of Soldiers within the branch to help alleviate the deployment ratio and to allow Soldiers to pursue non-MOS specific opportunities, such as recruiter or drill sergeant, said Chandler.

Chandler also discussed the possibility of exploiting equipment and training capabilities to offer the Advanced Leadership Course and Senior Leadership Course to deployed Soldiers in the ADA branch



Lt. Col. Patrick M. Costello  
Commander  
3-4 ADA



Command Sgt. Maj.  
Heather J. Smith  
Command Sergeant Major  
3-4 ADA

serving overseas.

While meeting with the Soldiers, Chandler reminded them that their mission is a top priority for senior leadership within the Army and their strategic presence helps to secure and stabilize the region. Despite austere locations and taxing work/rest cycles, Chandler said he was pleased by the morale and effort of the Soldiers.

"I sensed a great deal of motivation about what they are doing, and why they were doing it. I'm grateful for what our Soldiers do. Our Army is in great hands because we have Soldiers like these who are willing to go and do what we ask them to do," he said.

For Command Sgt. Maj. Gerardo Dominguez, the senior enlisted adviser for all Air Defense Forces in CENTCOM, it was important to show the SMA that the ADA mission was both a joint and combined effort, executed in conjunction with units from other U.S. military and foreign military branches.

"Theater security cooperation is one of the top things that we do here and an integral part of our Mission Essential Task List. We have combined and joint relationships with organizations from every country in the [area of responsibility],"



said Dominguez. "The most important thing is the relationship building peace. If they trust us and we can be in these countries, it's very, very powerful."

Additionally, Dominguez wanted to illustrate to Chandler that his Soldiers are flexible and ready to do the nation's work.

"The Soldiers come here prepared, well-trained and able to execute the mission. I have no doubt that if we were to transition to war, these countries and locations would be safely guarded," he said.

On a personal note, Chandler advised the Soldiers to take advantage of their deployed status to focus on self-improvement, such as physical or spiritual fitness, and achieving personal ambitions, like earning a degree. He encouraged them to be proactive in managing their careers and goals to

ensure success in a more competitive Army and civilian job market.

"I'm a firm believer in taking charge of your life. For example, if you choose to leave the Army, you should take advantage of all the benefits we have while you are on still serving, like tuition assistance for civilian education -- so you put yourself in the best possible situation," he said. "Those who don't have a plan are kind of treading water, and that goes against everything we say a Soldier should do. You should be continuously improving yourself, not only from a military perspective but from a personal one."

At the conclusion of each unit visit, Chandler promised to bring back Soldier concerns and feedback to Army leadership at the Pentagon.



Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III asks Spc. Joshua Holley, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, a PATRIOT launching station enhanced operator/maintainer from Albany, Ga., to explain a section of the sand table while visiting Air Defense Forces throughout Southwest Asia on April 13, 2014. The SMA praised the steadfast service of ADA Soldiers and reinforced the importance of their mission in enhancing stability and security throughout the region. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jennifer Spradlin, U.S. Army Central Public Affairs)





# 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

## *No Fear!*

## No Fear Soldiers vie for German proficiency badge

by Capt. Michael D. Lewis,  
commander, Bravo Battery, 1-7 ADA

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Air defenders, maintainers and support personnel from across the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade competed for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB) from April 22-24, 2014 on Fort Bragg. The Soldiers were selected by their unit commanders and needed to be in good physical condition. The badge is a requirement for all German military personnel and comes in gold silver and bronze with gold being the highest awarded depending on the Soldier's performance.

The badge is earned by completing a rigorous set of physical tasks including the German Army Physical



Lt. Col. Curtis W. King  
Commander  
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Command Sgt. Maj.  
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Command Sergeant Major  
2-44 ADA

Training (PT) Test, a 100 meter (m) swim, pistol marksmanship, CBRN tasks, Medical Tasks and a 12 Kilometer foot march. The grueling PT test consists of an 11 x 10 m shuttle run, timed "dead hang" and a 1000 m sprint. The 100m swim test was done while wearing the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) and included removing the uniform in deep water. The competition was "single elimination" meaning that once an event was failed it could not be repeated.

Morale and esprit de corps were high throughout the competition as 108th BDE Soldiers eager for a challenge pushed each other and urged each other to excel. To win the gold badge, every portion of every event must be completed to the gold standard. Many Soldiers who had been eliminated or downgraded continued to compete in order to challenge themselves. "I'm dreading this" said 1st Lt. Christopher Ono, the Executive Officer for Bravo Battery 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment as he stood by the pool at the local YMCA with the other competitors, awaiting his turn to complete the swim portion. Most Soldiers echoed this sentiment finding the swim to be the hardest event. They



German Army Sergeant Major Ronny Hahnlein (left) assigned to the German Liaison Office on Fort Bragg, N.C. observes as 2nd Lt. Alexandria Sieracki (prone) assigned to the Bravo Battery, 1-7 ADA completes the shuttle run portion of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Fitness Test at Towle Stadium on April 22, 2014.



also found the event to be a fun challenge as the competitors filled the pool with raucous cheers.

Of the 30 Soldiers from 108th BDE who competed for the GAFPB, only 2 will be awarded a gold badge while an additional 9 will be awarded bronze and silver. Sergeant Major Ronnie Hahnlein from the German liaison office here on Fort Bragg was the observer controller for the entire event. The event was hosted by Bravo Battery as part of what is becoming a unit tradition exemplifying the effective and mutually beneficial partnership with the German Military. Bravo Battery also hosted the event last spring. "This test is more like what the Soldiers will be doing in a combat situation" explained Sgt. Maj. Hahnlein as we stood the Astroturf field at Towle stadium Tuesday morning before the 100m sprint. He was referring to the fact that this year the German military has instituted a revamped version of the GAFPB.



SPC John Rigsbee (left) assigned to Bravo Battery, 1-7 ADA steps across the finish line after completing a 12 km foot march at All American Trail on Fort Bragg on April 24, 2014.



Soldiers with the 108th ADA Brigade on Fort Bragg await the start of the 100m swim portion of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge test at the YMCA in Fayetteville, N.C. on April 22, 2014.





# 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Strike Fear!*

## Maintainers shine in field training

by Capt. Adrian O. Castillo,  
commander, Service Company, 2-44 ADA

It is important to maintain proficiency in the basic Soldier skills regardless to the MOS or parent organization.

In most theatres of operations, a traditional maintenance company would be attached to a line unit and would conduct combat recovery operations outside the FOB boundaries. Based on this principle, our recent field training exercise focused on this principle which is vital to the overall unit's mission success.

For the first time in the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment history, Service Company conducted a field training exercise as an entire unit with additional attached medical and food service support from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. The field training exercise was held between April 22nd and 24th, 2014 in the remote training areas of Ft. Campbell, KY. The primary focus was



Lt. Col. Timothy R. Shaffer  
Commander  
2-44 ADA

Command Sgt. Maj..  
Michael R. Brown  
Command Sergeant Major  
2-44 ADA

to instruct the Soldiers on establishing an entry control point (ECP), pre-combat vehicle inspections, personnel searches, fueling operations, basic land navigation, various battle drills, convoy operations, and field maintenance/recovery operations.

Immediately after establishing their footprint with the training area, the Soldiers began their rigorous training led by the Company NCOs. The ECP was occupied by two Soldiers at all times in conjunction with classes in order to simulate combat operations by ensuring security of the site. At the close of each day, Soldiers partook in the driver's training course after dark which was led by the Company Master Driver, allowing each licensed Soldier hours of personal training. All the training and classes were put to the test when the Soldiers had to lead a convoy in order to recover a vehicle while experiencing enemy indirect fire and small arms fire.





Convoy leaders were selected by their Platoon Sergeants based on leadership traits displayed throughout the week. Pyrotechnics were used to simulate the reality of combat related stress and working under uncertain situations. The NCOs and senior Specialists did an outstanding job in planning, mentoring, and executing the training. The Soldiers were motivated and showed off their tactical and maintenance knowledge with ease.

Shadow Company raised the bar and established a high standard on training and future field exercises. I couldn't be any prouder to be the Commander of the fine NCOs and Soldiers of Service Company.







A Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) weapon system conducts a test fire system at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan on March 1, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jarred Woods, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater))

## Protecting the Force

by Sgt. Jarred Woods ,  
1st Sustainment Command (Theater) Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Members of the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky, in support of 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), have been tasked with the vital mission of protecting against the indirect fire (IDF) threat at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

As certain Forward Operating Bases close down and personnel and assets are consolidated at central bases, such as BAF, the need to protect those resources becomes ever more imperative. The 2-44 utilizes the Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) system to guard against IDF attacks.

The C-RAM capability is comprised of advanced targeting and networking systems coupled with a modified U.S. Navy Land-based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS), said Lt. Col. Tim Shaffer, battalion commander for the 2nd Battalion, 44th ADAR.

This highly developed weapon system allows the 2-44 to effectively engage and intercept various munitions used by the enemy.

“The IDF threat has a high potential to become more significant as the enemy targets us here; tries to disrupt us and cause challenges to our operations,” added Shaffer. “The C-RAM allows us the freedom to maneuver and allows us the ability to protect our forces and equipment from IDF.”

The stateside mission of the 2-44 was utilization of the Avenger Air Defense System, which is vastly different from their current mission. Since being notified of their present deployment, many changes had to be made in order to meet the needs of the C-RAM mission here in theater.

“Since being notified of this deployment, we have reorganized, retrained, reequipped and deployed here to Afghanistan fully operational,” said Shaffer. “Our Soldiers are very well trained, they’re alert, attentive and they know the importance of this mission and the criticality of protecting the force. The Soldiers of this battalion are absolutely ready.”





# 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Pre-deployment training for the Soldiers of the 2-44 was fast paced, intense and designed to make each and every Soldier capable of successfully operating and maintaining the C-RAM system.

“We had the absolute best instructors,” said Pfc. Shane Cotton, a LPWS operator with the 2-44. “Our noncommissioned officers did a great job making sure the Soldiers understood the information. Within the amount of time we had before deploying, we did everything possible to be proficient on the weapon system.”

“We study hard every day and there is always something new to learn,” added Cotton. “What we’re doing here is absolutely necessary.”

The threat of enemy attacks are always a concern on BAF and other FOB’s throughout the theater of operations in Afghanistan. Yet, the service members and civilians on BAF can rest assured that the 2-44 is on the job.

“Our C-RAM mission provides a much safer environment for our forces and civilians in which to work and allows us to focus on the operations here without having to worry about the IDF threat,” said Shaffer. “We have the latest and greatest versions of this system and I’m confident in the system’s capability to defend against the threat for which it was designed.”



Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians of the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort “Campbell, Ky, in support of 1st Sustainment Command (Theater), repair a malfunction on a Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) weapon system at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan on March 1, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jarred Woods, 1st Sustainment Command (Theater))





# Chaplain's Pew:

The following is a short summary of the message I brought to our Soldiers at our prayer lunch on 1 May 2014. It was based on Daniel 3:1-18 in the Old Testament and given from my Christian faith perspective. I recommend its reading to you.

## Do you have Up-Armored Faith?

As a U.S. Army Chaplain, I have the privilege of serving brave Americans going into combat. It is interesting to see what these Warriors will look to for hope and protection. I've seen some pat their "lucky dollar bills," wear bracelets of karma and energy beads, and saddest of all, some simply trust in a Christian cross, a Psalm 91 bandana, or a dog tag engraved with Joshua 1:9 to keep them safe. But is this all the Christian faith has to offer a believer: a charm, a talisman, a "rabbit's foot theology?"

Daniel's three friends instead faced a blazing furnace with Up-Armored Faith. Their faith believed God was able to save them (verse 17a) and that God would indeed save them (verse 17b). But we must not stop there. In verse 18, these three young men make it clear that their confidence was NOT presumptuous! Even if they died in the furnace they would not worship an idol. They knew they were right with God and would be with Him if they died in that furnace.

With true Up-Armored Faith we too will withstand whatever God allows and only fear God who alone can destroy both body and soul in hell. If we too can have faith like this, then our crosses, bandanas, and dog tags will



CH (MAJ) Erik J. Gramling  
108th ADA BDE Chaplain

become a "faith aid" to remind us of our powerful, faithful God and not be a substitute for Him!

Let us remember to NEVER substitute faith in an all mighty God for faith in an ordinary object.

DEEDS ABOVE WORDS!

- CH (MAJ) Erik J. Gramling



# Judge Advocate's Advice:



## Legal News You Can Use: Debt Avoidance

Excerpt from an article by

CPT David Johnson, Legal Assistance Attorney

Debt is a simple concept; it is caused by spending more money than you have. In order to buy what you want, you borrow money. If you want to avoid debt you have to decide to delay gratification. By delaying gratification, and waiting to purchase items until you have saved the money to pay for them, you will spend less.

Credit card and financing companies make money by allowing you to spread payments over a long period of time, while interest and financing charges add up. If you buy a plasma television for \$500, and pay cash, you only pay \$500 and you own a television that is worth \$500. Buying that same television on your credit card at a 19% interest rate produces a far different scenario. If make only the minimum \$15 dollar payments each month, you will need four years to pay off the television. When you finally do, the television's real cost will be over \$700. Even if you up your payments to \$46 each month to pay off the \$500 purchase in one year, you will pay over \$550 for your \$500 television, and your television will have dropped in value. These scenarios assume you do not miss any monthly payments and make no other purchases on your credit card, which is not the reality for most people.

Many of the legal problems people experience are caused by debt. While it may seem like you are simply giving yourself the ability to buy nicer items, and you plan to pay your bills on time, the reality is often different. If you do not have the money to pay for an item today, you should ask

yourself why you think you will have the money to pay for the item next month. Unexpected expenses will occur and they often cause credit payments to be made late or not at all. As a result, credit balances continue to accumulate interest, and the amount owed increases, often to a level that you can't keep up with. This can eventually result in debt collection and negative credit reporting. If you or your spouse is in the military, negative information on your credit report can be a factor in security clearance approval. Credit issues do not always mean you or your spouse will lose your security clearance but being able to handle your finances is a consideration you should not overlook.

Take advantage of Army Community Services financial readiness classes. It is much easier to avoid a legal issue than to attempt to solve one. However, if you need legal advice you should speak with an attorney. If you are entitled to legal services based on your affiliation with the military, you can always obtain legal advice from one of the three Legal Assistance Offices here at Fort Bragg. There is never a fee for representation by a Legal Assistance Attorney. For more information check out:

<http://www.bragg.army.mil/directorates/osja/Pages/LegalAssistance.aspx>

## U.S. Army Family Readiness Support Assistant

by, Nicole J. Martuszewski  
Family Readiness Support Assistant

In the fall of 2007, the Army chief of staff approved to increase funding for the programs and services offered through MWR. This initiative is known as the Army Family Covenant.

The initiative as a whole provides guidelines on enhanced programs and services to be offered to Families - especially those Families of deployed Soldiers. The program extends beyond MWR programs and services to include healthcare and housing. However, two of the five commitments to improvement are ensuring excellence in youth services and child care and standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services.

The Army Family Covenant has led to improving facilities such as the gyms and offering various events and activities for our Families. In order to utilize the wide range of free and discounted programs, Families of deployed Soldiers need only to show proof of eligibility.

One of the programs providing additional support to our Soldiers and Families is Army Community Service. The main ACS office is located in the Soldier Support Center, but with the help of the Army Family Covenant, several satellite offices have been established throughout the Fort Bragg area and community. ACS can help Families with anything from budget counseling to volunteer registration and employment readiness to information and referral. ACS continues to offer all its services to their customers free of charge.

Soldiers with children understand the importance of quality childcare programs and wholesome activities for their youth. Through the Army Family Covenant registration at Child, Youth and School Services is free. Getting registered with

# Family Readiness Zone:



CYSS is the first step to getting your children involved with great programs. Saturday child care allows parents to let their children spend the day with other kids their age under the guidance of qualified care givers while they run their errands or get some much needed adult time. Children interested in athletics can participate in basketball, soccer, or another sport of their choice at no charge. SKIESUnlimited offers a variety of instructional programs from karate and dance to baby sign language and gymnastics.

The Army Family Covenant extends beyond ACS and CYS. Eligible Families can also enjoy discounts at Dragon and Airborne Lanes. Additionally, discounted green fees and golf clinics are available for spouses and Family members at Stryker and Ryder Golf Courses. New equipment at the physical fitness centers, a variety of free aerobics classes and overall improvement of the PFCs provides Fort Bragg Soldiers and Families with an added incentive to stay active and improve their physical fitness.

The Army Family Covenant has helped to improve and enhance Fort Bragg's existing Family programs and services. This is just one way for us to recognize that the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.

For more information on how the Army Family Covenant can help you and your Family, please visit at [www.fortbraggmwr.com](http://www.fortbraggmwr.com).



# Retention Rundown:



Master Sgt. Michael Gibson, Sr.  
108th ADA BDE Career Counselor

The United States Army's mission is to fight and win our Nation's wars by providing prompt, sustained land dominance across the full range of military operations and spectrum of conflict in support of combatant commanders. The Army is able to accomplish its mission by enlisting and retaining only the best qualified applicants to strengthen the force.

The Total Army Retention program is tasked with reenlisting sufficient number of highly qualified Soldiers on a long term basis in order to achieve and maintain Army Force alignment through the retention, transfer and enlistment of highly qualified Soldiers in to critical skills and location.

On April 1, 2014, the Army changed its Retention program in an effort to gain more oversight on the efforts being made regarding troop strength drawdown and to assist with force alignment. The major change to the Retention program was bringing back the Quarterly retention mission. Changing from an Annual mission to a Quarterly mission enables Army G1 more visibility on mission accomplishments. This will lead to more options or fewer options, more bonuses or less bonuses depending on the rate of retention in certain MOS's and at certain locations.

The 3rd Qtr FY14 reenlistment window is from 1 July 2014 thru 30 September 2015. Soldiers with a fiscal year '14 or '15 expiration term of



Col. Edward J. O'Neill congratulates SFC Kenneth S. Paul on his reenlistment as his family stands at his side on Feb. 27, 2014 at the brigade headquarters on Fort Bragg.

service (ETS) date are in the reenlistment window. The current reenlistment options available are The Regular Army Reenlistment option (in accordance with the needs of the Army), Current Station Stabilization Reenlistment option (Stabilization in unit for up to 12 months), Army Training Reenlistment option (MOS Change), Overseas Assignment Reenlistment Option and the CONUS-Station-of Choice Reenlistment option. Please see your Career Counselor to find out which options you qualify for.

Deeds Above Words, ARMY STRONG!



## Update:

The SHARP program is very important in maintaining well-being and cohesiveness not only in the Army but today's military overall. It helps to keep the good order and discipline in check within all of our ranks. This program has been tailored to combat a serious problem that our military has been dealing with for many years now.

There is a film that I highly recommend that everyone watch if you have not already. The film is titled "The Invisible War" and it is a real eye opener to how serious of a problem that sexual harassment and sexual assault are within our ranks.

Eliminating sexual harassment and sexual assault, not only from the Army but the Armed Forces, should be everyone's top priority. As a team, we need to be committed to providing safe environments where all service members and civilians are free from threats stemming from these behaviors. These behaviors violate everything that the Army stands for, to include the Army Values and Warrior Ethos. We as leaders need to encourage reporting and keep working hard to reduce the stigma that is associated with sexual violence of any kind.

Making sure that everyone understands the difference between Restricted Reporting and Unrestricted Reporting when dealing with Sexual Assault is a key factor. Educating everyone on the difference of Informal and Formal Complaints when dealing with Sexual Harassment is another key factor. Once an incident is reported, the focus is on care that the victims receive, ensure thorough investigations are conducted,



SFC Ricky L Walters  
108th ADA BDE SHARP NCO

and prosecutions are followed through to hold offenders accountable.

The Army continually assesses the effectiveness of its sexual harassment / assault response and prevention program efforts to ensure the needs of all service members, civilians, and family members are being met. The Army has been aggressive in addressing sexual harassment and sexual assault by focusing on prevention through education and training.

The I. A.M. Strong Campaign is one of the many tools that we use to educate everyone in the prevention of these types of behaviors. We want everyone to have the courage to Intervene, take Action and stand up for what's right, and stay Motivated to keep their fellow Soldiers safe. Our goal is to ensure that everyone gets in the mindset of "I am



the force behind the fight.” If this happens, then our goal of prevention will be stronger in the minds of all service members, civilians, and family members. We are one team and need to be there for one another.

[www.preventsexualassault.army.mil](http://www.preventsexualassault.army.mil)

DoD Safe Helpline: 1-877-995-5247



## WE ARE ON THE OFFENSIVE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

### CSA'S FIVE IMPERATIVES TO DRIVE ARMY ACTION

In alignment with DOD SAPR strategy, GEN Odierno issued five imperatives to drive Army action:

- 1** Prevent offenders from committing crimes, providing compassionate care for victims and protect the rights and privacy of survivors.
- 2** Report every allegation and ensure it is thoroughly and professionally investigated; take appropriate action based on the investigation.
- 3** Create a positive climate and an environment of trust and respect in which every person can thrive and achieve their full potential. Continually assess the command climate.
- 4** Hold every individual, every unit and organization, and every commander appropriately accountable for their behavior, actions, and inactions.
- 5** The chain of command must remain fully engaged – they are centrally responsible and accountable for solving the problems of sexual assault and sexual harassment within our ranks and for restoring the trust of our Soldiers, Civilians and Families.





# ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE OBSERVANCE

“I AM BEYOND”

**Cake Cutting Ceremony**  
**South Post PX**  
**May 1, 2014**  
**1130 hrs**

**Culminating Event**  
**Ritz Epps Physical Fitness Center**  
**May 31, 2014**  
**1300 hrs**



PRESENTED BY 44TH MEDICAL BRIGADE & TEAM BRAGG EO



SOLDIERS LEADERS CIVILIANS FAMILIES

# Take 5

for Individual  
Risk Mitigation

- *Make safety a commitment to yourself.*
- *Fight complacency and take pride of ownership in YOUR safety.*
- *Soldiers must be self-disciplined and not accept any unnecessary risks.*
- *Leaders must stay engaged and realize they are just as accountable for their Soldiers' actions as well as their own.*
- *Senseless loss or injury can and should be prevented. It's up to you!*
- *Stop accidents before they stop you! Be your own best risk manager.*

*Take 5 ... then take action.*



ARMY STRONG™



<https://safety.army.mil>

**ARMY SAFE  
IS ARMY STRONG**

