

SPARTAN SHIELD



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108TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE
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August 18, 2014

ARMY DOMINATES THE COMBAT DINING IN GAMES

SUPERSOAKERS, WATER BALLOON WAR WON 6

STINGER LIVE FIRE EXERCISE

SKYSTRIKERS AND STRIKE FEAR DEFEAT THE AIR THREAT 12

NEW SHERIFF WITH NO FEAR

BUT THE KING LIVES ON 8





SPARTAN SHIELD

Col. Edward J. O'Neill
Commander
108th ADA BDE

Command Sgt. Maj.
John W. Foley
Command Sergeant
Major
108th ADA BDE

Capt. Jonathon Lewis
Public Affairs Officer
jonathon.m.lewis.mil@mail.mil

Sgt. 1st Class
Regina Machine
Public Affairs NCO
regina.r.machine.mil@mail.mil

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facebook.com/108thADA

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Commander's Column

Greetings from Qatar! In this second edition of the Spartan Shield, we'll highlight the incredible efforts the Spartan Brigade has achieved in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The brigade and its subordinate units have been extremely busy conducting operations in Afghanistan, throughout the Arabian Gulf and Levant, and back in the continental United States.

Command Sgt. Maj. Foley and I are very proud of our Soldiers and units and you should be as well. Our troops are performing magnificently. The mission is vital to our nation's interests and we remain vigilant, ensuring our mission's success. Thanks as always for your support to your Soldier, your unit, and to each other.

The SKYSTRIKERS' (3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment) primary focus has been maintaining certified crews as they stand guard over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan. They continue to train daily with their Emirati and Jordanian counterparts, to improve interoperability and to maintain vigilant defense of our joint endeavors. The Skystrickers are focused on an upcoming Combined and Joint Live Fire Exercise with our Emirati partners. This will be a first ever combined live fire exercise. The training with our partners has been intense this summer and the Skystrickers are postured for success. In our next edition, we'll publish a story and photos of this great event. Back at Bragg, Delta and Echo Batteries sustained their mission readiness as part of the Global



Response Force (GRF), recertifying their crews and training to meet standards for no-notice alert. The Executioners (E/3-4 ADAR) conducted another superb Stinger live fire exercise at Camp Lejeune in July combined with 2-44 ADA Avenger teams from Fort Campbell, KY. In short, the Skystrickers once more showcased their deployability, mission readiness, and varied mission capabilities to support operations around the globe.

STRIKE FEAR
(2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment) remains constantly vigilant, defending their

two critical assets in Afghanistan and providing early warning for imminent attacks. They have been successful in defeating or destroying numerous rocket and mortar attacks, protecting countless lives and property. Ultimately, their efforts ensure the force protection of our brothers-in-arms so the Army can complete its combat mission in 2014. They have been the "talk of the town" since their arrival and their performance has been first rate. Our Soldiers perform brilliantly and they make a difference daily defending their bases. Back at Fort Campbell, HHB(-), Bravo Battery, and Service Company moved into new motor pool facilities and prepares to receive new equipment as the

battalion officially transforms to a C-RAM battalion in October. They conducted numerous training events this summer in support of the Lifeline Sustainment Brigade. The Strike Fear battalion leads the way, employing the Army's latest indirect fire capability and looks forward this fall to transitioning with 5-5 ADA. Their return will be the highlight of our next edition.

NO FEAR (1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment) has been equally busy preparing to assume their new mission. The battalion bid farewell to Lt. Col. King and Command Sgt. Maj. Gutierrez and welcomed the new command team, Lt. Col. Olalekan and Command Sgt. Maj. Albright. They are committed to continuing mission readiness and unit excellence the battalion takes pride in. This summer, the No Fear team certified to support an air defense mission for the European Command (EUCOM) and now has begun to transition for mission readiness to replace 3-4 ADAR next year. They conducted an exceptional SPEAR, certifying all crews. All the while, they maintain the Global Response Force mission, prepared to deploy anywhere in 96 hours. Their constant readiness training and crew development sets them up for success as they prepare for their upcoming deployment. I encourage our Family members to energize your Family Readiness Groups to set conditions for a smooth deployment next year.

Finally, the Brigade Headquarters has assumed its deployed mission in Qatar after a superb transition with the 31st ADA Brigade from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The unit integrated quickly and successfully with 379th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Udeid Air Base. We are a valued partner in CENTCOM's efforts to provide missile defense capabilities across the Middle East. It's amazing how our first three months have flown by but we have many months to go and lots to do before redeployment. Our focus remains on enhancing air and missile defense capabilities in the Arabian Gulf, providing mission command for our air and missile defense forces and building on the great efforts of our predecessors.

To our Families, I thank you for the tremendous support provided to our Soldiers and units. Our Soldiers greatly appreciate the letters, packages,

emails, and notes from home. They reinforce our Soldiers' resilience during prolonged deployments and provide reminders of why our mission is so important...that is OUR FAMILIES! I encourage you to continue sending notes of encouragement, love and support. Thanks for your support to each other and keeping our Families united so your Soldier can focus on his battle buddy and the mission. Stay connected to our deployed units. If you need assistance, please contact the unit, either the rear detachments or those of us forward.

A reminder, this newsletter provides the command an opportunity to highlight the many exceptional achievements this brigade performs daily. It allows the command to provide useful information and reinforce Army programs and standards. My intent is to showcase our Soldiers, units, and Families' activities and special events that showcase their commitment of service to our Army and nation. If you have feedback, please email it directly to us. We hope that everyone enjoyed their summer vacation and we look forward to a great fall.

Very respectfully,

Col. Edward J. O'Neill
Spartan 6



Command Sergeant Major's Thoughts:



It's been nearly 90 days since the first elements of the brigade staff deployed into Southwest Asia. I'm very proud of as these troopers because they set the conditions for the units to be successful in performing their war-time mission. The brigade staff participated in several brigade and joint level exercises, conducted staff-assisted visits, operational and maintenance inspections and conducted battle-field circulation to assist in assessing SHARP and command climates. I challenge you to continue to be creative in developing systems and processes that will enable the Spartan brigade to be successful. We must continue to share best practices throughout the brigade.

At Fort Bragg, 1-7 ADA continues to prepare for deployment and progresses very rapidly. Standing ready to respond to a Global Response Force activation, they continue to train and certify for their overseas mission early next year. Congratulations to Lt. Col. Olalekan and Command Sgt. Maj. Albright for assuming command and responsibility of the No Fear Battalion on July 2, 2014. The No Fear Battalion is postured for success with these two great leaders as they prepare for Mission Rehearsal Exercises, equipment load out, and future deployment.

The brigade staff remains committed to support the units in preparation for deployments and redeployments. As the staffs are split between main and forward, it is critical that we continue to work

together as a team to ensure gaps are minimized. I specifically commend the personnel and operations sections for their hard work and continued efforts. Congratulations to Master Sgt. Gibson for being selected for sergeant major and attendance to the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA) Class 66. He is one of only five NCOs to be selected and the only non-air defense Soldier to be selected from all the units of the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command. Master Sgt. Gibson's selection is well deserved and we are all very proud of him .

At Fort Campbell, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment has a brand new maintenance facility and is undergoing C-RAM New Equipment Training and Fielding (NET/NEF) in the upcoming months. Charlie 2-44 ADA will return soon from a 9-month deployment in Afghanistan. We look forward to their home coming! Shortly after, the remainder of the battalion will return as well. Strike Fear saves lives every day and disrupts the enemy's operations. Stay safe and we'll see you all soon!

We will soon be assuming Training and Readiness Authority of the Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted System Sensor (JLENS) Battery now based out of Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. JLENS consists of two tethered, 74-meter helium-filled aerostat airships that float at 10,000 feet above ground level to protect a wide range of territory from airborne threats. The A/3 JLENS Battery will be part of the 108th ADA Brigade on September 16, 2014 and will proudly wear the Spartan Shoulder Sleeve Insignia. The unit is commanded by Capt. Malave and 1st Sgt. Hillburn, who was also selected for sergeant major and attendance to USASMA next fall. Congratulations, 1st Sgt. Hillburn!

I'd like to thank all the leaders and Soldiers, at home and abroad, for all the tireless efforts and sacrifices that you make on a daily basis. You are what make the Spartan Brigade the premier air defense brigade in the Army. Without Soldiers, we are nothing!



Soldiers get the combat patch

by Sgt. 1st Class Regina Machine
108th ADA BDE Public Affairs



AL-UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar – June 20th is a special day for air defenders, but this year it also had additional significance for the Soldiers of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade deployed here.

The Air Defense Artillery Branch celebrated its birthday and Soldiers of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade received their former wartime service shoulder sleeve insignia, which signifies that they have been deployed.

For some air defenders, this ceremony was one of many and for others this was their first deployment.

To receive the former wartime service shoulder sleeve insignia, also known as the combat patch, a Soldier must have been deployed to a combat zone for at least 30 days.

A combat patch is worn as a badge of honor, signifying to other veterans, Soldiers and Family members that they have deployed in defense of the nation.

For Staff Sgt. Sasha Kennedy, a human resources Noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, this was her third patch.

“This is my third and final patch due to the drawdown,” said Kennedy. “The honor of participating in one of these ceremonies will be less common.”

Through ceremonies like this, the command enforces the significance of serving the country. These Soldiers of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade took part in a time-honored tradition that few Soldiers in the future will be able to participate in.

Deeds above words!



Soldiers of 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade stand proud as they are awarded their former wartime service shoulder sleeve insignia at Al-Udeid Air Base on June 20. This insignia is also known as the combat patch, signifying to all that the Soldiers who wore them had deployed in support of missions worldwide. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Regina R. Machine / Released)



Lt. Col. Thomas Kokes, deputy commanding officer, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, places the former wartime service shoulder sleeve insignia on the uniform of Sgt. Major Marc Van Horn, the brigade's operations sergeant major, at Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar on June 20. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Regina R. Machine / Released)



Army dominates the combat games

by Sgt. 1st Class Regina R. Machine
108th ADA BDE Public Affairs

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar - Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines gathered to take part in the first joint services combat games dining in held here July 11.

All the traditional elements of a dining in were present to include the grog bowl, Madam Vice, Mr. Vice and the president. The usual formal dress attire was replaced with service members' respective duty uniforms and combat face paint.

During the games, the spirit of rivalry could be felt as all participants, armed with water balloons, water cannons, and water guns, took aim at the other military service members in attendance.

Although the sergeant of the guard tried to keep control of this rowdy group of combat veterans, it seemed too much to handle. Small factions began firing their water balloons across enemy lines. Some participants took a few shots to the face. Water gun fratricide and water balloon bombings



Service members from the Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy add camouflage to their face at the combat dining in at Al-Udeid Air Base on July 11. They used the paint in creative designs on their faces. All participants came prepared to battle armed with water balloons, water cannons, and water guns. Through team building exercises like this, Soldiers and leaders learned to work together to accomplish the mission of remaining victorious in battle and have good wet fun. Deeds Above Words! (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Regina Machine / Released)

soon broke out with casualties from friendly fire and enemy fire, all part of the festivities.

Each military service chose two champions (tributes) to compete in a type of Hunger Games obstacle course. On the obstacle course, tributes jumped over a wall, dove into a shallow pool of water, and low crawled in sand. Tributes had to complete the course in the fastest time while dodging water balloons from those standing around in attendance.

Col. Edward J. O'Neill, commander, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, gave the Army personnel a pep talk. In the nature of the game, O'Neill encouraged everyone to take no prisoners and bring home the win.

Staff Sgt. Rachael Loken, a paralegal noncommissioned officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and Sgt. Maria Black, a medic with 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment represented the Army. They were the only all-female team in the games.



Soldiers from the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade took part in a joint services combat dining in at Al-Udeid Air Base on July 11. In the final round of the competition it was the Army against the Marines. The Army walked away wet and victorious. During events like this, leaders interact with those under their command under a more relaxed atmosphere, establishing camaraderie within the ranks and building unit cohesion. Deeds Above Words! (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Regina Machine / Released)

For Black, this was her first combat dining in but she stepped up to the challenge of competing for the honor of the Army.

Black also had to do the obstacle course twice before the Army was officially declared a winner of the games.

“The first time I crossed the line I did a combat roll,” stated Black. “All I could do was think I hope this is fast enough to put us in the lead, but if not, the Army was going to be the most motivated and loudest military branch out here.”

And they were, cheering Black and Loken to victory.

“The second time I went through I knew I had it.” Black recounted. “All I heard was go and I remember starting and again finishing with a combat roll and yelling ‘Army’ at the judges and thinking that’s how it’s done.”

For combat dining in veteran Loken, the games were what she looking forward to the most.

“There is something special about going out there, competing and winning,” Loken said. “The hype was intense and I felt like a real Spartan.”



Tributes take a plunge in the shallow pool at the beginning of the obstacle course portion of a combat dining in at Al-Udeid Air Base on July 11. Tributes had to clear a wall, jump into the shallow pool and then low crawl through dirt before making their trip to the grog bowl. The two lane obstacle course ensured that everyone worked in battle buddy teams. Deeds Above Words! (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Regina Machine / Released)

The combat dining in allows all services to enjoy a time honored tradition even far from home. For the members of the of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, memories were made that will sustain them through the rest of their time left here in theater.

“It was an awesome event,” Loken added. “It was a great way to change up the traditional dining in while still maintaining some formalities.”

Loken also stated that she loved the camaraderie between the different military branches.

Through encouraging participation in events like this, leaders assess their Soldiers mental well-being and ensure they find an outlet for stress through good-natured fun and games.

Deeds Above Words! Spartans!





New leadership takes charge with No Fear

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

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Tradition and regulation dictate that units must eventually change leadership, to continue the development of those leaders and to bring new blood to the units. Change is inevitable, but often bittersweet. At No Fear, there's a new Sheriff in town, but long live the King.

The No Fear battalion, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conducted a change of command and change of responsibility ceremony at Patriot Point on July 2, 2014 at Fort Bragg.

The unit bid farewell to commander, Lt. Col. Curtis W. King, and command sergeant major, Command

Sgt. Maj. Joel Gutierrez, Jr., in a single ceremony on Spartan Field at Patriot Point, the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's facilities. The battalion welcomed a new commander, Lt. Col. Sheriff A. Olalekan, and a new command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Paul D. Albright, in a ceremony highlighting the discipline, professionalism and pride of the No Fear battalion.

The outgoing commander and command sergeant major shared their pride and fond memories with the battalion in their remarks during the ceremony. They both pointed to the hard work, discipline and



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, stand in formation on the parade field at Patriot Point during the battalion's change of command and responsibility ceremony on July 2, 2014. The unit bid farewell to commander, Lt. Col. Curtis W. King, and command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Gutierrez, Jr., and welcomed a new commander, Lt. Col. Sheriff A. Olalekan, and a new command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Paul D. Albright. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis / Released)



Lieutenant Colonel Curtis W. King, outgoing commander of 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, passes the battalion's colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Gutierrez, Jr. during the battalion's change of command and responsibility ceremony on July 2, 2014. The unit bid farewell to King and Gutierrez, and welcomed a new commander, Lt. Col. Sheriff A. Olalekan, and a new command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Paul D. Albright. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis / Released)

professionalism of their Soldiers and subordinate leadership. The command team offered words of advice, urging Soldiers to take care and to be proud.

"Being a part of the No Fear team again, this time as No Fear 06, truly exceeded every expectation," said Lt. Col. Curtis W. King, outgoing commander. "As a team, we have collectively accomplished more than we were asked to do. Be proud of yourself and your fellow Soldiers. Be proud of this battalion, this team. I certainly am."

"Take care of yourselves, take care of each other and take care of your families," said Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Gutierrez, Jr.

King commanded the unit and Gutierrez led the battalion as command sergeant major for two years. During that time, the battalion executed a combat deployment, numerous training events and consistently maintained readiness to deploy. The unit executed the first combined air defense exercises with partners in the United Arab Emirates. With their deployment, No Fear continued the

tradition of Patriot units rotating to provide air defense of critical assets in the Central Command area of responsibility. No Fear will again deploy to the region following a rigorous training and certification cycle and a mission rehearsal exercise.

Olalekan and Albright both spoke briefly, praising the Soldiers and thanking their counterparts King and Gutierrez and the guests who attended. Following the remarks, the Soldiers executed the traditional pass and review with the help of the 82nd Airborne Division Band. After the ceremony, the Soldiers formed a long line to personally bid farewell, one by one, to their outgoing commander and command sergeant major.

With the new command team in place, the unit continues to train toward deployment and strives to sustain excellence in readiness and performance of its mission. No Fear! Deeds Above Words! Spartans!



Lieutenant Colonel Sheriff A. Olalekan, incoming commander of 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, passes the battalion's colors to Command Sgt. Paul D. Albright during the battalion's change of command and responsibility ceremony on July 2, 2014. The unit bid farewell to commander, Lt. Col. Curtis W. King, and command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Gutierrez, Jr., and welcomed Olalekan and Albright, the new command team. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis / Released)



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1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment



The No Fear Battalion, 1-7 Air Defense Artillery, formed up on the parade field to honor the departing battalion commander, battalion command sergeant major and operations sergeant major in an award and appointment ceremony on July 1, 2014 at Fort Bragg. The three leaders are moving on to new assignments after serving the battalion for about two years. The battalion commander, Lt. Col. Curtis W. King, the battalion command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Gutierrez, and the battalion operations sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Steven M. Adams, all received the Meritorious Service Medal on completing their tour leading the battalion. Sergeant Major Adams was laterally appointed to command sergeant major in the same ceremony. Command Sergeant Major Adams will move on to become battalion command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, based at Fort Hood, Texas, under the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, commanded by Col. Brian W. Gibson. Colonel Gibson presented the awards to the departing leaders and offered remarks along with the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. William K. Maddox. The event was a moment of pride for the three leaders, the battalion, the brigade and the air defense artillery branch. The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is tremendously proud and thankful to these three Soldiers for their service to the unit, the Army and the nation. No Fear! Deeds Above Words! (U.S. Army photos by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis / Released)





3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Skystrikers!

Spartans shoot Stingers in live fire exercise

by Lance Cpl. Justin A. Rodriguez, Marine Corps
Base Camp Lejeune Public Affairs

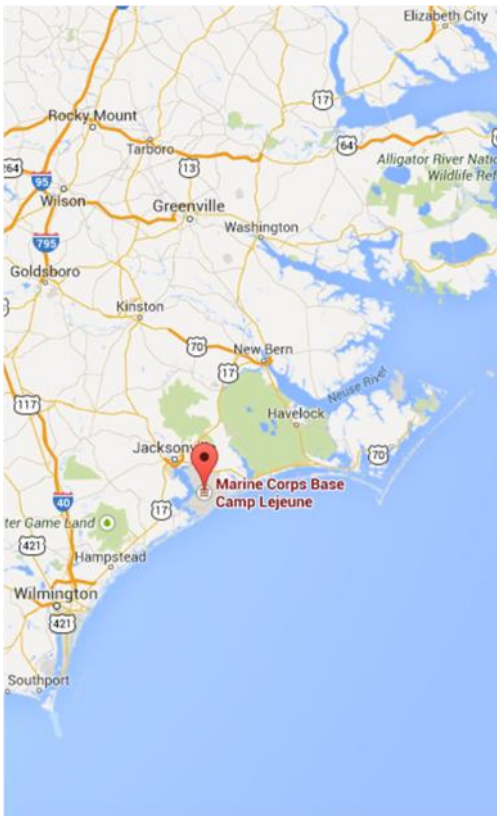
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. –
Soldiers with Echo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air
Defense Artillery Regiment and Charlie Battery,
2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment
conducted their Annual Qualification Fire exercise
at Onslow Beach aboard Marine Corps Base Camp
Lejeune, July 14-19.



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



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



Soldiers with Echo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment and Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment executed their annual qualification fire exercise aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, July 19. The units have traveled to Camp Lejeune for the past four years to complete the training. (U.S. Marines photos by Cpl. Justin A. Rodriguez / Released)

The units traveled from Fort Bragg and Fort Campbell to conduct the exercise, which was designed to validate the training and readiness of the units and to prepare for execution of air and missile defense operations worldwide.

During the live fire exercise, the soldiers staged on the beach and were each given the opportunity to engage a simulated remote-controlled enemy aircraft.

For the past four years, the units have gathered at the Marine Corps base to conduct their training.

Due to the air traffic at Fort Bragg, the units utilize Camp Lejeune to successfully complete their training.

“The exercise has been standardized for the past four years,” said Sgt. Andrew C. Reinheimer, an air and missile defense crewmember and squad leader with Echo Battery. “Two of the years, we actually

got to skydive into the landing zone, which gives the junior soldiers a chance to get familiar with what we do in combat.”

The yearly training gives junior soldiers the opportunity to shoot both the FIM-92 Stinger and AN/TWQ-1 Avenger at a remote controlled aircraft.

The units successfully shot 44 missiles during the training from the shoulder and vehicle.

“We did very well this year,” said Capt. Jeffrey L. Dawson, the commander of Echo Battery.

“Everyone completed their tasks and it went smoothly. Next year I’d like for us to jump in again, but the situation dictates. I’m looking forward to visiting Camp Lejeune again.”





1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment *No Fear!*

No Fear Soldiers, Israelis team up in combined air defense exercise

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment sent Soldiers to support a Joint Defense Force-Israel exercise in May 2014 in order to prepare units for the Global Reaction Force mission, which begins July 1. Juniper Cobra is a reoccurring air defense exercise involving U.S. and Israel Defense Force (IDF) Personnel. U.S. European Command and the IDF plan and execute this exercise on a regular basis as part of a long

standing agreement between the U.S. and Israel. The last U.S.-Israel missile defense exercise was Austere Challenge, which took place in October 2012.

The No Fear Battalion sent four Engagement Control Station (ECS) crews, four Battery Command Post (BCP) crews, three Information Coordination Central (ICC) crews, and three



Col. Greg Brady (right) commander of the 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command briefs U.S. Navy Forces Europe Commander Admiral Bruce Clingan, Israeli Chief of Air Defense Brig. Gen. Shachar Shohat and Joint Defense Force Israel commanding general Maj. Gen. Daryl Williams on the progress of U.S. ballistic missile defense training during Operation Juniper Cobra 2014. Juniper Cobra is a biennial combined U.S. and Israeli air defense exercise aimed at improving the ability of the two countries ability to protect Israel from the threat of ballistic missiles. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Wollaston, 10th AAMDC PAO / Released)



1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

No Fear!

Tactical Command System (TCS) crews to train alongside other 32nd and 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) crews and the IDF crews. The goal of this exercise was to improve our ability to jointly defend against missile attacks. United States Army participation in this exercise helps to maintain regional security and stability in the region.

Soldiers spent two weeks in Israel. During the first week, the Soldiers focused on preparing for 24-hour operations, working to develop the relationships between all levels of the different forces represented at Juniper Cobra. Crews conducted joint academic briefings with Israeli Forces in order to better understand capabilities and limitations of U.S. and Israeli assets. This allowed U.S. air defenders the opportunity to gain insight on the situation and how U.S. air defense capabilities can best support our IDF partners.

During the second week, Soldiers conducted 24-hour operations, providing air and missile defense (AMD) against enemy threats in simulations. The 10th AAMDC then assessed the results of the exercise and together with the IDF decided on changes to the Combined Standing Operating Procedure. The Soldiers contributed their knowledge and expertise in ballistic missile defense operations and built positive relationships with the Israeli soldiers.

Although the U.S. air defenders spent the majority of the time conducting AMD operations, they had opportunities to participate in Morale Recreation and Welfare (MWR) trips to cities in Israel. Soldiers visited Tel Aviv, the old port city of Jaffa, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Masada. The majority of the Soldiers in the battalion visited Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. Soldiers who participated in the trip to Tel Aviv also walked through the old port city of Jaffa, exploring the alleyways and the Roman ruins there.

In Tel Aviv, Soldiers learned about the culture of Israel today by walking through the many markets that filled the city streets and by visiting the beaches and swimming in the Mediterranean. The Soldiers that visited Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, spent half the day walking through the ancient city. They walked through the Christian and Jewish quarters, learning about the different religions. Soldiers visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Western Wall. Then they went to the Dead Sea and swam in the mineral-rich water.

With these opportunities, the Soldiers gained a better understanding of the Israeli culture and the importance of helping defend Israel against enemy threats. The exercise increased the battalion's combat readiness, helping to ensure mission success if the Global Reaction Force is activated and 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is deployed in support of the defense of Israel.



Soldiers from Delta battery pose



Soldiers from HHB and Bravo Battery attend an Ice Breaker dinner to develop relationships with Israeli forces.



Soldiers from Charlie Battery pose overlooking Tel-Aviv.



Soldiers from Alpha Battery 1-7 pose in front of the Dead Sea.



1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

No Fear!

Change of Responsibility

The purpose of a change of responsibility ceremony is to render honor to the outgoing First Sergeant, and provide official recognition of the incoming First Sergeant. The First Sergeant's position in the unit as the senior enlisted Soldier is the life blood of the Army. First Sergeants are tasked with the difficult tasks of enforcing discipline, fostering unit loyalty and morale, and assisting their commanders with daily unit operations. The position demands outstanding leadership and professional competence in order to achieve mission accomplishment. During the ceremony, the company guidon is passed from the outgoing first sergeant to the incoming first sergeant, signifying the transition of leadership and responsibility for the unit.

Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment has been blessed with senior leaders over the past years who embody the aforementioned attributes. Most recently the Ghostriders bid farewell to 1SG Shaun Silas, and welcomed 1SG Christopher Green.



Lt. Col. Sheriff A. Olalekan
Commander
1-7 ADA

Command Sgt. Maj.
Paul D. Albright
Command Sergeant Major
1-7 ADA



Command Sgt. Maj. Paul D. Albright passes the unit guidon for E Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment to incoming 1st Sgt. Christopher Green at Fort



Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment stands at attention, conducting the unit's change of responsibility ceremony at Fort Bragg.





1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment *No Fear!*

No Fear supply support activity hosts warrant officer advanced class

First Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment's Supply Support Activity (SSA) was selected to host warrant officers attending Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC) at the American Logistics University (ALU) in Fort Lee, VA. As the Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS) is phased out of the Army, it is important for warrant officers to get exposure to the new Global Combat Support System – Army (GCSS-Army). While the systems operate in similar ways, there are important differences intended to create a smoother and more reliable method of supply. The WOAC classes are usually composed of 15 to 20 warrant officers. They travel to Fort Bragg where they visit two warehouses. The battalion's SSA has been operating on GCSS-Army for approximately six months and has been in a brand

new building for just over one year. Soldiers working in the SSA prepared basic presentations focused on each section of the warehouse (Stock Control, Receiving, Issue, Turn-In, and Storage) and answered questions asked by the visiting warrant officers. In addition to providing useful information to the visitors, our Soldiers practiced their briefing skills, displayed their expertise and received feedback and guidance from the warrant officers. Furthermore, the 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is able to extend its relationships to units and leaders outside its parent organization, while establishing the SSA as one of the best on Fort Bragg. We look forward to creating a permanent relationship with ALU, intent on assisting the further education of logisticians everywhere.





2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Strike Fear!

2-44 ADA Soldiers awarded Combat Action Badge

by 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig, 2-44 ADA

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment received the Combat Action Badge during ceremonies held here June 23 and July 8.

2-44 ADA is currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They perform the Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) mission, protecting Coalition forces and equipment from enemy indirect fire attacks. The battalion operates the Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS), a 20mm multibarrel cannon, to intercept enemy indirect fire attacks directed at



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

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

forward operating bases. This assignment positions 2-44 ADA Soldiers on the front line when forward operating bases receive enemy indirect fire.

To be awarded the Combat Action Badge (CAB), Soldiers must have been engaged by the enemy. 2-44 ADA Soldiers routinely meet this criterion during their day-to-day duties.

The following eight Soldiers received combat action badges: Sgt. Aaron Bench, Spc. Joshua Domogala, Spc. Curtis Riley, Pfc. Jeffery Miller, Pfc. John Armijo, Pfc. Vaughan Jeffs, Spc. Tyrique Thomas, and Spc. Ryan Hoover. These hard-working and dedicated Soldiers knowingly place themselves in dangerous situations in order to perform their duties.

Spc. Curtis Riley, a wheeled vehicle mechanic, 2nd Platoon, stated "it's unfortunate that the indirect fire came inside the base, but I thank God for allowing me to do my job. All of us [2-44 ADA] have been properly trained for combat, and to always expect the unexpected. My family is very proud of me for being awarded the combat action badge."



Eight Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment received the Combat Action Badge (CAB) during two ceremonies held here June 23 and July 8. Specialist Curtis Riley, Capt. Joseph Riedel, Pfc. Jeffery Miller, Sgt. Aaron Bench, Spc. Joshua Domogala, pictured here, all members of Alpha Battery, received their citation June 23, 2014. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig /





Lieutenant General Joseph Anderson pins the Combat Action Badge (CAB) on the uniform of Pfc. Vaughan Jeffs during a ceremony held here July 8. The CAB recognizes the accomplishments of Soldiers who continued to complete their mission while being engaged by the enemy. Through acts of valor when needed the most, Soldiers demonstrate their ability to live up to all of the Army values. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig / Released)

Pfc. Jeffery Miller, a radar mechanic, also in 2nd platoon, echoed the above sentiment, “I was very surprised to hear I was receiving the combat action badge. I felt like I was just doing my job as Land-based Phalanx Weapons team leader. I am honored to be awarded the combat action badge, and will wear it with pride.”

Prior to assuming the mission in Afghanistan, Capt. Richard Lewis, battery commander, had the daunting task of transforming his battery from an Avenger battery to an LPWS intercept battery. The unit performed this task under a tight and accelerated schedule, just in time to get deployed and into the fight. He couldn’t be more proud of the battery’s accomplishments.

“Today marks a great occasion for Alpha Battery and 2-44 ADA” stated Capt. Lewis. “We have awarded eight of our Assassins with the combat action badge, a distinction that emphasizes the combat capacity that Alpha Battery currently fulfills, and the willingness of the Soldiers of our unit to step into harm’s way to provide air defense on forward operating bases for U.S. and Coalition forces.”

Although short, both ceremonies were historic moments for both Alpha Battery and the battalion. It was a chance to highlight contributions by outstanding Soldiers who work challenging hours in a difficult environment. Lieutenant General Joseph Anderson, commander of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), visited 2-44 ADA on July 8, 2014, and took part in a one of the CAB ceremonies.

“Today these deserving troops from Alpha Battery made history,” 1st Sgt. Robert Walker stated. “Very few air defenders get the opportunity to meet the requirements to receive a combat action badge. These troops consistently display remarkable courage and dedication while protecting thousands of U.S. and Coalition forces on Bagram Airfield. The Soldiers of ‘Assassin’ Battery have no fear and are always steadfast in the execution of their duty.”



Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Shaffer, commander, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, pins the Combat Action Badge (CAB) on Spc. Ryan Hoover’s uniform during a ceremony held here June 28. Hoover was one of eight Soldiers who received the CAB from actions taken during a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig / Released)

Keeping Morale Higher with Memorial Day Madness

Story and photos by
Capt. Ken Catlaw and
1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig,
2-44 ADA



First Sergeant Robert Walker, of A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment performs dead lifts as part of the Memorial Day Madness weightlifting competition at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan on May 26, 2014. (U.S. Army Photo by: Capt. Ken Catlaw / Released)

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. 2-44 operates 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



2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

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.”

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.”



The Memorial Day Madness competitors take a short break from pumping iron to show off to their friends and families back home while deployed at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan on May 26, 2014. (U.S. Army Photo by: Capt. Ken Catlaw / Released)



Air defenders celebrate America's Birthday in Afghanistan

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig, 2-44 ADA



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment pose for a photo during the July 4th barbecue at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. During the barbecue, Soldiers and leaders gathered to relax and have fun outside of work. Through events like these leaders engage their Soldiers and give them a sense of home even while they are far away. . (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig and 1st Lt. Kimberly Leyva / Released)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment took some time to relax during a battalion Morale Day to celebrate Independence Day.

The Morale Day was organized and executed by a group of battalion noncommissioned officers and officers who are passionate about Soldier care and morale. "It's all about the Soldiers. Any time you can put together an organization day while deployed it helps boost morale," said Sgt. 1st Class James Johnson, a platoon sergeant with Alpha Battery.

"I think it's always good for Soldiers to be able take a moment to relax and enjoy themselves outside of work as a whole," said Master Sgt. Christopher Boyles of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment. "Especially being away from their families and loved ones and that this is one of our

most celebrated holidays. I'm just really glad I could take part and share in this experience with them."

Organizers coordinated with Bagram Airfield's dining facilities to provide food for the function and the installation's Morale Welfare Recreation (MWR) to provide sports equipment. Throughout the day Soldiers enjoyed a variety of activities including: volleyball, horse shoes, ping pong, good old-fashioned catch and corn hole. Soldiers and leaders spent the day coming together as a team in something other than their usual day-to-day required duties.

"The barbecue was a great morale booster. I enjoyed it very much," said Spc. Javier Medina, an Avenger crew member with Charlie Battery.

Specialist Michael Loesher, an air defense battle management system operator with Alpha Battery, also expressed those sentiments. "It was a nice change of pace seeing everyone engaging in the same activity, and having fun."

Soldiers had plenty of competition amongst themselves but also took the opportunity to call out some of their leaders in several high-stakes volleyball matches.

Operations continued through the event, as the mission comes first. Some sections were able to alter shifts so that all who wanted to participate had an opportunity. Soldiers brought plates of food to their brothers and sisters-in-arms unable to directly participate in the event because of mission constraints. Overall, it was a good day for the battalion.



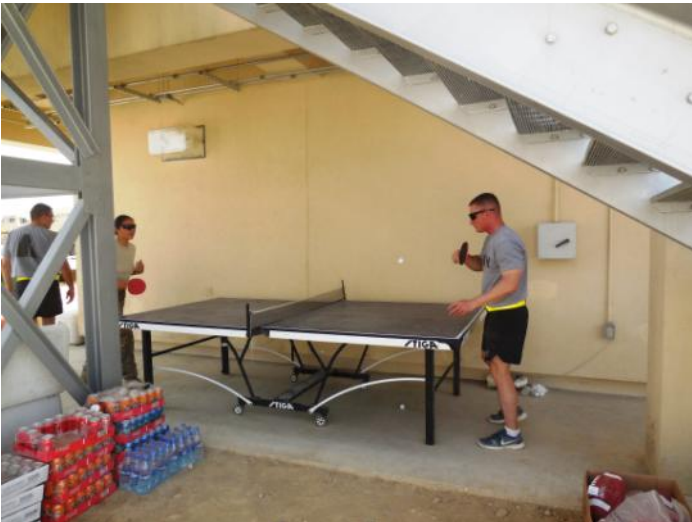
2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

First Sgt. Robert Walker of Alpha Battery said, “This event was really good for the Assassin Battery Soldiers. This was a great relaxing event for our troops who work 14 to 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. This event allowed them the opportunity to relax and celebrate Independence Day as a team. It’s very encouraging to see Noncommissioned officers volunteer to put in extra hours and pull their Soldiers’ shifts in order to allow them the opportunity to get some down time and truly shows appreciation for their great efforts.”

“Having the battalion organizational barbecue was a great way to celebrate Independence Day and to come together as a team of professionals. It was nice to see the Soldiers unwind, joke, and have fun while remaining focused on the mission and why we are currently here in Afghanistan,” said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Paul, a platoon sergeant with Alpha Battery.



Specialist Charles McCoy serves in a volleyball game during a Morale Day at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan on July 4, 2014. Volleyball was just one of the events scheduled for the day of fun. Leaders and Soldiers were able to spend quality time together outside of the office and really relax. Through events like this, leaders access the morale of their Soldiers and ensure that all remain in high spirits during the rest of their tour abroad. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig and 1st Lt. Kimberly Leyva / Released)



First Sergeant Robert Walker (right) and SGT Erika Enriquez (left) play ping pong during an Independence Day barbecue at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan on July 4, 2014. Friendly competition like this was just one example of the fun activities available for Soldiers and leaders alike. Through events like this, leaders and Soldiers were able to fellowship with each other outside of the confines of the office. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig and 1st Lt. Kimberly Leyva / Released)

At the end of the day it’s all about growing as a team. Being separated from your friends and family during holidays can present its own challenges. Spending a day with your team in an event other than normal work is a great chance to build morale and get a little feeling of ‘home’ back.



Chaplain's Pew:



Chaplains Maj. Erik Gramling and Navy Lt. Jason Porter spent time visiting troops during a site survey here. During the visit, Maj. Gramling spoke with service members on their spiritual and mental well-being. Visits like these ensure that all service members have an opportunity to express their concerns without fear of reprisal. (U.S. Army photo)

The Army Chaplaincy exists to provide for the free exercise of religion amongst our Soldiers. Chaplains also provide prayer, counsel, and sometimes a touch of “home” like a cold popsicle on a hot day to a tired Soldier working under the hot Middle Eastern sun.

As the Spartan BDE Chaplain, I am privileged to coordinate and assess the religious support plan for the entire footprint of our brigade. To that end, I travel to visit the Unit Ministry Teams (UMTs) in each different BN location.

Recently I was able to travel to Bahrain to Isa Air Base to visit the other half of the 3-43 ADA battalion. Their chaplain, Capt. Richard Kuhlman, met up with me there and for a few days we visited his battalion's sites and I engaged with both leadership and the other chaplains there at Isa Air Base. Chaplain Kuhlman and Pfc. Hale, his chaplain assistant, are doing an excellent job covering down on two different locations and making chaplain support available to Soldiers.



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

Overall I found the religious support offered to our Soldiers in Bahrain to be exceptional. Soldiers are free to worship and gather during the week for various bible studies, or just enjoy the chapel annex where free Wi-Fi and comfortable chairs for Soldiers to relax in are offered. We are blessed that Navy chaplain Lt. Jason Porter is there full time as the installation chaplain. He has gone above and beyond the norm to provide excellent pastoral care to our Soldiers when Chaplain Kuhlman is in Qatar with the other half of his unit.

Besides coordinating all the religious services at Isa, Chaplain Porter is well known and liked by the Soldiers there and has even offered slots for resiliency retreats to our Soldiers.

As for our unit's mission, I am impressed with the level of support the Soldiers have at the firing battery sites. Those who came before left things in good shape and the current leadership are continuing to “improve the foxhole.” Finally, I found being near the ocean had a very calming effect upon me. It was a great visit and I look forward to visiting the 3-4 ADAR Unit Ministry Team and our Soldiers in Jordan.

Chaplain's Pew:



Greetings Spartans!

I hope and pray that you are all doing well,
whether forward or main.

Everywhere we look on the news, there are reports of troubles brewing all over the world: humanitarian crises in Iraq and on the Texas border, conflict in Israel, celebrities ending their lives. It is easy to become discouraged, to focus on the negatives and worry about the future. While I do not pretend to know what tomorrow may hold, I do know that we need not fear—there is Someone who holds tomorrow and who promises to never leave us or forsake us.

I am reminded about a young military leader named Joshua who was anxious about leading his fledgling nation into the next phase of their history. He drew comfort from these words of reassurance: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9). No matter what you may be experiencing, it is my prayer that these words will give you comfort and peace today.



Deeds above Words!

For God and Country!

— Chaplain (Capt.) Alison L. Ward

108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade
Rear Detachment Chaplain



Judge Advocate's Advice:

Legal News You Can Use:

Purchasing a Vehicle

Did you sell your ride before coming out to Qatar? Are you tired of waiting at the bus stop and/or walking to work? Is all that deployment money burning a hole in your pocket? With deployment comes extra money and for some of us that cash can burn holes in our pockets until we spend it. Being patient, doing research and being a savvy car shopper can save you money when looking for a new car. Below are some tried-and-true tips to avoid making mistakes in the car market:

New or Used: There's nothing like that new vehicle smell. But hold on; your best deal could be a late-model, used vehicle. If you opt for a 2-3 year old model, you could save as much as 30 to 40 percent over the new model.

Buy or Lease: Although leasing is the easiest way to get a new vehicle every few years, leases have some major disadvantages. For instance, leasing a vehicle rather than buying it will generally cost you much more than simply financing a purchase from the start. If you don't mind driving an older vehicle, the best decision on purely economic grounds is usually to buy a newer vehicle and continue to drive it long after you've paid off the loan.

Vehicle history: If buying used, have a mechanic check the vehicle over and ask the seller about the vehicle's history. Alternatively, use the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (www.nmvtis.gov) or VehicleFax (www.vehiclefax.com) to check out the car's past.

Reasonable price: Use tools like Consumer Reports or Kelly Blue Book (www.kbb.com). Call some dealers and ask their lowest price for a similar vehicle. Also, check the classified ads or websites like www.autotrader.com.

Ask for the final sale price: Dealers like to throw out the pitch "we can keep monthly payments under \$XXX." This does not mean you are getting a bargain. This is the dealership's way of making an

expensive vehicle appear more affordable while increasing the interest rates and extending the payments. Always ask for the final sales price—this will determine whether you get a good deal or not.

Old vehicle worth: Whether you plan to trade it in or sell it, your current vehicle can be an important factor in your budget. Again, use tools like Consumer Reports or Blue Book (www.kbb.com) to know how much it's worth. Selling your vehicle directly instead of just trading it in may mean a sizable difference in what you get for it.

Financing: If you plan to finance, check your credit union or local bank quotes to find the lowest rate. Avoid using the dealer as the lender. Getting a pre-approved loan will give you added confidence in negotiating a good price.

Read the contract: Do not sign anything, and don't hand over money or keys to your trade-in until you know all the terms of the deal. Any promise not in writing is extremely difficult to enforce.

Beware the Extended Warranty: Extended warranties can be a good idea to protect you from paying for unforeseen car problems. However, this is also a chance for the dealer to slip in an overpriced warranty under your nose after the deal seems finalized. Remember that warranties are as negotiable as the car. Don't let the dealer catch you asleep at the wheel while he slips it into the contract at the end of negotiations.

Be sure the seller signs over the title: The only way to buy the vehicle is to have the title (used vehicle), or Certificate of Origin (new vehicle), signed over to you. Never buy a vehicle from someone if they do not have the title or Certificate of Origin to the vehicle they are selling.

The signs are all around

it's up to **YOU**
to recognize
and act on them

Training, Discipline and Standards

Training, discipline and standards are the bedrock of our Army, and as Soldiers, you've been taught what right looks like. As leaders, you have a duty and a responsibility to maintain standards in your formation. You also have an obligation to your Soldiers and their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. In our fight against accidental fatalities, knowledge is the weapon of choice.



ARMY STRONG:



<https://safety.army.mil>



Family Readiness Zone:

U.S. Army Family Readiness Support Assistant

by Leon Walden, Jr.
Family Readiness Support Assistant



Recruiting and Training Volunteers

There are many ways to recruit volunteers, but the most effective way is simply to ask individuals to volunteer. On the family readiness information sheet, family members have an opportunity to indicate what areas or ways they would be willing to assist the FRG. Another direct approach is to decide who might be best suited to handle a particular task and ask the individual about performing the task. However, remember that individuals who are not located in your geographical area can perform important functions such as serving as newsletter editor.

Learn more about Family Readiness Groups:

<https://www.armyfrg.org/skins/frg/home.aspx>

Fort Bragg, NC – August 22-23, 2014

In this upcoming event...

Dynamic entrepreneurs, business leaders and trailblazers have volunteered their time to help you thrive in your transition from the military...

Showing you step by step how to start your own successful business or find your dream job... <http://americandreamu.org/upcoming-events/>

eArmy Family Messaging



ARMY FRG

E-ARMY FAMILY MESSAGING SYSTEM

The E-Army Family Messaging System is a secure web-based Commander tool that enhances communications with Soldiers and Family Members by using the latest advancements in communication technology. This tool allows Commanders to reach unit Soldiers and Family Members that are geographically dispersed.

The E-Army Family Messaging System allows unit staff members to broadcast messages from any computer to their unit by phone calls, emails, text messages (SMS), and pager messages. The E-Army Family Messaging System delivers the messages to multiple devices simultaneously in real time.

The E-Army Family Messaging System also offers Commanders and unit staff members reporting results for all messages sent to the unit.

Retention Rundown:



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

The objective of an Army career counselor is to "reenlist quality Soldiers on a long term basis, in order to maintain Army end strength and support special military programs." Once the Soldiers' goals are planned, the Army career counselor can assist Soldiers with their decision-making process of what course of action to take while they are in the developmental phase of their career and that usually begins when a Soldier falls within their reenlistment opportunity window.

Ever since many Soldiers and leaders can remember, the Army has been operating under a static reenlistment opportunity window (ROW). The opportunity to reenlist has been based on which fiscal year Soldiers contractual Expiration Term of Service (ETS) date fell within. Beginning in October, the Army will be turning back its proverbial clock when it goes back to the 12-month ROW. Now, Soldiers will enter the ROW beginning 12-months from their contractual ETS date.

The current static ROW, in place for nearly a decade, provided Soldiers up to 21-months to make their reenlistment decision; the new 12-month rolling window shortens the opportunity to nine months. Soldiers will have a nine-month ROW beginning 12 months from their ETS and ROW closes 3 months from ETS. Soldiers will be allowed to process for options 13 months from ETS.

For more details, see your career counselor.



Capt. Blackwell reenlists Sgt. Wellington July 23, 2014 at 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Headquarters on Fort Bragg.



Update:

By Master Sgt. Dale Ingle
108th ADA BDE SHARP NCO



The U.S. Military Code of Conduct, Article I:

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

That is a very serious commitment, one that cannot be taken lightly. Soldiers accept this responsibility eagerly, with honor and pride. That willingness to accept the possibility of the loss of life in defense of our nation defines us as Soldiers.

As Soldiers we all take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to bear true faith and allegiance to the same. Soldiers take this responsibility seriously and of course, that is part of what makes Soldiers stand out from civilians in our nation.

Unfortunately, many of those same Soldiers will not as boldly defend their brothers and sisters-in-arms from sexual assault and harassment. The Soldiers they allow to become victims of this despicable crime are the same men and women they depend on in training and in combat. Why then do Soldiers allow their comrades to fall, to become victims of sexual assault or harassment, usually perpetrated by another Soldier?

Not one of us would stand by and allow our mother, father, sister or brother to become a victim of sexual assault or harassment. No one would witness in silence as a family member or close friend was raped or harassed. Why then would a Soldier let it happen to another Soldier?

It is time to set aside the old, worn-out and completely empty excuses for inaction. No longer can we simply say, "She wanted it," or "He didn't say no." We cannot tolerate inaction simply because of how a Soldier chooses to dress or how much alcohol they consumed. On the contrary, these are factors to watch out for to defend our brothers and sisters-in-arms from becoming victims and from becoming perpetrators of sexual assault and harassment.

We must be vigilant for the warning signs normally present before an incident of sexual assault or harassment. We must watch out for our brothers and sisters-in-arms, to prevent them from committing sexual assaults and harassment, to protect them from becoming victims of these crimes. We must not remain silent. We must step up and take action. Just like the freedom we hold so dear, our readiness, our morale and welfare, our brothers and sisters-in-arms all depend on our action.

www.preventsexualassault.army.mil

DoD Safe Helpline: 1-877-995-5247



Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Walters
108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade SHARP

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.



Equal Opportunity Corner:

The U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day" in 1971 to honor women's continuing efforts toward equality.



In the month of July, US ARCENT coordinated a 10-day Equal Opportunity Leaders Course (EOLC) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in an enclosed room with as many as 6 Equal Opportunity Advisors who facilitated classroom discussions to 35 personnel. The curriculum develops a base of knowledge and skills that allow graduates to assess human relations climates in the organizations they serve, and to provide advice and assistance to battery and battalion commanders to prevent, reduce, or eliminate discriminatory practices. The course uses a building-block concept. Studies progress from communications to individual and group behavior, through studies of major ethnic groups, aspects of power and discrimination, EO leadership skills, and conclude with unit specific studies. Graduates are qualified to serve as battery and battalion EOL's, who would then have primary responsibility of conducting their units' quarterly EO training.

An EOLC candidate is a Sgt. (promotable) through 1st Lt. who exhibits maturity and professionalism, who is willing to serve as an EO Leader to battery and battalion commanders on Equal Opportunity matters.

The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor had the opportunity to conduct EO assessments throughout the Area of Responsibility, speaking with battery and battalion commanders, EO representatives and Soldiers. Discussions focused on discrimination concerns leadership throughout the command, organizational health and everything in between. For the most part, Soldiers have trust and confidence in their leadership. Soldiers have a strong knowledge of the EO complaint process and its procedures to file formal and informal complaints.

Upcoming Observance: 26 August 26, 2014
The Department of Defense celebrates Women's Equality Day.

1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment will be assisting 1st Theater Support Command and U.S. Army Central with its upcoming Women's Equality Day observance at Camp Arifjan. The Guest speaker for the event will be Maj. Gen. Gwen Bingham, the commanding general for TACOM Life Cycle Management Command.



The signs are all around

it's up to **YOU** to recognize
and act on them



PLS DNT
TXT & DRV

Training, Discipline and Standards

Training, discipline and standards are the bedrock of our Army, and as Soldiers, you've been taught what right looks like. As leaders, you have a duty and a responsibility to maintain standards in your formation. You also have an obligation to your Soldiers and their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. In our fight against accidental fatalities, knowledge is the weapon of choice.



U.S. ARMY
ARMY STRONG



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER
<https://safety.army.mil>

