

# SPARTAN SHIELD



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

November 20, 2014

## AIR DEFENDERS RETURN FROM AFGHANISTAN

FAMILIES REUNITED 26

## SOLDIERS SHARPEN PATRIOT SKILLS WITH HOST NATION

BUILDING PARTNERSHIP AND PROFICIENCY 13

## AIR DEFENSE BRIGADE TRAINS TO WARD OFF THREATS FROM THE SKY

TRAINED AND READY TO FIGHT TONIGHT 24







## SPARTAN SHIELD

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# Commander's Column

Happy holidays from the Spartan Brigade, deployed to the Middle East or home at Forts Bragg and Campbell. In this third edition of the Spartan Shield, we'll highlight the tremendous efforts of the Spartan Brigade over the last three months. We expanded our coverage by including our deployed sister units 1-44 ADA and 4-5 ADA from 69th ADA Brigade, 3-43 ADA and 2-43 ADA from 11th ADA Brigade, and 5-5 ADA from 31st ADA Brigade.

In the past three months we have seen extensive transition. 1-44 ADA departed in September as 4-5 ADA from Fort Hood arrived to assume the mission in Kuwait. 2-44 ADA concluded their successful Counter- Rockets, Artillery, and Mortar mission in Afghanistan and was replaced by 5-5 ADA from Fort Lewis, Wash. We said goodbye to 3-43 ADA at the end of October and welcomed 2-43 ADA to Qatar and Bahrain. The departing units performed superbly and represented the best of each of their respective brigades. We expect the new units will maintain the high standards of their predecessors and raise them even higher.

Finally, the Spartan Brigade welcomed its newest permanent unit, Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (A/3), stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md. The Guardians operate the Army's latest air and missile defense sensor capability. They currently are conducting a three-year operational test in support of the Homeland Defense mission. We are excited to have these new Soldiers as part of our formation.

Across the globe, from Bagram, Afghanistan, throughout the Middle East, along the U.S. eastern seaboard and to the heartland of the U.S., Spartan Soldiers remain ready to execute any mission. Our actions in support of four named operations speak volumes – hence our motto, “Deeds Above Words!” Thanks as always for your support to your Soldier, your unit, and to each other.

1-44 ADA (Defender) / 4-5 ADA (Renegades)'s main effort was transition. Prior to departing the theater, the Defender battalion focused on its final advanced gunnery skills. They trained and certified their non-battle rostered crews to set conditions for rebuilding the unit as they begin reset. Throughout August and in early September, the Renegades trained and certified to replace 1-44 ADA Soldiers. The two battalions conducted a superb relief-in-place, setting new standards for how to transition. On Sep. 8, 4-5 ADA officially took the reins in Kuwait and began working with their Kuwaiti partners. Conducting a series of operational readiness exercises, they added depth to their bench of air and missile defense experts. We wished 1-44 ADA Godspeed on their return to Fort Hood. Thanks to the Defenders for an outstanding mission!

2-44 ADA (STRIKE FEAR) / 5-5 ADA (Dragonslayers)'s executed their transition flawlessly under constant threat of enemy indirect fires. The Strike Fear battalion continued to defend its designated assets against rockets and mortars. They had an incredible success rate, striving always for perfection. They were busy consolidating their defended asset as U.S. forces begin to return to the U.S. With new defense designs in place and a software upgrade to



give them even better capability, 2-44 ADA began their transition with 5-5 ADA. The Dragonslayers hit the ground running, rapidly certifying each gun and Engagement Operations crew to successfully transition the mission on Oct. 24. Their mission remains crucial as U.S. forces change roles and consolidate to new bases. I know 5-5 ADA will continue to excel in this mission. Thanks to 2-44 ADA Soldiers for your professionalism and expertise – welcome home to Fort Campbell! CSM Foley and I are very proud of you!

A/3 (GUARDIANS) joined the Spartan Brigade on September 16th with patching ceremonies at Fort Bliss, Texas and APG in Maryland. They employ the Army's latest sensor capability, the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS). Their mission is to defend the homeland with powerful radar capabilities integrated into the U.S. Northern Command's air defense network. The unit has been training for a couple years and last summer moved from Utah to Maryland. Over the next two months, they will complete their certification and begin this new mission.

3-4 ADAR's (SKYSTRIKERS) focus has been the successful execution of the first ever Combined Patriot Live Fire Exercise with our partners in one host nation. This edition contains a story highlighting this historic event. Most importantly, this exercise was done to standard and was a tremendous success. The battalion deployed D/3-4 ADA crews and equipment from Fort Bragg to support the live fire. The Executioners (E/3-4 ADAR) conducted another Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation with the 82d Airborne Division. The many lessons learned will allow us to support future maneuver brigade rotations. The Skystrickers once more showcased their deployability, mission readiness, and varied mission capabilities to support operations around the world.

1-7 ADA (NO FEAR) is next in the queue to deploy as they completed their readiness training with a highly successful Mission Rehearsal Exercise in October. Training throughout August and September to attain Table VIII standards, the No Fear battalion readied themselves for their culminating training exercise. They supported the

11th ADA Brigade as that unit also completed its training to deploy next year. The unit will focus on preparing its equipment for sea and air movements this fall while enhancing their air battle management skills. We look forward to welcoming them into theater to replace 3-4 ADA in early 2015.

Finally, the Brigade Headquarters continues to support our battalions in theater. Beyond our daily mission, we hosted the Air Force for a friendly game of football. Sadly the outcome in Qatar was the same as the Academies competing at Michie Stadium at West point. (There's always next year!) The headquarters is incredibly busy resourcing the units. Our focus is improving the footprints where your Soldiers live and work. We have executed a variety of projects with more to finish before we complete our mission.

To our Families, thanks for the tremendous support you provide your Soldiers. As we enter the holiday season, we look forward to your letters, cards, and packages – more importantly to see how our Families are thriving at home. I'd ask you to send a picture of your holiday decorations to give our troops a reminder of the importance of our mission abroad. From all of us in the Spartan Brigade, we wish you a happy holiday season and we look forward to seeing you soon in the New Year.

Vr,  
COL O'Neill  
Spartan 6





# Command Sergeant Major's Channel:

Up front, I'd like to take the time to recognize the achievements of some outstanding Soldiers and leaders who have excelled in various high-profiled events. In August 2014, Staff Sgt. Chauncey Johnson, of HHB/3-4 ADAR and Sgt. Justin Engle, of HHB/3-43 ADA were selected for Induction into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) during a selection board held by the ARCENT Command Sergeant Major. The SAMC board selects only the most committed and competent leaders who exemplify the leadership traits of Sergeant Audie Leon Murphy. Staff Sgt. Johnson and Sgt. Engle are the best junior Noncommissioned officers the Top Notch Brigade has to offer in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. Their continuous and consistent leading, training, counseling, mentoring, and caring for Soldiers will enable them to one day serve as First Sergeants and Command Sergeants Major if chosen to do so. Congratulations on your selection for this distinct honor.

In two consecutive Warrior Leader Course classes held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Spc. Bryttany Gant, of HHB, 108th ADA Brigade and Sgt. Andy Jimenez, of A/3-4 ADAR graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduates (DHG) for their respective classes. The DHG is the one Soldier that has the highest grade point average, received a first-time go on all performance evaluations, and zero negative counselings. Spc. Destiny Czaplewski, of C/4-5 ADA was selected by her peers and cadre as the leadership awardee. Spc. Marissa Montouri, and Spc. Rashad Jacobs, both with HHB, 108th ADA Brigade, Sgt. Brian Santos, of HHB/4-5 ADA, Sgt. Tyler Draves, of A/4-5 ADA and Spc. Benjamin Hart, of A/3-4 ADAR graduated on the Commandant's List, which is reserved for those that finish in the top 20% of the class. These eight leaders were well prepared, guided and mentored by their NCO leadership to excel under challenging conditions. Congratulations on a job well done!



Leader development is a top priority for our Army. We want to actively develop committed and competent leaders of high moral character. Experience equals development – experience is gained with every school, class, task, mission, and deployment. With that said, you must help yourself by conducting self-development and self-study. Reading Army doctrine and regulations as well as completing Structured Self Development, Army Skillport training, and civilian education courses are examples of ways to quickly improve leadership qualities and to make you competitive for further advancement and military schooling. Leaders that do this are far more successful in Professional Military Education (PME) courses, semi-centralized promotion and competition boards and DA centralized boards for senior NCOs, officers and warrant officers.



I challenge all NCOs in the Brigade to emulate the leadership qualities of these superb NCOs. Strive for nomination and induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and for honors at PME courses. Every Soldier should set personal and professional goals and objectives: military and civilian education, financial, fitness, family, spiritual, and career goals. Tying short and long term goals to quantifiable metrics will help you set realistic timelines. Frequently revisit the glide path to check progress or to make necessary adjustments.

Finally, always take care of each other, especially during the upcoming holidays. Each and every Soldier in the Spartan Brigade is critically valuable. Take this time to build relationships with Families as well as the troops to your left and right. We are one big Spartan family so we can work through personal and professional challenges together. Stay safe and I hope to see all the troopers as I circulate the Brigade footprint in the next 90 days.

“Spartan Strong!”

CSM Foley





# Deputy Commander's Note:



Maj. Jeffrey D. Porter  
108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade  
Deputy Commanding Officer

## Spartan Strong Soldiers and Families

Soldiers serving in the Spartan Brigade today are the Army's leaders of tomorrow. We have a great opportunity to shape those future leaders, but perhaps the most important thing we can do is forge them into a ready and resilient force. As Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said, the Army is the strength of our nation, Soldiers are the strength of our Army, and Families are the strength of our Soldiers. Likewise, Spartan Soldiers and Families are the bedrock of 108th ADA Brigade's readiness and resiliency.

What is resiliency? Resiliency is the mental, physical, emotional, and behavioral ability to face and cope with adversity, adapt to change, recover, learn and grow from setbacks. No one gets through life without facing setbacks, and we can improve our chances of successful outcomes by learning and applying the twelve resilience and two performance skills taught to Soldiers and Spouses as part of the Army's Ready and Resilient Campaign.

What does a Resilient Family look like? Resilient Families are able to thrive and remain strong through deployments, reassignments, and adversity. They are aware of resources available, and are willing to seek help for themselves and for their Soldier when needed. Resilient Families support others through setbacks; they connect with their community and make positive contributions. In short, they care about each other and are tough to break.

How Can Army Spouses gauge their resiliency? The Army's primary tool to gauge resiliency is called the Global Assessment Tool (GAT), which is routinely updated to stay relevant and is now on version 2.0. Better yet, version 2.0 is for spouses too. The GAT is a completely confidential application that provides a personal assessment in each of the five dimensions of strength: social, emotional, spiritual, family, and physical. The GAT also provides your RealAge®, which is based on the



Members of the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (IFHF), along with senior Army leaders and dignitaries, dedicate the new \$11 million Intrepid Spirit Center Sept. 8, 2014 at Fort Campbell, Ky. The Fort Campbell Center is the third of nine completed nationwide. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Duncan Brennan, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs / Released)

healthiness of your lifestyle and compares your calendar age to your biological age. The results also show how you are doing with regards to the three elements of the Performance Triad—Sleep, Activity, and Nutrition.

To get started, visit <https://armyfit.army.mil> and register for an account by clicking the “ArmyFit Login,” and then click on “Don’t have an account.” You’ll need your confidential information like your spouse’s social security number to authenticate your status in one of the toughest jobs in the world—an Army Spouse!

Will Soldier and Family resiliency training be integrated into the Spartan Brigade’s redeployment and reintegration plan? Absolutely, 108th Brigade sent four more leaders to master resiliency training at Fort Bragg in September. We’ll leverage the practical application of the skills taught during unit



master resiliency or “MRT” training to help Soldiers and Families overcome setbacks, and achieve personal and professional growth.

2-44 ADA at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky is uniquely situated to provide their redeploying troops the best ready and resilient care the Army has to offer. On September 11th, Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, commanding general, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell, cut the ribbon on the Army’s newest Intrepid Spirit Center. This is the third of nine planned Intrepid Spirit Centers across Dept. of Defense installations designed to enable state of the art medical care for traumatic brain injuries, post traumatic stress, and depression in a 25,000 sq. ft. modern facility. Fort Bragg is programmed to receive a center as well—and construction is under way. Our goal is to establish an enduring culture within the brigade that enables each Soldier and each Family to reach their full potential and become Spartan Strong.

# ARMYFIT™







# Top Notch Brigade brings BTIN training to theater



by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lashon  
Anderson, Systems Technician  
September 9, 2014

**UNDISCLOSED LOCATION** - The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade hosted the ballistic missile defense system theater interface node (BTIN) familiarization training course in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR) for all command and control system integration officers and communications specialists Sept. 8-12.

The BTIN system is a multi-TADIL-J asset that is utilized by all PATRIOT Battalions throughout theater to provide redundant communications data link. Students received training on the subcomponents of the BTIN to include the CISCO 2811 router, a KIV-7M, the tactical data analysis and collection system (TDACS), and an uninterruptible power source (UPS). This system is fielded at the battalion level and provides the capability to support simultaneous Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) missions across the AOR.

Col. Edward J. O'Neill, commander, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, shared his training goals and expectations from the class. These goals were developed from discussions about the challenges and lessons learned from deploying C2I integrators into theater without any training. The intent of this training was to optimize home station deployment training resources to prepare operators on assigned missions.

The warfighter request and support from the Missile Defense Agency for training and knowledge on the BTIN/TDACS system presented a prime opportunity to expand the knowledge base for all the command and control systems technicians, air defense battle management system operators, air defense enhanced early warning system operators, and network management technicians across the AOR whom attended the course. Soldiers from 3rd Battalion 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 4th Battalion 5th Air Defense Artillery, 3rd Battalion 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 1st Battalion 7th Air Defense Artillery, 32nd Army Air Missile Defense Command, and DOD Civilians were in attendance. The five day training was conducted by the LinQuest Corporation and the Tactical Data Analysis and Connectivity System (TDACS) by Märzen Group LLC. 3-43 ADA provided the facilities that were used for the training.

“We conducted training at the same time utilizing real world operation for the hands-on portion of the training”, stated Chief Warrant Officer 3 Louis Plaza, C2I System Integrator from 3-43 ADA.





The classroom instruction also gave them an in-depth overview of the TDACS system and what it brings to the fight. This initial training provided a way to get an idea on what is needed in developing a training program that will allow the military to strengthen those skills that are not currently provided in the schoolhouse to those soldiers that are deploying into a theater that has the BTIN system.

Many of the students expressed how much they appreciated the class and why they felt it was important to receive this training.

“The trouble-shooting procedures that we went over proved to be invaluable,” stated Staff Sgt. Kristopher Cron, Top Notch Brigade, air defense battle manager. “It will also help facilitate the isolation of certain issues sooner if they arise. Overall, it gave me a better understanding of the BTIN system.”

Following this initial training event, the 108th ADA BDE leadership and MDA Support Team identified initiatives to pave the way ahead for future BTIN training.





# 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Skystrikers!*

## Skystrikers excel in exercise with 82nd Airborne

by 2nd Lt. Christopher A. Archer, E/3-4 ADA  
September 19, 2014

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Third Platoon, Echo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment participated in a 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division Joint Operational Access Exercise from 15-18 September 2014. Their mission: Provide early warning and short-range air defense to 3rd BCT.

Third BCT is currently on a Global Response Force (GRF) mission. A unit on GRF is prepared to deploy within 18 hours of activation. The unit is capable of a wide range missions – from humanitarian relief to airborne assaults in enemy territory.

The specialty of GRF is airfield seizure. The intent behind airfield seizure is that the GRF unit will jump into a hostile area capture an airfield and use it for future operations. Air defense coverage ensures the airfield seizure is a success.

Third Platoon first provided short-range air defense for the assaulting unit and command & control nodes in the form of two Stinger missile teams. These teams parachuted into Holland Drop Zone with members of 3rd BCT. Airborne Skystrikers jump with the Stinger Missile Jump Pack (SMJP). Once on the ground, the teams immediately began providing air defense.



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



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



SPC Ortiz (center) prepares to fire at enemy air threats, under the direction of his team chief SPC Martinez (right), while SPC Laboy provides security.







PV2 Pickett enjoys a break after four days in the turret.

Shortly after the airfield was secured, friendly aircraft began to air-land vehicles, supplies, and additional personnel to sustain the operation and mass combat power. Top priorities on these flights were the Sentinel radar and the fire control shelter. These two items together provide an air picture and early warning of possible air threats.

During the JOAX, 3rd Platoon put the Sentinel radar into operation within 12 hours of the initial air drop. This mission was accomplished in less time than was allotted, to the credit of 3rd Platoon's Soldiers. Third Platoon also had to plan for contingencies. They emplaced a backup radar at the brigade Tactical Operations Center (TOC) to ensure the unit could still fight even in the case of a radar break-down or scheduled maintenance .

Later flights brought Avengers into the fight. Avengers provide an upgrade in capability with regard to short-range air defense, including infrared night vision technology and a .50-caliber machine gun. The Avenger also has an increased capacity for missiles. A Stinger team has only one missile but the Avenger holds up to 8 missiles.

The Avengers were not all loaded on the same aircraft. They arrived at different times, in order of the priority level of the mission each Avenger was assigned. This way, force protection was maximized while at the same time maximizing delivery of combat power and sustaining forces.

The Avenger's main mission during JOAX was to protect the airfield, critical assets, and friendly units from air threats. Third Platoon operated five Avengers for the exercise. Three of these Avengers were used to protect critical assets using balanced fires. The other two Avengers were attached to specific 3 BCT units for additional missions. At the conclusion of their missions with these units, these Avengers protected an Entry Control Point (ECP) and a high speed avenue of approach.

For mission success in the JOAX, GRF activation, or any mission with a supported unit, integration is critical. Soldiers of 3rd Platoon met with leaders of the brigade staff and maneuver units to properly introduce and integrate each Avenger team into the supported unit. This was invaluable in darkness while teams were trying to link up with their supported units. This also helped the other units understand the mission and capabilities of the air defense teams and their weapon systems. Integration allowed the teams to advise supported unit commanders on how best to use their Avenger assets.

Effective communication is critical to organizing on the drop zone, articulating changes in status, and employment of assets. Third Platoon learned some valuable lessons with radio communication during this exercise. They also learned lessons in planning and the value of experience.

During the four-day exercise, the Soldiers of 3rd Platoon were recognized by the BCT commander for executing their respective missions above the standard. In a real GRF activation, the unit's mission could last much longer. This JOAX did not test 3rd Platoon's field endurance but rather its ability to rapidly deploy. The 3rd Platoon will train this mission set again in another JOAX and a training center rotation next year.





# 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Skystrikers!*

## Soldiers sharpen Patriot skills with host nation

by Sgt. Kyle Fisch,  
U.S. Army Central Public Affairs  
October 10, 2014

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, Southwest Asia -  
The sky was not the limit and yes the desert did  
bloom- but war was not really waged, only tested.

A U.S. Army Central-led, bilateral, combined  
Patriot live-fire exercise was held to improve the  
abilities, confidence, cohesion and interoperability  
between the U.S. and coalition partners in the event  
of a ballistic missile threat.

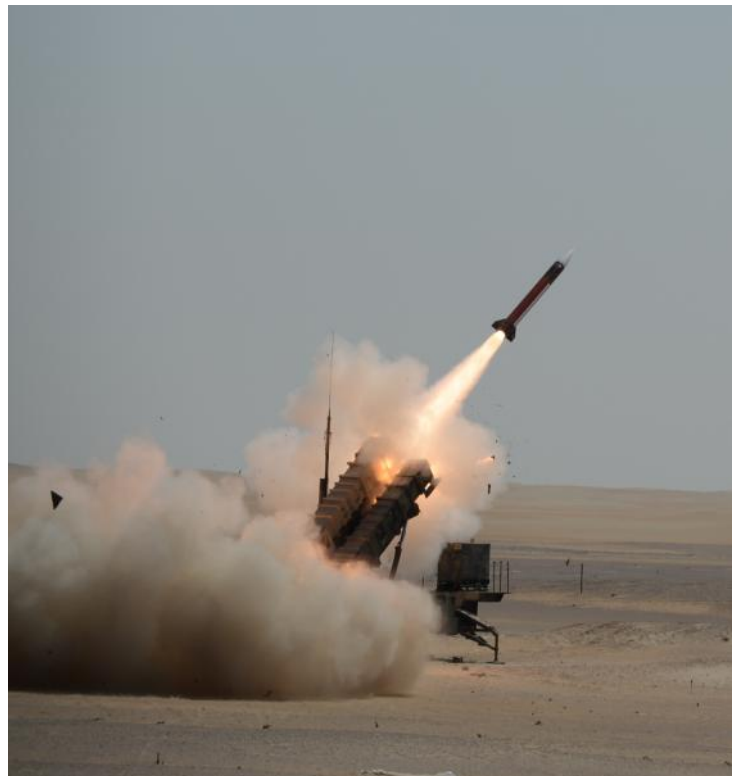
"The brigade provides mission-command for all  
missile defense forces in the region, across five  
countries here in the Arabian Gulf," said Col.  
Edward J. O'Neill, commander of the 108th Air  
Defense Artillery Brigade. "For the exercise, we  
have provided our Air Defense Fire Control  
Officers, who command and control the fires for our  
Patriot battery."

Patriot, which stands for Phased Array Tracking  
Radar to Intercept on Target, uses high-tech, state-  
of-the-art missiles with long-range and tracking  
capabilities to engage airborne objects identified as  
threats to friendly forces or assets. The system is  
advantageous because it is modular, highly mobile,  
and it can be emplaced in less than one hour.

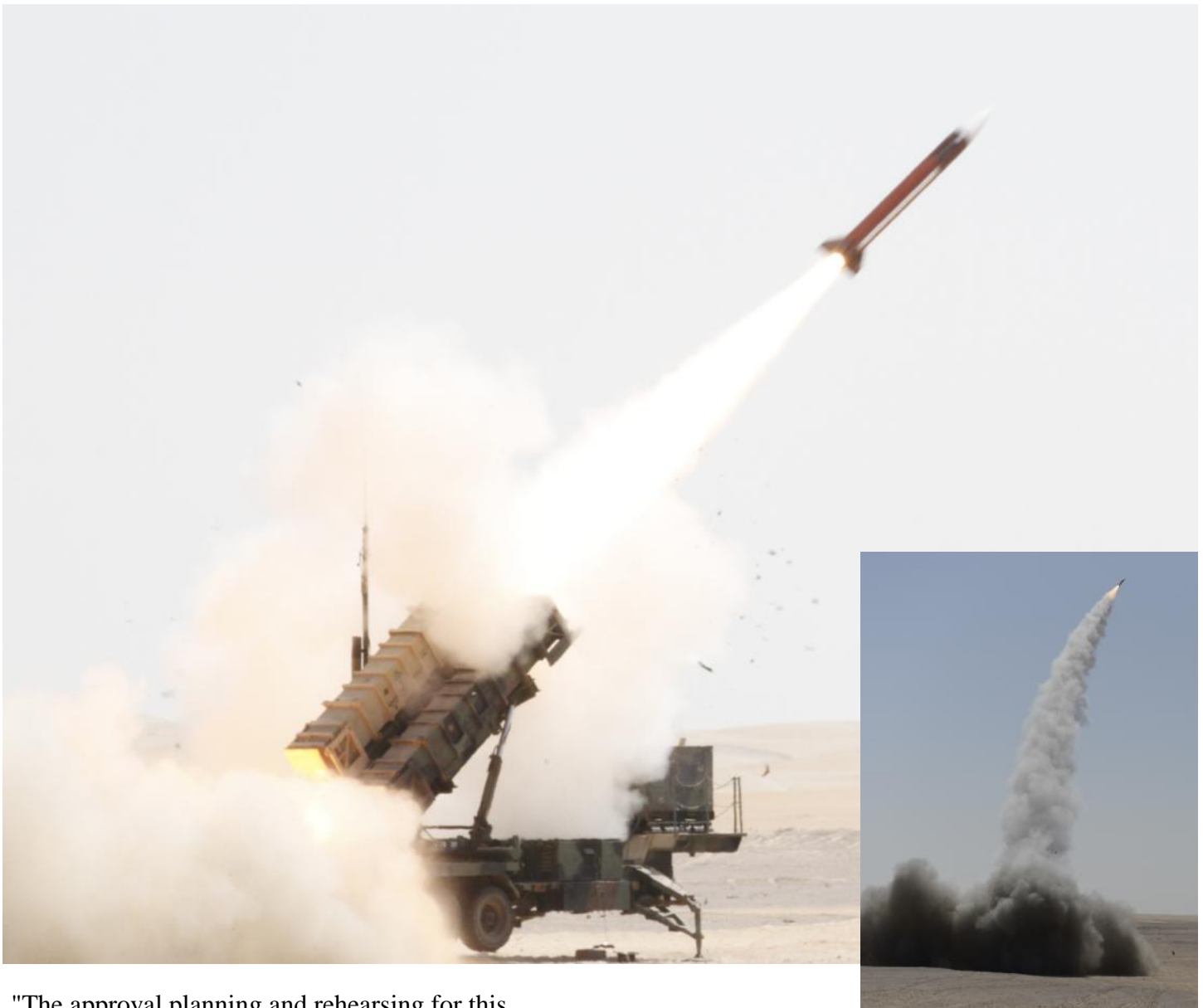
"We conducted a rehearsal, for the combined Patriot  
live-fire exercise with our host nation partners, we  
rehearsed the entire 'joint-kill chain', which is the  
communication between all the command and  
control centers from both countries," said Lt. Col.  
Patrick Costello, commander of the 3rd Battalion  
(Airborne), 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment,  
108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. "We engaged  
one Tactical Ballistic Missile Target, and one Air  
Breathing Target."

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 4th Air  
Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense  
Artillery Brigade, out of Fort Bragg, N.C., were  
given an opportunity to fire their Patriot missile  
systems and witness its capabilities during a live-fire  
exercise held Oct. 1, 2014.

Because each Patriot missile costs approximately  
\$1-\$6 million, live-fire exercises are conducted less  
frequently than rifle ranges.







"The approval planning and rehearsing for this exercise took about six months, the coordination took even longer," Costello said.

Crew members, however, must still train and maintain proficiency on operating these systems in order to be ready to use them at a moment's notice.

"The Battalion prepared for this exercise in a number of ways, we worked with our host nation partners as soon as we got out here. We did a lot of 'table-top' exercises, a lot of simulations, and a lot of competitions," stated Costello.

A total of nine missiles were launched by the U.S. and host nation during this joint exercise, which was the final product of the hard work of the Soldiers and the host nation, said Costello.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of Soldiers, I have a very young Battalion, everybody is eager to make friends, eager to learn about our host nation partners, and eager to make this partnership work," said Costello.

This demonstration of strong partnership between the U.S. and its coalition partners comes at a critical time, as terrorist organizations remain a global threat. This symbol of diplomacy between the U.S. and partners in the Middle East shows how the war on terrorism is a unified effort.





# 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Skystrikers!*

## Delta Battery prepared to deploy worldwide

by 1st Lt. Cody Kubiak , D/3-4 ADA  
September 23, 2014

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – An air defender from Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment answers her phone at 3 a.m. After a groggy “hello,” the voice on the other end is instantly recognizable as that of her platoon sergeant. “Wake up. We have a recall. I need you in uniform and at formation by 0500.” Scenarios like this are all too common for members of Delta Battery, 3-4 ADAR as they enter the 10th month of their Prepare To Deploy Order (PTDO) assignment.



Pfc. Shawn Green, a battery command post crew member with Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and a native of Ridgeland, S.C., throws an M67 training grenade at Range 40 during the Top Dawg grenade range on September 19, 2014. The event included throwing live grenades and practice grenades. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Teresa Reynoso / Released)

Air defense artillery is a complex branch with tight timelines and ever-evolving missions that necessitate adaptable Soldiers and leaders to achieve success. The Soldiers of Delta 3-4 ADAR know all too well about meeting the challenges ADA presents through their assignment as the PTDO Battery over the last 10 months. The concept is simple. One battery prepares their equipment and Soldiers to deploy anywhere in the world within 96 hours and maintains its readiness for a year. A PTDO assignment means long hours, extra work, and



Spc. Stephan Brown, an Antenna Mast Group crew member with Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., monitors a mast being raised at a training site during the unit's field training exercise on March 18, 2014. Mast raising must be done with extra caution to avoid a safety violation during the emplacement crew drill. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Teresa Reynoso / Released)

increased strain on Soldiers and families. Delta 3-4 ADAR has maintained its readiness posture since January 2014. Delta Battery continues to develop Soldiers and leaders while being ready to deploy in 96 hours anywhere in the world.

"We strive to keep our equipment in the highest state of repair possible," explains CW2 Wyatt as he assists Soldiers in ordering repair parts. Equipment maintenance and logistical preparedness are top priorities for Delta Battery. As the PTDO







SPC Julius Shaw, a battery command post crew member with Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and a native of Chicago, Ill., bear-crawls on Spartan Field during the SHARP PT Challenge on September 11, 2014. Delta Battery won the tug of war contest and placed third overall. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Teresa Reynoso / Released)

Battery, the focus on readiness is essential in case the call comes for a short notice deployment. Readiness encompasses more than just making sure equipment is working properly. Delta Battery's goal is strict accountability of spare parts and the faithful practice of preventative maintenance.

Just as importantly, the battery must have well trained crews to operate its equipment. To facilitate continued skills progression, Delta Battery has been fortunate to send air battle crews to deployed Patriot units in order to train in operational environments. These rotations give Soldiers and leaders with limited Patriot deployment experiences opportunities to gain skills and knowledge that cannot be simulated in a regular field training exercise. Forward-deployed Delta Battery Soldiers gather information and act as liaisons with deployed units. By rotating crews and including the forward element in the PTDO mission, Delta Battery is able to enhance adaptability.

One major challenge is maintaining well rounded Soldiers while the focus is on air and missile defense. Delta 3-4 has accomplished this by incorporating basic Soldier skills into a quarterly "Top Dawg" competition that pits the platoons against each other in spirited competition. Events include written tests, loading radios with COMSEC and physical challenges such as the Air Assault obstacle course. In June, Delta Battery took a week

off from air battles and equipment drills to conduct a field training exercise which focused on defense of a Patriot site in an austere environment. The "Dawg Fight" event trained Soldiers on force protection procedures and execution of a site defense plan.

"One major training tool Delta Battery has utilized is operational readiness exercises (OREs)" explains Capt. Harris, Delta Battery's commander. "OREs simulate operations on a live Patriot site with multiple platoons working together from sustainment tasks such as refueling, to simulated engagement of theater ballistic missiles. We combine skills learned in OREs for our certified crews with continued development of our younger Soldiers allowing us to train while maintaining mission proficiency across the Battery." The commander's emphasis on developing Soldiers has yielded continued growth despite a high operational tempo.

Delta Battery continues to maintain its strength and Soldier resiliency. Through continued training and constant Soldier development, Delta Battery is prepared to assume the mission, on short notice, anywhere they may be needed.



1st. Lt. Jonathan Craig, a platoon leader with Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and a native of Syracuse, N.Y., leads members of his platoon on to a C-17 cargo plane during the second rotation of air battle crews for downrange training on August 5, 2014. Air battle crews continue to rotate downrange in order to gain experience in a real world setting. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis / Released)





# 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Skystrikers!*

## 40th ESB provides critical training to the Patriot warfighter

by Capt. William J. Vanartsdalen  
August 30, 2014

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, Southwest Asia - Signal Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (ADAR) learned some new skills while working with instructors from the Army's 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) in early August, 2014 during a deployment to Kuwait.

The 40th ESB instructors, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Bapst and Spc. Craig Robinson, provided the Skystriker Soldiers operator training on the Secure Internet Protocol Routing (SIPR) / Non-secure Internet Protocol Routing (NIPR) network Access Point (SNAP), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) and the 3T Tropospheric SNAP.

Skystriker Soldiers are always looking to increase capabilities and improve readiness, and this training gave them an opportunity to do that. At the same time, they expanded their understanding of the equipment, operations processes and maintenance procedures applicable to the new capability. The Soldiers are professionals and dedicated to refining their craft.

Ten days of training included the installation, operation, and maintenance of this critical signal equipment. In all, nine of 3-4 ADAR's signal Soldiers received the training. The Soldiers will use their new skills in future missions and exercises, most significantly the upcoming joint live fire exercise to be held alongside their host nation partners. The unit began preparing for this key



exercise at the beginning of their deployment in February, 2014. The Skystrikers are proud of the success they've had and the partnerships they've built with the host nation.

The vital training provided by the 40th ESB will afford 3-4 ADAR Soldiers the capability to reach back to higher echelons and is most vital to the exercise. The 3-4 ADAR signal Soldiers will pass their skills and this new capability to their brothers and sisters-in-arms who will replace them when their tour in theater is complete.

The Soldiers of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade stand with their brothers and sisters-in-arms, trained and ready to fight tonight. The Soldiers are committed to the mission and they believe in what they're doing. Deeds Above Words!









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

## Train as you fight: Soldiers in the field before deploying

by Sgt. Sherry Miller and Spc. Jeffrey Ferland,  
Bravo 1-7 ADA  
October 27, 2014

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, 108th ADA Brigade completed a 10-day Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) October 14-24, 2014 to prepare for deployment to the United Arab Emirates.

Army Soldiers train as they fight in order to prepare for real-life combat situations in the defense of the United States, its allies, or geopolitical assets. Bravo Battery spent nearly two weeks in the field conducting Operational Readiness Exercises (OREs), Army Warrior Tasks, and other training.



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

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

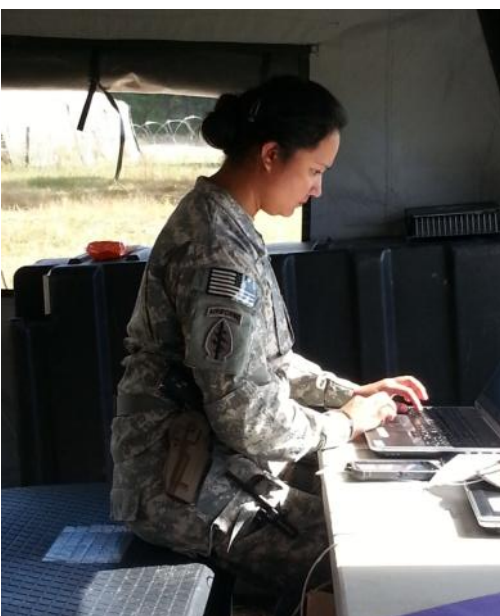
Captain Kimberly Kopack commands the battery. “Our goal is to empower Soldiers to conceptualize how their individual roles and responsibilities contribute to the overall deployment operations in support of air and missile defense” (AMD), said Capt. Kopack. “My intent is to strengthen crew relationships and develop seamless, small unit standard operating procedures in order to foster further success overseas.”





To build Soldiers' knowledge of Patriot equipment, crews collaborated in OREs, which gave the newer Soldiers a glimpse of what is expected of them. During OREs, Soldiers must react to simulated attack by Tactical Ballistic Missiles (TBMs) and air breathing threats (enemy aircraft). Some of the TBM threats are also Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear threats. When reacting to TBM threats, usually without warning, Soldiers must have the ability to don protective gear and seek shelter in bunkers in a timely manner.

Crucial to the success of the MRE was the certification of three crews for each piece of Patriot equipment. Though classroom lessons are vital to teaching Soldiers their jobs, Soldiers might not understand the bigger picture until they receive extensive hands-on training in the field.



“Our biggest challenge is to ensure Soldiers understand how they fit into unified land operations, as well as establish and sustain proficiency in tasks related and unrelated to their individual MOS,” said Capt. Kopack.

Along with learning to operate Patriot equipment, Soldiers must also learn to properly maintain their arms, their equipment and themselves to complete the mission.

Overseeing maintenance for Bravo 1-7 ADA's equipment were Chief Warrant Officer 2 Toby Tennyson and Warrant Officer 1 Christopher Cardina. The success of the maintenance team's mission contributed greatly to the battery's overall success in their mission.

“Our mission is to maintain a high state of readiness to ensure all crews are able to train and certify in their crew drills,” said Mr. Cardina.

The Soldiers conducted additional training during the MRE to learn and improve in skills that are vital to the success of any mission. This training included Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, Suicide Prevention and Equal Opportunity training; weapons training on the M16, M203, M2 and M249; evaluating and evacuating a casualty; Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services; mortuary affairs; hot and cold weather injuries; personal hygiene and health promotion (preventive medicine); general orders; and the Army Substance Abuse Program. Training in these areas is not only mandatory for Soldiers, but crucial for their survival in combat situations.

“I think the MRE, overall, was a big accomplishment,” said 1st Sgt. Renard Chaffin. “Not just from an AMD perspective, but it also allowed the soldiers to become proficient in Army Warrior Tasks such as convoy operations and force protection.”





# 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*No Fear!*

## No Fear battalion ready for deployment

by 2nd Lt. Jared J. Mullins, D/1-7 ADA  
October 24, 2014

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment headed home to hot showers, home cooked meals, and to spend time with their loved ones after successfully completing the battalion's Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE). With the completion of the exercise, the battalion stands ready to deploy.

Over the past three months, the No Fear Battalion conducted rigorous training in preparation for the

upcoming deployment. The unit executed Table VIII certifications in August, a preparatory exercise in September, and finally the MRE in October. The MRE was the culminating event and it was evaluated by outside eyes, the 69th ADA Brigade.

Each field exercise starts out with the Reconnaissance, Selection, and Occupation of Position (RSOP) teams. The RSOP teams form up, prepare, and depart for the field sites hours before the rest of their units. Their function is to secure their sites and mark where each individual piece of



Pfc. Pagan of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, receives a 69th ADA Brigade coin from COL Gibson for his hard work and continued dedication to the unit during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise on October 21, 2014.





equipment will be emplaced. Emplacement must be precise due to the capabilities and limitations of Patriot equipment. The RSOP teams must take into account back blast areas, radiation zones and cable lengths to ensure the equipment will be able to operate in a functional and safe manner.

Private Figueroa-Soto of Delta Battery describes what happens when the site is not marked properly. “It causes all sorts of confusion, plus it prolongs the entire emplacement process. If it’s not done the right way, then the entire emplacement process has to be redone.” Once emplaced, the batteries conduct 24 hour operations.

All batteries were successful in passing the evaluations. They could not have been successful without the support of Echo Company. Echo provided the logistical support required to keep the batteries in the field and fully mission capable.

The 69th ADA Brigade team evaluated No Fear on air battle management, assumption of directed alert states, proficiency of launcher hot crews and maintenance. During the exercise, the batteries were linked to the Information Coordination Central (ICC), the battalion’s fire control section. The air battle is a combined effort between the ICC and the firing batteries.

No Fear passed their evaluations and is ready to deploy with Echo Company’s support. The Soldiers



Members of Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, come together to celebrate successfully certifying during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise on October 20, 2014.

have put in the hard work to train and certify together to in support of the battalion’s mission. The leadership of the No Fear Battalion is tremendously proud of all the Soldiers and their families that have dedicated themselves to the No Fear team.



Pfc. Chambers of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, received a 69th ADA Brigade Coin for her performance and professionalism during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise on October 23, 2014.





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

## Ghost Riders prepare for deployment, excel during the No Fear Battalion mission readiness exercise

By 1st. Lt. Courtney Parker  
October 23, 2014

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Mission accomplishment requires a stringent maintenance program and efficient supply lines. This level of readiness is exactly what the Ghost Rider Soldiers of Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery provide.

For the past two weeks, Echo Company has been split between four locations across Fort Bragg in order to facilitate conventional maintenance, specialized maintenance, Supply Support Activity (SSA) Logistic Package (LOGPAC) operations, pre-deployment maintenance inspections preparation (MPA Ops), and Rear Detachment operations for the 1-7 ADA BN Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE).



Spc. Lord Bunyan, a storage clerk and a native of Truman, Minnesota, and Spc. Freddy Freddy, a turn-in clerk and a native of Micronesia, both with Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, deliver Class IX parts to Delta Battery's Field Site during the battalion Mission Rehearsal Exercise on October 22, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Courtney Parker / Released)





The MRE is the culminating exercise in final preparation for the unit's upcoming deployment to the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

Good maintenance is one of the cornerstones that keeps the Army moving in a positive direction on the battlefield. Here in Echo Company, the Soldiers are expertly trained and prepared for any mission, planned or unplanned. Each firing battery is supplied with a Field Maintenance Team (FMT) that provides conventional maintenance on all rolling stock. While in the field, the Soldiers work tirelessly to keep all vehicles at a Fully Mission Capable status; and when they do catch a few minutes of down time, they use it to conduct field training or help out another unit.



Master Sgt. Danny Morales (center), Intermediate Support Element Supervisor with Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and a native of Isabella, Puerto Rico, conducts an After Action Review with his team during the the battalion Mission Rehearsal Exercise on October 21, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Courtney Parker / Released)

When asked for his opinion on the spectrum of FMTs in the Battalion, 1st Lt. Wayne Cunningham, Alpha Battery executive officer, said, "Alpha's FMT is the best FMT, without a doubt. They not only keep the vehicles in working order, they also contribute to the battery's high level of morale and maintain good professional relationships with all Soldiers."

Echo Company is also responsible for the battalion's SSA operations. During the MRE, our SSA clerks provided daily LOGPAC missions to all field sites in order to deliver Class II, IV, and IX parts to the firing batteries. This manner of parts distribution was beneficial to all. The batteries were able to maintain full strength operations at their field sites instead of sending their clerks across post two times a day to check for parts. The SSA received valuable convoy procedures training and a taste of what kind of logistical support their military occupational specialty provides across the Army. Private Frank Nkrumah, an SSA turn-in clerk said, "It was fun to be part of a more active role, instead of being in the warehouse all day. I got to see what else my job can do."

The final aspect of field operations provided by Echo Company is the Intermediate Support Element (ISE). ISE Soldiers perform specialized maintenance on the air defense-specific equipment. These Soldiers work more overtime than almost anyone else, but they do it remarkably well and without complaint, keeping all firing batteries at a Fully Mission Capable status.

Now that the MRE is coming to a close, all Ghost Riders are one hundred percent ready to assume their mission downrange with the 1-7 ADA BN.





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

## Air Defense Brigade trains to ward off threats from the sky



The Fayetteville Observer  
fayobserver.com

by Amanda Dolasinski, staff writer  
November 2, 2014

On a clear day last month, Fort Bragg soldiers scanned the vast sky over the installation in search of missiles or enemy aircraft.

It was only a training exercise, but the soldiers of the 108th Air Defense Brigade showed they could quickly coordinate counterattacks, moving launchers and tracking flying objects with advanced radar systems.

For two weeks, soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Brigade practiced identifying, intercepting and destroying missiles and aircraft to protect themselves, equipment and installations.

The training was meant to prepare the soldiers for a yearlong deployment to southwest Asia this winter. It is the first deployment for about 65 percent of the soldiers.

Pfc. Jacob Mettler is part of a team that is responsible for rolling launchers into place, then firing missiles at the command of the control center.

The recent training has helped him sharpen his operating skills, he said.



Members of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade run for a bunker during a simulated attack for a training exercise on Fort Bragg. (Fayetteville Observer photo by James Robinson, staff photographer)





"Once we're certified, we know we can perform at a high level," Mettler said. "We're able to protect our assets."

The last deployment the unit participated in lasted a year, with the soldiers returning in 2013.

"We're excited for the opportunity to defend our great nation and to grow the next generation of military leaders while keeping our friends and family and loved ones safe," said Lt. Col. Sheriff Olalekan, battalion commander.

The 108th uses Patriot missile systems. Patriot stands for Phased Array Tracking Radar Intercept on Target.

It's a long-range, high-altitude, all-weather system that can counter threats from ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and advanced aircraft.

The system's radar scans the sky looking for threats and, if any are present, is able to distinguish the type of threat. Operators in a control station monitor the radar system.

Once the Patriot launcher is set up, it takes just seconds to fire a missile that is guided to the target by the control station.

Those training for the deployment include technicians, support crews and security forces.

The most recent training was the final exercise of the past year. Although soldiers were not able to fire Patriot missiles, crews were tasked with powering up launchers, awaiting orders from the communication team and simulating other actions that would lead to a fire mission.

During the training, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Whiteside, from the Fort Hood, Texas-based 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, evaluated the unit's skills.

He said the soldiers have done "outstanding" work and are ready for the upcoming deployment.

It helps to have a unit from off post evaluate their skills, he said.

"You can never have too many eyes on training," Whiteside said. "It also builds a sense of unity and cohesion around the branch."



Members of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade don protective equipment during a simulated attack for a training exercise on Fort Bragg. (Fayetteville Observer photo by James Robinson, staff photographer)

In the midst of checking launchers and running through missile operations, soldiers must stay vigilant for chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear threats.

A siren reverberated through the training field, triggering soldiers to drop their helmets immediately to fasten gas masks. They ran to a bunker together, checking to ensure everyone made it safely.

Every soldier is trained to handle such threats, but this brigade is more likely to deal with them.

Capt. Kimberly Kopack watched as soldiers in the battalion completed their operations. After each day, the soldiers huddled together to discuss strengths and where they need to make improvements.

"This is a high-pressure job that requires a lot of training," she said.

Over two weeks, that training became second nature, Kopack said.

"It's our way of validating these procedures to make them second nature," she said. "To ensure they're ready."





# 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

## *Strike Fear!*

## Air defenders return from Afghanistan

by Sgt. Leejay Lockhart, 101st Sustainment Brigade  
October 10, 2014

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, supported by the 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, returned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and uncased their battalion colors Oct. 30 signifying the end of a successful mission. In addition to the air defenders from the battalion's headquarters and Battery A, approximately 20 members of the 72nd Veterinary Detachment, 86th Combat Support Hospital, returned home as well.

Nearly 140 members of the "Strike Fear" battalion returned in this flight and an earlier one that arrived Oct. 21. As Lt. Col. Timothy Shaffer, the battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Brown, the battalion's senior enlisted adviser, uncased the battalion colors, it marked the first time since July 2013 that the entire battalion was at Fort



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

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

Campbell. July 2013 is when the first of the battalion's most recent deployments began, with Battery B, 2-44th ADA, deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After Battery B arrived in theater and started successfully performing its counter-rocket, artillery and mortar mission, the battalion headquarters received orders in mid-October 2013 to deploy to Afghanistan. Due to the urgency of the need, the battalion had a short amount of time to prepare for a mission outside of the battalion's traditional role of using Avenger weapon systems to launch Stinger missiles at low-flying aerial threats. Never losing focus, the battalion quickly trained on their new equipment, the Land-based Phalanx Weapon System.

The LPWS combines a powerful 20mm cannon, which resembles a Gatling gun, with sophisticated detection systems that allows it to detect then intercept incoming indirect fire attacks. The training culminated with a first for Fort Campbell – a test fire of 10 LPWS in December 2013. By early February, the battalion had cased its colors and started to deploy to Afghanistan for their nine-month mission.





“The primary mission was to shoot down rockets and mortars that were being shot at the different FOBs [forward operating bases] from the enemy,” said Maj. Ronald S. Crowther, the battalion’s rear detachment commander. “The importance of the mission was that they were literally directly involved in saving Soldiers’ lives by shooting and destroying mortars and rockets that were fired directly at our forces.”



The troops arrived on Fort Campbell shortly after midnight to a gathering of spouses, children, parents, grandparents, friends, battle buddies and other loved ones. As always, members of the Association of the United States Army were at Hangar 3 to give out refreshments, including popcorn, cookies and drinks to the Soldiers’ families as they waited for their Soldiers. Many family members had signs letting the Soldiers know they had kept their promise to support and meet them upon their return.

The Soldiers also received a warm welcome from the 101st Airborne Division honor guard and band, as well as Brig. Gen. Mark R. Stammer, acting senior commander of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell.

According to Crowther, the families played a crucial role in the battalion’s success.

“In our case, it was absolutely critical,” said Crowther. “They were the ones that made sure we had gift packages going forward and sending letters ... it just helps keep the morale up for the Soldiers that are deployed.”



Sgt. Vincent J. Bartolomeo, like many other parents in the battalion that deployed, met Lucy, his 8-month-old daughter, for the first time during the Oct. 21 welcome home ceremony. His wife, Melinda Bartolomeo, said she had Lucy four weeks and two days after he left.

“I think it’s hard that he missed so much,” said Melinda. “She can crawl, he missed the rolling over, everything pretty much so far other than walking.”

She said the best thing about a welcome home ceremony was “having her family back.” Her husband didn’t waste any time embracing his wife, 3-year-old son and daughter as they reunited.

Crowther said that welcoming home Soldiers was an important duty that helped honor both warriors and their families.

“It helps the Soldiers realize their mission is important, and we appreciate what they’ve done. It’s a way to come back and tell them thanks for the service they’ve provided,” he said. “Second of all, I think it’s a way to allow the families to see that same thing, that we do appreciate what they’ve done, and that ceremony helps the families see that we’re willing to come back and celebrate their efforts and their commitment and the sacrifice that both they and their families make.”





# 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Strike Fear!*

## Hellfighter Sentinel platoon home from Afghanistan

by 1st. Lt. Mitchell Reed, 2-44 ADA  
September 4, 2014

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – After a long deployment, the Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, redeployed to Fort Campbell on August 26, 2014.

The Soldiers rejoined their Families and brothers and sisters-in-arms in a Welcome Home ceremony and celebration on Fort Campbell.

Third Platoon, Charlie Battery, 2-44 ADA conducted Sentinel operations to provide airspace de-confliction throughout Regional Command East, Afghanistan supporting air operations and the force protection mission.

In July 2013, Charlie Battery reorganized and retrained some Soldiers to form a specialized Sentinel platoon. Responding to operational needs and the changing mission, the unit cross-trained Avenger crewmembers on the operation and maintenance of the Sentinel radar. The small platoon trained diligently through the months leading up to their deployment.

The units focused the Soldiers' initial training on orientating them to the equipment and giving them some hands-on experience with it. The Sentinel radar was the primary piece of equipment for their mission. The Soldiers also trained on the power generator, the system control computer and a range of topics mandatory for all Soldiers.

After the initial and cross-training phases, the platoon conducted a Culminating Training Exercise (CTE) to demonstrate to the battery and battalion commanders that the platoon was ready to deploy. The platoon was successful, resulting in the single largest Sentinel radar air assault training operation at Fort Campbell and a testament to the platoon's air assault and pathfinder capabilities.

The Sentinel platoon deployed to Afghanistan and operated remote radars at different locations throughout Regional Command East. The teams ran 24-hour operations at each location for nine months, with Bagram being the platoon's home base.



Soldiers of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, at their deployment home base Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan on May 1, 2014. The Soldiers, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and returned August 26, 2014.  
(U.S. Army photo / Released)







Soldiers of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade at their home station on August 26, 2014. The Soldiers, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo / Released)

At each location, the platoon was responsible for ensuring the radar and equipment was fully mission-capable and operating. Of course the platoon leadership was also responsible for taking care of their Soldiers, their command posts and for platoon logistics. Getting supplies or personnel to and from locations in Afghanistan can be challenging, but the platoon leadership was up to the task.

Sergeant Gregory Zaccagnino, a Stinger crew-member and an operations noncommissioned officer with 3rd Platoon, Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, said, “The Air Assault went really well. We were tired of waiting on something to happen and we’re just glad we finally got to do it because it means we’re one step closer to getting home,” a sentiment any Soldier who has ever deployed can surely appreciate.

Proud of the platoon’s accomplishments, Master Sgt. James Gill, a platoon sergeant with 3rd Platoon, Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, said, “What can I say? It was a good deployment. Everyone did their job and no one got hurt.” For the Soldiers and families of 3rd Platoon, it was a job well done.

The Soldiers of the Sentinel platoon completed their mission in Afghanistan and returned to their Families proud of their success and committed to the Army Values, a key driver of that success. These Strike Fear Soldiers are true professionals and a strong team dedicated to the mission and to their brothers and sisters-in-arms. We are very proud of them and grateful to them and their families for their sacrifices.

Strike Fear, Air Assault!



Soldiers of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, on deployment in Afghanistan. The Soldiers, based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and returned August 26, 2014. (U.S. Army photo / Released)





# 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Strike Fear!*

## Bushwackers return home from Afghanistan

By 1st. Lt. Dominick Tao, B/5-5 ADA  
October 9, 2014

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan — After a long deployment where the unit was in close proximity to potentially hostile forces and received indirect fire frequently, the Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, 31st Air Defense Artillery brigade are coming home.

Deployed from Joint Base Lewis-McChord to the restive Logar Province since March 2014, the Bravo Battery “Bushwackers” were charged with protecting thousands of lives and millions of dollars in equipment and infrastructure from continuous rocket and mortar attacks with six Land Phalanx Weapon Systems (LPWSs).

The North Fort Lewis unit’s mission was high profile and life-saving. The battery was responsible for the interdiction and disruption of indirect fire attacks against the FOB.



Lt. Col. Timothy R. Shaffer, Commander, 2-44 ADA pins an Army Achievement Medal on Spc. Duane A. Dortch, an Avenger crew member from Bravo Battery, 5-5 ADA on Oct. 9, 2014. (U.S. Army Photo / Released)

“There are Soldiers out there who are alive because of the job you did,” said Lt. Col. Timothy R. Shaffer, commander of 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Task Force Strike Fear was Bravo Battery’s higher headquarters while deployed.







1st Sgt. Greg Thigpen addresses the redeploying members of Bravo Battery, 5-5 ADA after the award Ceremony on Oct. 9, 2014 at 2-44 ADA HQ, Bagram, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo / Released)

On most days here during the fighting season, like clockwork, the alarms blared with an ear-splitting klaxon: “INCOMING! INCOMING! INCOMING!” That meant a launched rocket was inbound to base.

More often than not, that shrill warning to hit the ground and take cover would be followed by the “Bushwacker” Battery’s signature counter-fire — “BRRRRRRRRUUUUUP” — and hundreds of bullets fired from the unit’s LPWS would lance out and meet the rocket mid-flight, protecting lives on the ground.

In the coming weeks, Bravo Battery will continue their transition and conduct a relief-in-place with Charlie Battery, 5-5 ADA. As part of the transition, 31 members of the “Bushwacker” team were honored in an awards ceremony on Bagram Airbase and will re-deploy to JBLM later this month.





# 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Strike Fear!*

## Strike Fear C-RAM Soldiers mentor Dragonslayers counterparts in exercise

by 1st Lt. Joshua Meyers, 2-44 ADA  
October 31, 2014

FORT SILL, Okla. – Nine Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment Soldiers assisted in training 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment Soldiers during their mission rehearsal exercise at Fort Sill from 1-16 August 2014.

The Bravo Battery Soldiers recently redeployed from Forward Operating Base Shank in Afghanistan earlier this year where they executed the Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) mission, protecting Coalition forces and equipment from indirect fire (IDF) attacks.



2-44 ADA and 5-5 ADA Soldiers conduct an after-action review with a Charlie Battery EOC crew. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Myers)

5-5 ADA is scheduled to assume command of C-RAM operations in Afghanistan later this year and requested that personnel from Bravo Battery act as coaches, teachers, and mentors during their MRE. This two-week exercise involved all aspects of C-RAM operations to include Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS) battle drills and maintenance procedures, Engagement Operation Cell (EOC) operations and battle drills, and live mortar and rocket engagements. The exercise simulated the scenarios and environment 5-5 ADA will face in theater and certified them for deployment.

Each Bravo Battery Soldier closely monitored and observed every action, battle drill, and procedure 5-5 ADA used and provided feedback and advice. “It felt good to come out here and share all the information that we learned in Afghanistan with the next unit going over there,” said Sgt. Caleb Miller, a Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD) Operator and Oklahoma native. “If some of our experiences can help 5-5 ADA on their deployment and potentially help them save more lives, then we need to do all we can to get our information out there.”

Bravo Battery’s Observer Controller Trainers (O/C-Ts) worked day and night evaluating and assisting 5-5ADA. Sergeant Austin Frutig, an experienced EOC section sergeant, worked the night shift with 5-5ADA’s Charlie Battery and strived to give them the most realistic training possible. “It’s an honor for me and really, 2-44 ADA in general to be selected to come out here and train this other unit,” said Sgt. Frutig. “As part of 2-44 ADA we made history with the first





successful intercept in Afghanistan and now we are continuing to further our legacy by sharing our battle book and standard operating procedures (SOPs) with the next unit heading over there.”

First Lieutenant Cassandra Steiner, a native of Murray, Kentucky and Executive Officer for Bravo Battery, 2-44 ADA, spent countless hours mentoring 5-5 ADA’s lieutenants and talking with the commanders of both batteries. “As the first C-RAM battery to deploy to Afghanistan, we were given the distinct honor of training two units to assume our mission, and one unit to assume our battalion’s mission. As O/C-Ts, we bridged the

gap between operator technical proficiency and downrange tactical execution. Our passion for this mission is unquenchable. In nine months of deployment, we took every day as an opportunity for growth. I have seen our Soldiers transition from Avenger and Sentinel team members to the most kinetic C-RAM operators in the program’s existence. Watching them instruct gave me a deeper appreciation for how far they have come, and galvanized fervor for their limitless future. There will always be a better way, and Bravo will always find it.”



1st Lt. Joshua Myers, a C-RAM platoon leader, teaches Charlie Battery LPWS operators the different technical terminology the EOC will use while communicating with the LPWS operators. The EOC and LPWS operators understanding each other’s language is vital for combat operations. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Austin Parker)



# Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

## Battery changes commands, patches

by Yvonne Johnson, APG News,  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.



Staff Sgt. Therin Koger removes the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade patch from the sleeve of Pvt. Zach Melton, and Sgt. Skye Gibson applies the new 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade patch to Pvt. William Pinkerton's sleeve during patch exchange ceremony at APG Sept. 16.

The ceremony officially placed the Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment within the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) brigade based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The 108th ADA Brigade assumed training and readiness authority for the battery which relocated to APG from Fort Bliss, Texas.



The unit's acting commander and executive officer 1st Lt. James Estorga and acting first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Philip Haberstroh, led the ceremony. Haberstroh said the change is one that doesn't happen too often. "It basically means we're transitioning from a testing to an operations unit," he said.

The unit is responsible for the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted System Sensor (JLENS), which consists of two tethered, 74-meter helium-filled aerostat airships that float at 10,000 feet above ground to protect a wide range of territory from airborne threats.







A Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System, or JLENS, aerostat is readied for launch near Orogrande gate at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. in this April, 2012 file photo. A single JLENS aerostat can carry a surveillance radar or fire control radar up to 10,000 feet allowing the radar to see over surrounding terrain.

The battery conducted a parallel ceremony at Fort Bliss, where many of the Soldiers were for an exercise.





# Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

## JLENS Soldiers volunteer at local animal shelter

by Sgt. Aaron McFall, A/3 ADA  
October 28, 2014

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — A group of Soldiers from Alpha Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Soldiers volunteered at the Chesapeake Feline Association (CFA) shelter Wednesday, October 23, 2014. The group of approximately 20 Soldiers from the unit stationed in Aberdeen Proving Ground took time out of their busy schedule to volunteer.

The Soldiers assisted with a wide variety of tasks as the CFA works to build a new shelter. The tasks included painting the walls in the basement, removing sharp hazards and helping collect cleaners that will be used at the shelter. The Soldiers broke down a fence that was an eyesore on the property. “The old fence and outdated materials really needed to go,” said Sgt. Nicole Vasilakes, one of the volunteer Soldiers.





This is not the first time Soldiers from A/3 ADA volunteered in this community. They worked with the CFA before, and volunteered at a local middle school as well. After arriving in the area during the summer, the Soldiers began to feel a sense of duty to reach out to the community that has so warmly adopted them. As the unit began to get more familiar with the community, they found partners that were in need of support who greatly appreciated their work. “Seeing the enthusiasm on these people’s faces when we showed up to help was priceless,” said Staff Sgt. Tyler Young.



The Chesapeake Feline Association is an all volunteer, no-kill organization and funded entirely by donations from the community. The CFA was not the only beneficiary of the Soldiers’ volunteer work. The Soldiers in the unit expressed a great sense of pride in their community after the event.

“Venturing out into the community to volunteer and having the opportunity to help others gives us all a great sense of accomplishment,” said Staff Sgt. Therin Koger, another of the volunteers. “We all are humbled after helping out our community care. Our unit is truly grateful for this opportunity and we are infused with great pride.” Sgt. Vasilakes seconded that, saying “I feel that as an American we should do everything we can to help our country and our community.”





# 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

*Strike First!*

## Strike First battalion conducts advanced gunnery

by 1st Lt. David Parks, 1-44 ADA  
September, 2014

KUWAIT – The “Strike First” Air Defense Artillery Battalion recently conducted advanced Operational Readiness Evaluations while forward-deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The tough and vigorous assessments tested only a few hand-selected crews from the battalion on their ability to provide superior air and missile defense capabilities using the Patriot missile system.

All evaluations were conducted to provide additional combat capability to the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command operating in the Army Central Command Area of Operations.

Each of the selected crews conducted intense and robust training in the months leading up to the assessments led by the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. All training was performed in complete darkness and in the intense heat of the summer desert.



Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment practice guided missile transporter missile reload in order to prepare for operational readiness evaluations. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Boston)





Additionally, training simulated chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear conditions for extended periods of time while Soldiers wore mission-oriented protective posture suits. The Soldiers practiced in these suits while they conducted missile reload operations and air battle management throughout the duty day. The training aids helped push each crew to their limit and prepared them to become superior tactical experts in their war fighting skill sets.

During the period of evaluations, one of the battalion's most successful crews came from Bravo Battery. They achieved a missile reload crew rating of "Excellent" by earning a perfect score during their guided missile transporter reload evaluation. This was a triumphant moment for the battery because when the crew deployed over a year ago, they were one the youngest in the battalion. At the end of the deployment, they were the most technically proficient because of the all the hard work they put into training over the course of the year.



Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment practice march order and emplacement on the antenna mast group in order to prepare for operational readiness evaluations. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Lt. Boston)



Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, stand in formation at their Patriot site in Kuwait. The battery, commanded by Capt. Gerren Alexander, deployed out of Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Boston)





# 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment photo gallery







# 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment photo gallery



From top left to right PFC Tarr, SPC Cremering, bottom left to right, SPC Wagester, SGT Blanchard and PFC Hallman, from Bravo Hot Crew 1. Crew photo after passing their CCV.



From left to right PFC Rice, SPC Gruber, SGT Gonzalez, PFC Imus and SPC Wood, from Alpha Battery, Hot Crew 1. Crew picture after earning a "first time go" during the CCV.



At left and above:  
Renegades launcher dogs practicing missile reloads.



# Chaplain's Pew:



"T'was the month before Christmas, and all through the 108th ADA Brigade, Soldiers and families were feeling down because they will not be able to enjoy the holidays together." Does this sound like you or your Soldier? If so, welcome to the shared experience of the American Soldier and their Family as they face, yet again (or for the first time), a Thanksgiving, a Christmas, a Hanukah, and a New Year's away from each other.

I must admit though that I have really learned to appreciate feeling down around this time of the year, especially when deployed. Why would I say I like feeling this way? Well I didn't say I liked it, rather I appreciate it...that's a big difference. I appreciate it because of the Spiritual Gut-Check it gives my faith!

Let me explain to you how this works in my spiritual life. I am a Christian and I celebrate Christmas. Now, if the only reason I have to feel excited, joyful, and anticipatory for Christmas revolves around all the good food I get to eat that my wife makes, all the presents I get to give and receive from my Family, all the folks I get to visit and whom visit me, and all the fun things I get to do like watch "A Christmas Carole" and the "Grinch who stole Christmas," then guess what? I have every reason to feel down because here I'm away from home again, missing the third Christmas with my Family in my 10 years in the Army.

The facts are clear. The DFAC, as good as it is, is NOT my wife's cooking. Opening presents via FaceTime is simply not the same. As much as I like my Army family, it'll never take the place of my Family back at home. Watching Christmas movies on my laptop in my room alone is just plain not right.

My Spiritual Gut-Check "punches me in my soul" as my faith in the Lord springs to life and reminds me that the real reason I am celebrating Christmas is to celebrate the birth of my



Chaplain (Maj.) Erik J. Gramling  
108th ADA BDE Chaplain

Savior, Jesus Christ! My faith reminds me of verses like Psalm 43:5 which says, "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God."(ESV) "That's it!" I tell myself. I have a deeper reason to celebrate Christmas which doesn't matter where I am in this world or who I am with.

I now have spiritual eyes to see that though I not with my Family, I do have an Army family and even better than that, I have an Army/Air Force Chapel family! These are people of faith who share my beliefs and with whom I can worship over the holidays! Yes, my Spiritual Gut-Check comes in quite handy as I need this "slapping around" each year, and especially during deployments.

So my challenge to you these next few months is to make the most of the Holidays by cultivating your faith. Search our worship opportunities, center yourself and your Family on the reasons you should be thankful and celebrating each holiday. When you find yourself downcast, put your hope in God, and you will yet again, praise his name! If you'd like some help doing this, seek out a Chaplain and we'll be glad to assist you in strengthening your spiritual fitness!



# Chaplain's Pew:



Greetings Spartans!

This year is quickly drawing to a close. The hustle and bustle of the holidays will soon be upon us. Whether you celebrate Christmas or Kwanza, Chanukah or Yule, I want to wish you **all** a festive, special season!!

Spend time with your families and friends. Cherish moments together. Indulge in special treats and drink hot chocolate. Play board games and watch sappy movies. So often, we take these precious traditions for granted, but nothing brings everything into focus like deployment.



For some of our families in the 108th ADA BDE, you are apart from your loved ones this year, and are wondering what this holiday season will be like. For other families, like those in 2-44 ADA BN, you have been reunited with your loved ones and are anticipating a festive time. There are other units in our brigade, such as 1-7th ADA BN, who will be leaving on deployment once the holidays are over. Savor this time together; hold your loved ones tighter and make memories to last until next time.

I've learned that regardless of the situation you may find yourself in, the most important thing is to find contentment. Now contentment does not mean that you have everything you ever wanted; rather, it is a purposeful state of mind that, come what may, you are going to *find* and *hold onto* things to be happy about.



Chaplain (Capt.) Alison L. Ward  
1-7 ADA BN & 108th ADA BDE  
Rear Detachment Chaplain

There was a man named Paul who understood this concept and wrote this: "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him [God] who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:11-13).

I pray that you, too, will experience a great sense of contentment during this holiday season. Remember, the secret to contentment is knowing that God is there to strengthen you. Choose to be content. I did not say choose to be "happy" (happiness is based upon circumstances and emotions), but decide to be content. Embrace every moment with family and friends. Nurture your faith, whatever it may be. **Expect** good things.

Merry Christmas!

Deeds above Words!

For God and Country!





# Judge Advocate's Advice:

## Good Lookin' Out: How the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act Protects Soldiers

by Capt. Annemarie Vazquez, Brigade SJA

**The basics.** The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) was passed by Congress in 2003 to protect Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard service members. The SCRA extends to all branches of the military. I'd wager that most Soldiers in the Army could benefit from its protections at some point during their careers, so it's a worthwhile discussion topic. Allow me to rattle off a few areas it covers:

- Rental agreements, leases, and eviction actions
- Vehicle leases
- Installment contracts
- Interest rates on debts, loan payments, and mortgage payments
- Mortgage foreclosures
- Judicial proceedings (civil) and default judgments
- Income taxes
- Life insurance premiums
- Double taxation on military income
- Voting rights
- Professional liability insurance

**Effective date.** The SCRA's protections generally take effect the date a Soldier enters active duty, although some protections take effect upon receipt of permanent change of station or deployment orders. The protections don't last forever; most expire within 30 days to six months after release from active duty.

**Protections and Fine print.** Among other protections, the SCRA can help Soldiers request interest rate reductions, penalty-free cancellation of certain contracts, re-opening of civil judicial proceedings (like child custody determinations while a Soldier is deployed), waiver or reduction of professional liability insurance, and early/absentee voting. *Here's the caveat: the SCRA is not intended to release a Soldier from lawful obligations*, rather it is intended to provide for some leniency. For example, a Soldier would not be allowed to discharge a debt (like a car loan) altogether, but the SCRA allows for the reduction of the interest rate, the extension of time limits for repayment, and the suspension of garnishment of wages.

**Leadership tools.** The SCRA offers some serious benefits. At a time when Soldiers are signing purchase agreements for cars with loan rates upwards of 20%, deploying in the midst of child custody battles, breaking rental contracts with steep penalties, losing out on tax refunds because they avoid filing, and subjecting themselves to other legal and financial struggles, engaged leaders need to encourage their Soldiers to get smart on the protections the SCRA offers. The SCRA is there to help—not to fix problems—but to ease the burden of military service. The protections are there for the taking and I encourage leaders to add the SCRA to their toolkit and turn to it often. Now that's good lookin' out.

**More info.** For more information or questions about the SCRA, commanders are invited to contact the Brigade Judge Advocate at 108th ADA Brigade Headquarters, 910-908-5672, and Soldiers are welcome to visit the Legal Assistance Office, Soldier Support Center, Wing D, 910-396-0396, or <http://www.bragg.army.mil/directorates/osja/Pages/LegalAssistance.aspx>.







# Surgeon's Message:

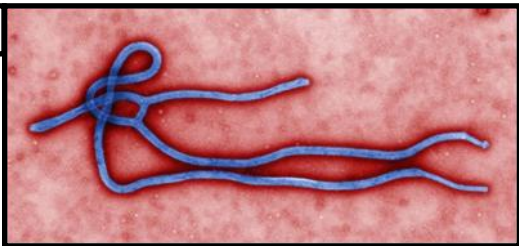
## A Tale of Two Viruses

by Maj. Michelle Clark, Brigade Surgeon

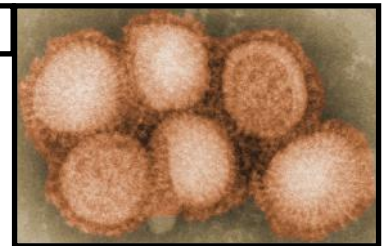
Flu season is upon us and it's time for you and your Family to get your annual flu shot, if you haven't already. Even though in the United States, you're more likely to get sick and die from the flu, this year there's plenty of anxiety about Ebola. The symptoms of Ebola and the flu start similarly: high fever, extreme body aches, fatigue, sore throat, and headache. Ebola also affects the blood's ability to clot. This could be mild, such as easy bruising, or severe, such as throwing up blood.

There is a severe Ebola outbreak in West Africa. It is spreading more rapidly there because of poor access to medical care, poverty, and burial traditions that involve handling the dead. However, Ebola is a very rare virus. It is spread through direct contact. That means body fluids—vomit, urine, feces, blood, etc.—from a person who is infected touch someone else's mouth, eyes, nose, or open wound. The virus quickly dies in open air. Its ability to mutate into a more transmissible strain (ie, "go airborne") is very low. Death usually results from low blood pressure secondary to excessive fluid loss. The mortality rate for Ebola is <20% with early detection and good medical care. Otherwise, it's around 50% mortality.

**Ebola virus**



**Influenza virus**



Conversely, influenza is a very common virus. It is found worldwide. Influenza is transmitted through the air by droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. It can also be acquired by touching a contaminated surface. Death comes from secondary bacterial pneumonia or from the flu's effect on chronic medical conditions. The elderly are especially prone to heart attacks when they acquire the flu. Most strains of the flu have <1% mortality.

However, the flu virus has a high potential to mutate into a more virulent strain. The worst example was almost 100 years ago with the 1918 flu pandemic (also called Spanish Flu). The most conservative estimates of the 1918 flu pandemic mortality put the numbers at 50 million. That represents about 4% of the earth's population at the time. (To put that into perspective, if the same situation were to occur in 2014--supposing the same morbidity and mortality statistics--3 billion people worldwide would contract the flu, and about 300 million would die within a few months.) The military was hit especially hard. More American Soldiers died from influenza and pneumonia that year than on the battlefields of World War One.

You can avoid illness in general by practicing good hygiene. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If possible, stay at home as much as possible when you're sick. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Wash your hands regularly. Clinical trials are underway for Ebola vaccines, but you can get immunized now to protect yourself and loved ones against the flu.

For more information on both influenza and Ebola, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). And have a wonderful and healthy winter season!



# Retention Rundown:

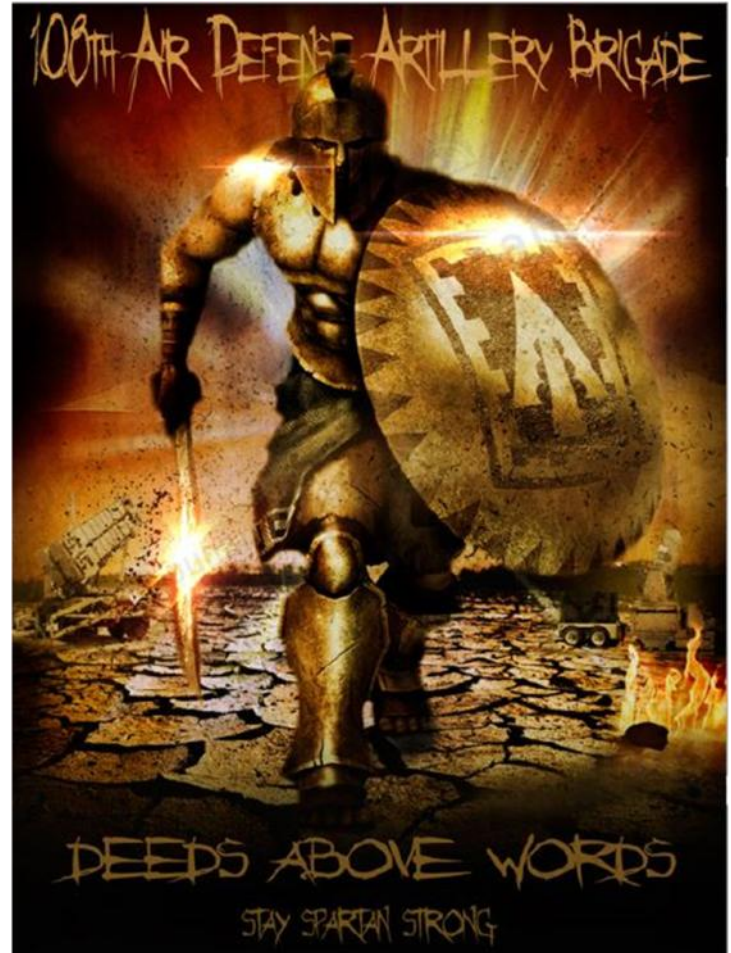


Master Sgt. Michael Gibson, Sr.  
108th ADA BDE Career Counselor

During most high budget action movies you eventually hear someone tell the hero “the fate of the world depends on you accomplishing this mission.” That statement puts the responsibility of the individual in perspective and displays how the outcome of their actions affects the world. On October 1, 2014 the Department of the Army told all its leaders “the fate of the United States Army depends on each of you accomplishing the Fiscal Year 2015 retention mission.”

All Soldiers are expected to keep our Army Strong by staying highly qualified to reenlist, transfer into the National Guard or Army Reserve, apply for special programs such as Green to Gold, OCS, or Warrant Officer. Career Counselors and Retention NCO’s have been tasked with assisting soldiers to further their careers and are empowered by recent changes to the Army Retention program. This fiscal year, the Total Army Retention Program was given an overhaul in an effort to better assist with attrition management and force alignment. The reenlistment opportunity window for all Soldiers now opens 15 months prior to ETS and closes 90 days prior to ETS. Soldiers in their window can reenlist for options they are eligible for, based off term of service, rank, strength of MOS and time on station.

All Soldiers desiring information on specific reenlistment options, bonuses, reserve component eligibility and special programs should contact their unit retention NCO or career Counselor. The current reenlistment options available are The Regular Army Reenlistment option (IAW 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!

[michael.l.gibson3.mil@mail.mil](mailto:michael.l.gibson3.mil@mail.mil)

DSN:908-5665



# HERE IT COMES

Are you ready  
to hit the  
road?

- Have your vehicle serviced
- Plan your route
- Pack an emergency road kit
- Check the weather forecast
- Get plenty of rest
- Complete a TRIPS assessment

# READY ...OR NOT?

**Ready ... or Not** is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their "readiness" for what lies ahead—the known as well as the unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS/SAFETY CENTER

<https://safety.army.mil>



U.S. ARMY



## Update:

by Master Sgt. Ingle, 108th ADA BDE SHARP

In October, 2014 the Top Notch Brigade took part in several SHARP events. On Oct. 18, the Air Force SHARP put on a color run and several Spartans supported this event. On Oct. 28, the Spartan bowling team took second out of 8 teams in a SHARP-focused bowling tournament. Master Sgt. Ingle, Master Sgt. Gibson, Sgt. 1st Class Strickland, Sgt. Charlery, Sgt. Louissaint, Maj. Gramling, Capt. Cleland, Capt. Fetterman, and 1st Lt. Fedewa represented the brigade in the event.



The big event was the "Operation 1 Is 2Many," 24-hour SHARP Walk/Run event. Over 450 participants come from the Air Force, Army, Marines and Civilians from AUAB, CAS, UAE, Kuwait to walk or run in support of the SHARP campaign. Soldiers back at Fort Bragg, NC participated as well. Each participant signed a pledge to be an active bystander and intervene when they see or become aware of a potential sexual assault or harassment. The 108th ADA Brigade SHARP Offices, Main and Forward, conducted the "OPERATION 1 is 2Many" event to show support for victims and survivors of sexual assault. This event demonstrates the 108th ADA Brigade's commitment to SHARP and compliance with the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Strategy, creating a positive climate and an environment of trust and respect among personnel within the brigade.

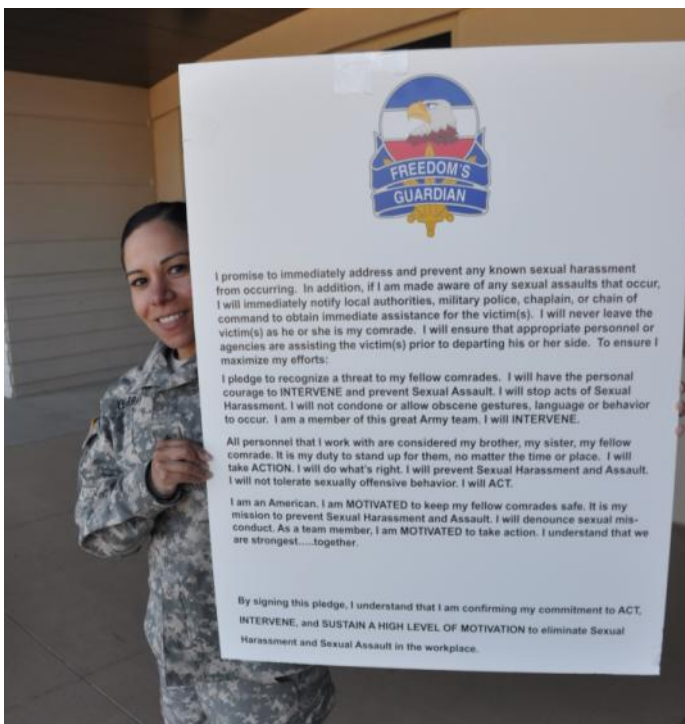






## Commitment Pledge

As a proud member of the United States Army, I pledge to be a force behind the fight to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assault from our community. I will have the personal courage to intervene – no matter the time or place. I will act decisively to stand up and protect my fellow Soldiers from all forms of sexually offensive and abusive behavior. I will be motivated by my Army Values to remain a constant force in the fight to protect my team!



Sgt. 1st Class Eva Ybarra, an Equal Opportunity advisor with the FORSCOM EO/SHARP office, holds a copy of the Pledge developed by her and her EO colleagues as part of the command's support of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. (U.S. Army photo by Larry Stevens, FORSCOM Public Affairs Office)



Kathy Smith  
108<sup>th</sup> ADA  
VA SHARP

## The SHARP Commitment

The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade SHARP Office remains committed to the ongoing implementation of the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program, focusing especially on prevention.

Unit SHARP representatives and Victim Advocates must exhibit a high degree of dedication to their mission. As first responders we are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence and the environment. Advocating for complainants and victims, we concurrently provide resources to address many of the issues that arise as survivors recover from traumatic life changing experiences. That is the SARC/VA SHARP focal point.

Military and DoD Civilian leaders have the immense responsibility of implementing the guidance in policy letters, SOPs, Army regulations such as AR 600-20 chapters 7 & 8, Executive orders, and a variety of other written directives. They must encourage bystander intervention and show a no-tolerance policy for sexually offensive words or actions that negatively impact others. Unyielding support for the U.S. Army's overall strategy and vision of changing Army culture is essential for the eradication of sexual harassment and sexual assault within our military. When every leader accepts these responsibilities and proceeds with confidence as crucial members of the SHARP team, the organization benefits with both direct, second and third-order effects.



# Equal Opportunity Corner:



## Top Notch Success

Sgt. 1st Class Desmond Byrd, 108th ADA BDE EO-A

The forward 108th Brigade Equal Opportunity Program has a number of reasons to be proud. For starters, the brigade had 5 Soldiers attend the last Equal Opportunity Leaders Course (EOLC). Out of 38 students, 2nd Lt. Jonathan Neely from 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment achieved the highest overall GPA in the class. This distinction earned him a Brigade Coin.

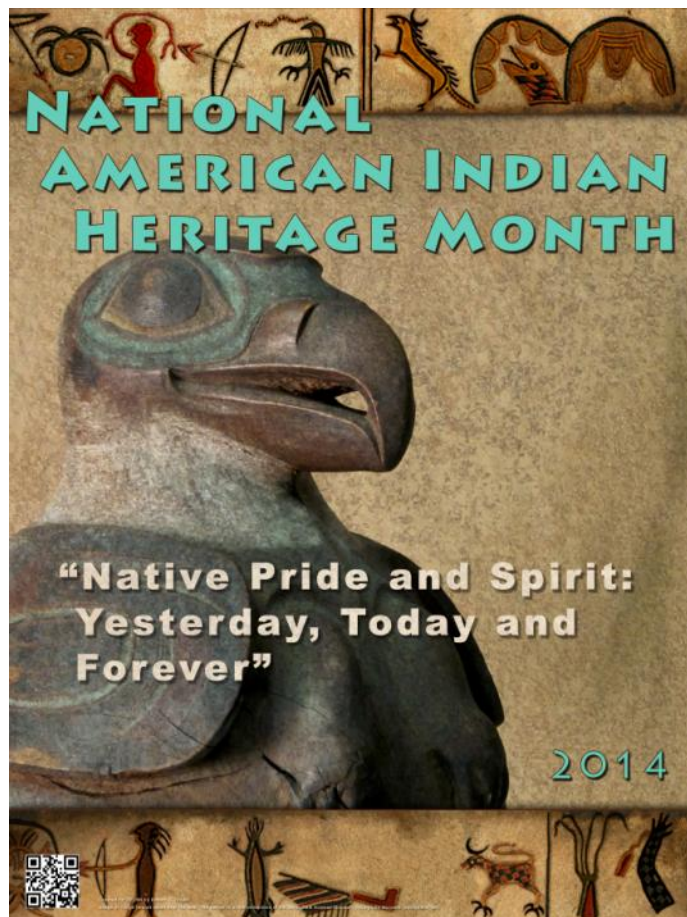
The Top Notch EO Program continues to excel by sharing bi-weekly EO vignettes. The vignettes consist of hypothetical, policy-related teaching scenarios that commanders and leaders can use to assist them in implementing changes in the EO program. They are not meant to provide all the answers but instead serve to illustrate recommended approaches to EO situations. The vignettes assist leaders in addressing issues related to the Army's five protected categories (race, color, religion, gender, and national origin), reprisal, and other situational scenarios.

## EOLC

The EOLC is a six-day course which trains eligible personnel to serve as EO Leaders/Representatives (EOLs/EORs) in an additional duty capacity at section, company, troop, battery, detachment, battalion, and equivalent levels. The Personnel selected and trained to serve as EOLs/EORs must be trusted members of the command. They must be promotable sergeants (E-5) or senior. The program of instruction includes a variety of subjects necessary to train effective EOLs/EORs.

Instruction blocks include: Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH), Complaint Procedures, Extremism, Racism, Sexism, Values, Women in the Military, Ethnic Studies and Small Group Facilitation. The next EOLC will take place at Camp Arifjan from 26-31 January 2015. This will be the final course available for Top Notch Brigade

Soldiers to attend before redeploying.



## Monthly Observances

November is Native American Indian Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native Americans. November is also an opportune time to educate the general public about Native American tribes, to raise awareness about the unique challenges Native American people face, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer them. Former 108th ADA Brigade Chaplain, Lt. Col. Timothy Atkinson will be the guest speaker for the brigade's Native American Indian Heritage observance on 24 November at Camp As-Sayliyah. This year's theme is "Native Pride and Spirit: Yesterday, Today and Forever."





## Policy Changes

Army Regulation 600-20 recently changed. Many of the changes impact Equal Opportunity. The Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor is visiting deployed units to educate leaders on how the regulation changes affect their units. Here are the most significant EO-related changes to AR 600-20:

### Hazing/Bullying (Treatment of Persons)

Adds policy for the treatment of persons, adds bullying as prohibited conduct, and differentiates bullying from hazing (para 4-19). Establishes a requirement for commanders to report and track all hazing or bullying investigations through the Equal Opportunity Reporting System (para 4-19c(4)).

### File Maintenance

Deletes policy on the authority to collect and maintain equal opportunity data (formerly in para 6-16).

### Protected Communication

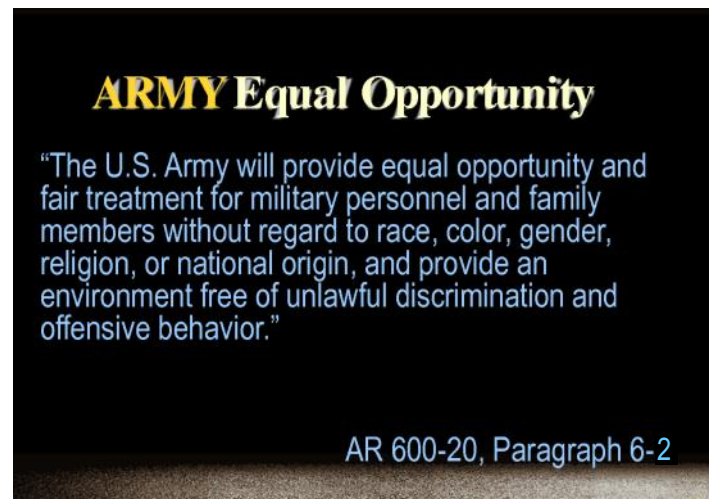
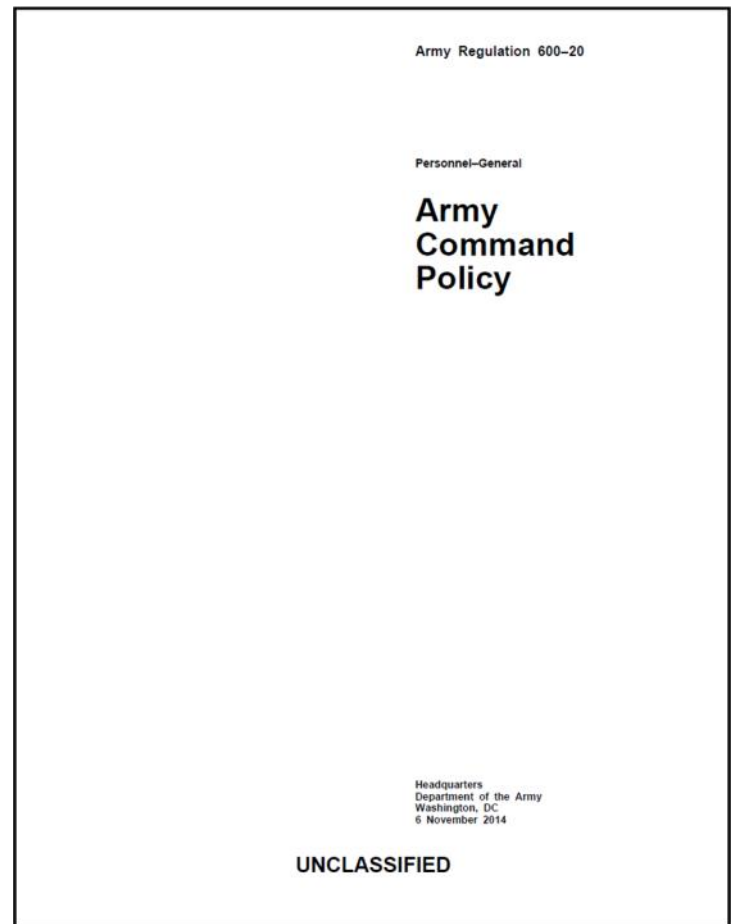
Defines a protected communication (para 5-12b).

### Religious Accommodation

Incorporates the procedures, previously available in AR 40-562, for review of religious accommodation requests to not receive immunizations (para 5-6h(3)(e)). Incorporates language from DODI 1300.17, requiring each request for religious accommodation be assessed on a case-by-case basis (para 5-6a) and defines the term "neat and conservative" (para 5-6h(4)(b)). Requires all waiver requests for religious-based exceptions to Army uniform policy to be forwarded to the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 for action (para 5-6i). Clarifies the groups of personnel who must be informed of the Army's accommodation of religious practices policies (para 1-4f).

### Extremist, Terrorist and Criminal Gang Activities

Incorporates policy in Army Directive 2013-18 and prohibits participation in extremist, terrorist, and criminal gang organizations and activities (paras 4-12a, 4-12b(7), 4-12b(8), 4-12e(2)(e), 4-12f, and 4-12g).



# Family Readiness Zone:

## FRG Meetings



FRG meetings are an opportunity to share important information with family members, provide educational training on Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) operations, and foster connections with statutory volunteer members. It is therefore important to determine early on the degree to which meetings should be held, each meeting should allow 45-50 minutes toward DCS. Here are other guidelines on conducting meetings:

- Assess FRG needs
- Identify FRG activities
- Establish the Purpose of the meeting
- Develop an agenda
- Establish a timeline
- Determine what resources will be needed (e.g., interpreters, child care, food, pens and other supplies)
- Determine what the “social” component will be (e.g., potluck dinner, award ceremony, set aside time for people to talk amongst themselves)
- Select a location
- Publicize the meeting
- Identify what materials will be distributed or need to have on hand (e.g., family readiness information forms, FRG newsletter, sign in sheet)
- Arrange for speaker, or instructor, if needed





# **Mobilization / Deployment Community Readiness Trainings Fall 2014**

**FRG Essentials**  
9:00 am—11:30 am  
October 28  
November 20  
December 4

**FRG Treasurer**  
9:00 am—11:00am  
October 9  
November 13  
December 9

**FRG Key Caller**  
9:00 am—10:00 am  
October 23  
November 18  
December 11

## **Care Team Training**

9:00 am—11:00 am  
October 14  
December 2

6:00 pm—8:00 pm  
October 2  
November 6

**FRG Powercourse**  
9:00 am—1:30 pm  
October 15  
November 5  
December 3

**CO/RD FRG Training**  
9:00 am—11:30 am  
October 17

**\*Registration is required—please call 910-432-3742 to register, or register online at <http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/register-for-a-class/>**

**\*Childcare is available for the “FRG Super Saturday Class” with advance registration. Children must be registered with CYSS.**

**\*Training is held in the Family Readiness Group Center located at Bldg. 236 Interceptor St. on Pope Field (the old Pope Club).**



**\*FRG Training is also available online at:  
<http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/frg-online-training/>**



# **FRL TRAINING**

**(FAMILY READINESS LIAISON)**

**1 - 3 DECEMBER 2014**

**0900-1200**

**FRG CENTER**

## **TOPICS COVERED:**

- **UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE**
- **RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS**
- **FRG DO'S AND DON'TS**
- **WORKING WITH FRG VOLUNTEERS**

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**\*Registration is required—please call 910-432-3742 to register, or register online at <http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/register-for-a-class/>**

**\*Training is held in the Family Readiness Group Center located at Bldg. 236 Interceptor St. on Pope Field (the old Pope Club).**





# 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.



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

