

The official publication for U.S. Army Air Defense Professionals

AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY



Journal

REDBOOK

YEAR IN REVIEW

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By COL Curtis W. King

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Air Defense Artillery Journal

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Purpose

The *Air Defense Artillery Journal* serves as a forum for the discussions of all U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery professionals, Active, Reserves and National Guard; disseminates professional knowledge about progress, development and best use in campaigns; cultivates a common understanding of the power, limitations and application of Fires, both lethal and nonlethal; fosters Fires interdependency among the armed services, all of which contribute to the good of the Army, joint and combined forces and our nation. The *Air Defense Artillery Journal* is pleased to grant permission to reprint; please credit *Air Defense Artillery Journal*, the author(s) and photographers.

Cover

A Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) weapon system at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan on March 1, 2014. The C-RAM capability is comprised of advanced targeting and networking systems coupled with a modified U.S. Navy Land-based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS). (U.S. Army photo by SGT Jarred Woods, 1st Sustainment Command – Theater)



COL Curtis W. King

Air Defense Artillery School Commandant

As your 45th Commandant, charged with educating and training the world's premier Air Defense Force, 2022 clearly exhibited the need of a formidable defense against the ever-evolving enemy capabilities that include Ballistic Missiles, Cruise Missiles, Rockets, manned aircraft and UAS threats. With the Russian invasion into the Ukraine, the world-wide use of various UAS capabilities as a combat force multiplier, continued North Korean ballistic missile testing, and an emerging Chinese hypersonic threat, the U.S. Army's Air Defense has been thrust into the global spotlight more now than at any other point in recent history.

These developments all occurring while our ADA Soldiers remain deployed across the globe protecting our fellow Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Guardians; and, for our National Guard Air Defenders, also continuing to protect our homeland. Our Soldiers and Families exhibit the utmost professional and dedication to our Nation and Army, serving as the epitome for our Branch Motto—"First to Fire"!

The above-mentioned events have further illuminated the need to grow and modernize our own AMD forces. With force growth, this year alone, we have stood up 3 Battalions and 1 BDE: 6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas; 1st Battalion, 51st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Lewis, Washington; 1st Battalion, 57th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Germany and the 52nd Air Defense Artillery BDE in Wiesbaden, Germany. These new units, in addition to Army 2030 projections, implement a wide array of capabilities to our force that include DE & KE M-SHORAD, IFPC Battalions, LTAMDS, C-sUAS batteries, an additional Patriot battery, and IBCS enabled systems. In addition to force growth, air defenders continue to drive change and learn enabled by 3rd Battalion, 43rd ADA Regiment through its ongoing IBCS IOT&E mission; 5-4 ADA Regiment through fielding the first M-SHORAD KE capability; 4-60th ADA Regiment through fielding the first M-SHORAD DE (50kw laser) prototype; and an increase in ADA participation at our Combat Training Centers by multiple units.

I am also excited to announce that Fort Sill has been working vigorously in standing up our Joint C-UAS University, where students of all services will receive training in defeating the ever-growing UAS threats. The university will be led by 30th ADA BDE and begin training in October 2023. Through this growth in units, equipment and training, our branch is meeting the challenge in fighting and winning our nations conflicts in a high intensity,



multi-domain large scale combat operations anywhere, anytime!

In closing, it is with great pleasure that I announce the winners of our annual winners for the 2022 Knox, Hamilton, Shipton and Sage awards. The branch had outstanding submissions again this year. All nominees were worthy of recognition, making things tough on the selection panel! We look forward to presenting these awards in person in the coming months. The two individual and unit winners are as follows:

11th Missile Defense Battery, our 2022 Knox Award! The Knox award recognizes the outstanding Active Component Air Defense Artillery battery for exceptional achievement, superior mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence.

C/2-174 ADA, our 2022 Hamilton Award. The Hamilton award recognizes the outstanding Air Defense Artillery National Guard battery for exceptional achievement, superior mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence over the course of the year.

1SG John O'Connor, HHB/5-4 ADA, for winning the 2022 Shipton Award for individual Air Defense excellence in the Active Component! Shipton Award winners represent the very best in our formations, individuals whose consistent performance, innovation and dedication resulted in significant contributions to the ADA's warfighting capabilities and readiness.

SFC Patrick R. Sharp, 1-211 ADA (RTI), for winning the 2022 Sage Award for individual Air Defense excellence in the Army National Guard! Sage Award winners represent the very best in our formations, individuals whose consistent performance, innovation and dedication resulted in significant contributions to the ADA's warfighting capabilities and readiness.



Curtis W. King
COL, AD
Commandant

2022

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10th Army Air and Missile Defense

This year has seen the 10th AAMDC, “European Defenders,” living up to their name while deployed across Europe’s eastern flank in support of Ukraine and NATO. It has been a year of ambitious pursuits and rewarding challenges. At the beginning of 2022, 10th AAMDC developed a multi-year strategy to perform a key function of influencing and shaping policy to conduct information sharing enabling rapid implementation of a multinational/joint single integrated air picture across Europe. The goal was to demonstrate Integrated Air and Missile Defense capacity as a strategic deterrent to our adversaries. However, 10th AAMDC’s plan had to rapidly change when Russia invaded Ukraine in late February 2022.

The Result: The European IAMD community has never been more energized and integrated.



Russian aggression in Ukraine has galvanized NATO resolve and commitment and has continued to open opportunities with our allies and partners. At the beginning of the year, 10th AAMDC was prepared to conduct a rigorous campaign of exercises that would test its capability to defend the skies in conjunction with allies from the 30 NATO countries. Instead, we have had the opportunity to learn from and react against, a real-life threat while continuing to build the relationships that make the alliance strong.

52d Air Defense Artillery BDE

The U.S. Army took a significant step in strengthening its defense capabilities with the activation of its newest air defense unit, the 52d Air Defense Artillery BDE, with COL Bruce Bredlow serving as its first commander and CSM Charles Robinson slated as the first BDE command sergeant major. This activation marks a critical milestone in the U.S. Army’s efforts to enhance air defense capabilities in Europe and demonstrates the U.S. commitment to NATO’s defense. The 52d ADA BDE, with its full operational capability estimated for October 2023, will bring a new level of expertise to air defense operations in Europe. The BDE will play a crucial role in building partnerships at the tactical level, working closely with allied forces to defend Europe against airborne threats. Additionally, it will serve as the senior air defense element advising maneuver forces located throughout the AOR.

The BDE will provide command and control for 5-4 ADAR, 1-57 ADAR, and 5-7 ADA battalions in Germany and the 11TH and 13TH Missile Defense Batteries based in Turkey and Israel, as well as any rotational U.S. Army air and missile defense forces within the European Command (EUCOM) AOR. 52d BDE reports directly to the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command and is forces assigned to USEUCOM. With the activation of the 52d ADA BDE, the U.S. is making a significant contribution to the Alliance’s ground-based air defense in USEUCOM. The presence of additional air defense forces in Europe serves as a deterrent to potential adversaries, and the BDE headquarters will strengthen the alliance and ensure the safety of all involved parties.

The Soldiers of the 52d ADA BDE proudly donned a new SSI in January, which depicts a



COL Bredlow and MSG Irvine unveil the 52d ADA Brigade Shoulder Sleeve Insignia during the activation ceremony on 6 October 2022 in Sembach, Germany.

shield, representing the defensive mission of the BDE consisting of two crossed arrows creating the Roman numeral “5,” while the two missiles on the outer edge suggest the Roman numeral “2.” The four *fleurs-de-lis* are in a 1-2-1 formation, similar to the way aircraft fly, and signify the four campaign credits awarded to the BDE for actions in World War II.

BG Maurice Barnett, Commanding General, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, emphasized the importance of air and missile defense in Europe, stating that “if your primary assets are obliterated by tactical ballistic missiles and cruise missiles, winning becomes increasingly difficult.” The 52d ADA BDE, with its manpower and expertise, will play a critical role in protecting U.S. and allied forces from potential aerial threats.

The activation of the 52d ADA BDE will allow the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command to focus more on its operational and strategic objectives, while the BDE focuses on the tactical level objectives. This division of responsibilities will allow both units to work more effectively, leveraging their strengths to provide a more comprehensive and effective air defense posture in Europe.

Activating the 52d ADA BDE represents a major step forward in the U.S. Army’s efforts to enhance its air defense capabilities in Europe and reinforces the U.S. commitment to NATO’s defense. With its manpower, expertise, and tactical knowledge, the BDE will assume a critical role in protecting U.S. and allied forces from potential aerial threats to NATO.

5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

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Beginning in February, the 10th AAMDC deployed units from 5-4th ADAR to Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovakia in support of NATO’s Enhanced Forward Presence to conduct air and unmanned aerial system defense. While deployed, they integrated into maneuver units from across the alliance and worked to establish real-world operating procedures at all levels, from the individual crews to Host Nation policy.

Over the last year, 5-4th ADAR has also continued testing with the Army’s only M-SHORAD platoon. This testing included participation in Saber Strike 22, where 1st PLT, Alpha Battery convoyed across Europe while exercising alongside the Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian armies. The event also presented an opportunity to establish a tri-lateral network with Sweden and Finland, which has proven useful as we continue to develop a relationship with these future NATO Allies. Saber Strike 22 culminated in a successful LFX in Estonia, with the SHORAD teams firing at targets over the Gulf of Finland. This effort put the new system through its paces and established visibility and cohesion within the alliance.

5-4th ADAR continues to modernize and pave the way for ADA’s SHORAD future as they receive the rest of their battalion’s M-SHORAD systems and conduct NET/NEF training throughout the beginning of 2023. The next challenge for them will be conducting Joint Viking 23, an exercise that will take them to Norway, north of the Arctic Circle, to validate M-SHORAD’s ability to operate under extreme cold-weather conditions.

5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

5-7th ADAR has also been on the front line as they were the first to deploy their batteries to Jasionka, Poland and Malacky, Slovakia, in support of American and Alliance strategic interests. In Poland, Charlie and Delta Batteries have created a true, tri-lateral defense design alongside the Polish Air Force and the British “Sky Saber” air and missile defense systems. The team’s deployment has pushed the boundaries of interconnectivity with our allies as they have

developed ways to share Link-16 track data across more NATO systems than ever before.

Bravo Battery became one of the first Patriot units transferred to NATO operational authority in Slovakia, where they served alongside Patriot units from the Netherlands and Germany. In order to accomplish this, Bravo Battery trained in NATO tactics and successfully completed a rigorous evaluation to prove its ability to operate at the NATO standard. This level of competence and trust has been built over time and serves to signal that the U.S. commitment to NATO is unwavering.

Meanwhile, Alpha Battery has been serving as the U.S. contribution to the NATO Very-High Readiness Joint Task Force. The VJTF is a NATO-led expeditionary force that consists of contributions from across the alliance under a five-day Prepare to Deploy Order. Throughout the crisis, Alpha battery has stood and continues to stand, ready to deploy at a moment's notice in defense of every inch of NATO Alliance territory.

11th and 13th Missile Defense Batteries

The 11th Missile Defense Battery operates, maintains, secures and remotely controls a Tier 1 asset in support of Operation Atlantic Sentry; to provides surveillance and early warning of TBMs in defense of NATO Allies and U.S. Forces. 11th Missile Defense Battery is in a remote location in Turkey, operating 24/7 ISO NATO Allies and Partners. Due to its remoteness, the battery uniquely manages supply and maintenance to ensure sustainability on-site. Furthermore, the Soldiers in the unit endure harsh weather and heavy snowfall during the winter, sometimes digging 10 feet of snow to ensure generators that power the entire site remain operational. Despite these challenges, 11th MDB received distinguished scores of 100% for all its Radar and Sensor Manager crews during their Table VIII evaluation this past September. 11th MDB continues to improve its position and establish lasting ties between its Host Nation and NATO.

Exciting changes have also been happening with 13th MDB over this past year. The 13th MDB hosted the first iteration of the Combined Air





Defense Working Group and the Israeli Test Bed as they prepare to transfer authority over to 32nd AAMDC. The CADWG and ITB serve as a primary touchpoint between the U.S. and Israeli ADA communities, where they can discuss tactics and TTPs in support of the defense of our Israeli counterparts. Overall, the Missile Defense batteries remain vigilant and ready as they feed the Joint Air Picture and provide visibility to the Joint and Combined force.

10th AAMDC will continue to anchor the European theater as the center of gravity for IAMD as the U.S. Army command, who is “First to Fire,” builds capacity with allies and partners to rapidly deploy an Integrated Air and Missile Defense to demonstrate our combined ability to protect U.S. and NATO interests.

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32d Army Air and Missile Command

In 2022, the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command saw approximately 2,000 Soldiers rotate through the USCENTCOM AOR in order to execute its critical Air Defense missions. The 32d AAMDC deployed two Battalions to the USCENTCOM AOR in 2022: 4-3 ADA of the 31st ADA BDE and 3-4 ADA of the 108th ADA BDE. The 32d AAMDC also supported the return and reintegration of two Air Defense Battalions: 1-44 ADA of the 69th ADA BDE, and 1-7 ADA of the 108th ADA BDE. The 32d AAMDC also oversaw and supported the rotation of the BDE Headquarters- Top Notch.

The Blackjack Command welcomed COL Henry Bennett and the 69th ADA Headquarters home, and supported the transfer of authority to COL Marc Pelini and his 108th ADA Headquarters team. All of these Soldiers contributed heavily to the 32d AAMDC mission and created a historic year for the Air Defense Artillery as 2022 saw the first U.S. Patriot engagements executed in combat in almost 20 years.

2022 saw 32d AAMDC involved in a multitude of exercises including the return of Roving Sands. The Roving Sands exercise gauged the operational capability and training methods used by air defense artillery BDEs and tested their systems in a simulated Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) environment. 32d AAMDC also took part in Arctic Edge 22, exercising 32d’s ability to rapidly equip its subordinate units with winterization equipment and operate in extreme cold as well as conduct a no-notice EDRE and redeployment operations. Staff processes continued to be exercised and validated as 32d supported two CENTCOM directed exercises, Internal Look and two iterations of Air and Missile Defense Exercise (AMDEX). In addition to supporting ARCENT in both exercises, 32d AAMDC also supported AFCENT in the DAADC and TAAMDCORD roles. This resulted in the staff exercising and honing their skills ensuring they stand ready to support the 32d AAMDC Commanding General and subordinate units as they execute their Air defense missions

11th Air Defense Artillery BDE

The 11th Air Defense Artillery BDE Headquarters’ primary focus areas for 2022 included Exercise Roving Sands and the BDE’s pre-deployment mission rehearsal exercise. The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery served as the BDE Echelon mission command headquarters during Roving Sands 2022 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Roving Sands is a biennial Air and Missile Defense exercise that prepared the 11th ADA BDE for large-scale combat operations under a Corps while simultaneously executing ADA engagement operations. Roving Sands 2022 focused on European LSCO scenarios based on the Decisive Action Training Environment and was a multi-echelon training event with support from 2nd Battalion, 43rd ADA, 5th Battalion,

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52nd ADA, 3rd Battalion, 2nd ADA, A Battery, 2nd Battalion THAAD (1st Battalion, 43rd ADA) and 2nd Battalion, 44th ADA.

The BDE's mission rehearsal exercise, conducted in October, served as not only a



SGT Tyquez Sims of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 11th Air Defense Artillery BDE is pictured conducting M2 .50-caliber Browning machine gun training during Operation Roving Sands. (Photo by SGT Sheena Siytoo, HHB 11th ADA BDE)

preparatory event for the BDE's deployment but also a multi-echelon, multi-component training event supporting 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command Air and Missile Defense Exercise objectives and supported by 1st Battalion, 43rd ADA down to the fire unit echelon. Tactical Control and Information Coordination Central

crewmembers at Fort Bliss, Texas, conducted engagement operations with 11th ADA BDE Air Defense Airspace Control Officers at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. The 11th ADA BDE Staff conducted force operations, supported by 1-43rd ADA staff, and in support of 32nd AAMDC and Air Force Central Command AMDEX force operations. Additionally, the 11th ADA BDE Headquarters Rear Detachment participated in a training audience to replicate the realism of distributed mission command between the home station and deployment locations. The combination of these exercise elements maximized the training value of the event by increasing the tempo and strain on the training audience.

1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

1st Battalion, 43rd ADA, "Cobra Strike", spent the last year focused on large-scale combat operations. In the second quarter, battery commanders executed battery and squad-level training in a field environment and weapons qualifications for all assigned weapon systems. The second quarter focus concluded with the successful completion of basic gunnery training, a battalion change of responsibility, and a battalion change of command.

The third quarter focus included five battery changes of command and the execution of Mayor Cell Operations in support of Exercise Roving Sands. It transitioned into intermediate gunnery certification, setting conditions for the fourth quarter. The year culminated with Cobra Strike being the first CONUS Patriot Battalion to send multiple Patriot crews in support of the Combined



Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 11th Air Defense Artillery BDE gather after completing Roving Sands 2022. (Photo by SGT Sheena Siytoo, HHB 11th ADA BDE)



Top: Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 43d Air Defense Artillery Regiment perform launcher reload drills for their Table VIII evaluation. Middle: Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 43d Air Defense Artillery Regiment perform rail load operations in preparation for their U.S. Central Command deployment. Bottom: Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 43d Air Defense Artillery Regiment conducted launcher reload drills in the field as part of their Table VIII evaluations. (Photos by 1LT Mariah Love, HHB 11th ADA BDE)

Air Defense Working Group for the Defense of Israel. The battalion simultaneously executed a Patriot Live Fire and achieved Intermediate gunnery certification in less than 90 days. The battalion conducted two STAFFEX, a battalion-level CBRN STX Lane and a combat live-fire exercise and provided support for the BDE mission rehearsal exercise, all while supporting Project Convergence and the IOT&E mission in support of the Air Defense Artillery modernization efforts.

2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In May 2022, Soldiers from the 2nd battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, "Warrior Battalion," executed Roving Sands 22. During the exercise, the battalion performed six fire unit jumps and one battalion command post jump across a battlespace that spanned 75 km north to south while conducting Air Defense Operations. After Roving Sands 22, the battalion successfully fired 10 PAC-2 missiles in support of PM Shield's Field Surveillance Program.

In June 2022, the battalion's G Battery, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, successfully executed an Iron Dome Defense System-Army live-fire exercise validating the integration of IFF into the IDDS-A system. In October 2022, the battalion's F Battery, 55th Air Defense Artillery, officially cased its colors. The Fighting Falcons activated, received equipment, trained with foreign partners, completed numerous operations, and proved themselves experts on their equipment despite a complicated modernization mission.

In the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023, the Warrior Battalion completed Table VIII and Operational Readiness Exercise certifications and set a Fort Bliss record for most vehicles successfully inspected for rail load operations in a single day. In the second quarter of the fiscal year 2023, the Warrior Battalion deployed to the USCENTCOM AOR to conduct Air Defense Operations of assigned assets.

3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Throughout 2022, Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

have been at the forefront of the Army's premier Integrated Air and Missile Defense modernization mission. The introduction of the Integrated Battle Command System aims to synchronize current and future Air and Missile Defense sensors, weapons, and mission command technologies into an integrated Fire Control System. That system provides warfighters greater system deployment flexibility, advancements in area and asset defense capabilities, and a singular air picture proven more effective than the current single-sensor fire unit construct.

Following extensive new equipment training and navigating through numerous software and hardware updates, the Legion Battalion completed Phases I and II of Initial Operational Test and Evaluation at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The conclusion of these test exercises marks a pivotal milestone in the drive toward a decision regarding Initial Operation Capability, projected to occur in April 2023. Additionally, over the next year, the Legion Battalion will move into the next modernization mission to field the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor,

eventually replacing the currently fielded AN/MPQ-65 Patriot radar.

5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In February 2022, the 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery (5-52 ADA) participated in Operation ARCTIC EDGE 22 (AE22), testing the capabilities of Air and Missile Defense systems and Soldiers in extreme cold weather conditions in Alaska. During the exercise, 5-52 ADA identified several areas for system battle drill improvement and considerations when operating in extreme conditions. Contributions from this exercise will be used to enhance future ADA operations and system development.

Following the success of AE22, Team Deuce executed Operation ROVING SANDS 22 (RS22) at White Sands Missile Range, NM, in May. Conducted with units from multiple BDEs across the country, 5-52 ADA exhibited the ability to perform Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) while providing a layered defense design for maneuver units. Throughout the exercise, 5-52 ADA validated the ability to execute force sustainment and engagement procedures



2LT Chad Verdier briefs COL Timothy Woodruff on 3rd Battalion, 43rd Regiment's Integrated Battle Command System site and operations. (Photos by 1LT Mariah Love, HHB 11th ADA BDE)



COL Timothy Woodruff and SGM Dustin Woodcock greet Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 5th Battalion, 52d Air Defense Artillery Regiment as they return home from Eielson Air Base, Alaska in support of Operation ARCTIC EDGE. (Photo by SGT Elijah Bentz, HHB 11th ADA BDE)

supporting Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO).

5-52 ADA ultimately maximized training opportunities throughout the year to include twice conducting Culminating Training Events (CTEs) in preparation of response force assumption. Additional training events conducted validated the unit's ability to effectively emplace weapon systems and detect and defeat multi-axis threats. The Battalion drew upon recent experiences from deployments to continue to develop Soldier's critical thinking skills further increasing the unit's ability to adapt to ever-evolving enemy threats.

31st Air Defense Artillery BDE

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In 2022, 31st Air Defense Artillery BDE (31st ADA) and its subordinate units re-affirmed their capabilities to execute air defense missions worldwide amidst an increasingly dynamic threat environment propagated by technologically advanced near peer adversaries. The year began with preparations for and execution of Roving Sands 2022, one of the largest air defense combined training exercises executed in recent history, as well as the forward deployment of troops to the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) and the training of partner units for their own deployments. Simultaneously, the BDE played an active role in U.S. Army modernization efforts for air defense systems through reception of the first Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) battalion in the continental United States. Despite the increased operational tempo and demand for the BDE's unique capabilities, 31st ADA maintained the highest re-enlistment rate across all BDEs in 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (32nd AAMDC), which had the highest rate among all division level units in U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM).

Whilst continuing to execute critical missions, 31st ADA BDE bid farewell to COL Judson Gillett, who now works at the Pentagon, and welcomed



31st ADA bid farewell to COL Judson Gillett and formally welcome COL Ryan Schrock as the Brigade Commander during a change-of-command ceremony in July of 2022.

COL Ryan Schrock as the new BDE commander. COL Schrock previously served as Chief of Space and Missile Defense

with the Joint Staff before coming to Fort Sill. Following that, 31st ADA BDE staff integrated with the Combined Air Defense Working Group, where the staff supported the training and adaptation of air defense assets in the USCENTCOM AOR to work more closely with Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). With responsibility for Israel's air defense currently in the process of moving from U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) to USCENTCOM, 31st ADA helped spearhead a new chapter in joint operations between Israel and the U.S. In the final months of 2022, the BDE headquarters conducted its Culminating Training Exercise (CTE) to meet the requirements of the Contingency Response Force (CRF) mission and subsequently assumed the CRF mission. This exercise tested the ability of the BDE headquarters to execute command and control of air defense assets during several operational scenarios. Moving into 2023, 31st ADA remains ready and vigilant.

3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

For 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (3-2 ADA), the year began with multiple exercises that tested the ability of the batteries to execute expeditionary deployment operations. Tasks included convoy and rail loading operations. The battalion also tested basic air defense tasks in more austere conditions associated with large scale combat operations to better prepare Soldiers for future conflicts.

Following these exercises, 3-2 further tested its capabilities and proficiencies in May during Roving Sands 2022 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Roving Sands 2022 is the largest Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense (AIAMD) exercise in the continental United States, and challenges participating units with multiple threat scenarios that are adapted to current near peer adversaries. Roving Sands 2022 served as the air defense component of Phase I of Global Defender 2022, a multi-theater exercise that provides a testing ground for the Army's evolving doctrinal standards. The data and lessons learned from these exercises ultimately help the Army improve and refine the multi-domain operations concept. During Roving Sands 2022,

3-2 ADA deployed 300 Soldiers with 254 pieces of Patriot equipment to execute gunnery training and air battle management. Upon completion of Roving Sands 2022, 3-2 ADA assumed the CRF mission and stood ready to deploy worldwide to any geographic combatant command requiring air defense capabilities.

When 2022 began the Soldiers and leaders of the 3rd Battalion 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment were driven by one word...READINESS! Prior to the start of the year, the Battalion Table VIII certified with B/C/3-2 ADA leading the way with first time GOs, they were 100% trained/slotted for deployment readiness schools, and were 98% qualified on both individual and crew served weapons; all completed within five months of having returned home from a 12-month deployment to the CENTCOM AOR. Throughout 2022, the Battalion achieved several notable accomplishments in tactical proficiency, its ability to be a force multiplier, maintenance excellence, and operational readiness, all while maintaining its most important weapon system – its people!

For tactical proficiency, the Soldiers and leaders of the Lethal Strike Battalion made complex missions look simple through core competency and technical prowess. With the Army's recent shift of focus from Counterinsurgency Operations (COIN) to Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO), 32d Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) reestablished its annual exercise, Roving Sands in 2018, executing a Combat Training Center (CTC) like event that focused Air Defense Units at echelon from Battery to BDE on LSCO in a dynamic and complex training environment. During February and March 2022, the Battalion deployed to the training area on Fort Sill, OK (FSOK) and began its train-up for RS-22. Having just completed gunnery training, all Air and Missile Defense (AMD) crews, both at Battalion and Battery level, were proficient on Air Battle Management (ABM) and Prepare for Movement and Emplacement (PM&E). While all unit crews executed AMD sustainment training in the field, the focus was TOC/BCP operations, site security, LOGPACS, and convoys as the Battalion mindset was shifted to execute LSCO in austere conditions.

In April 2022, the Battalion deployed HHB/A/C/D/E/3-2 ADA with over 300 Soldiers and Leaders, as well as 254 pieces of Patriot equipment and

rolling stock down to FBTX to execute RS-22. While participating in RS-22, the Battalion HQs and firing units executed numerous convoys, had a total of five site jumps, had the # 1 Operational Readiness (OR) rate in the BDE with 98.5%, and simultaneously completed its Culminating Training Event (CTE). After meeting all training requirements and objectives, the Lethal Strike Battalion executed MPA and Railhead Operations with zero safety incidents in preparation to return back to FSOK. Upon return to FSOK, the Battalion executed recovery of all equipment, OCIE layouts, while concurrently preparing for and winning the best barracks for a FORSCOM unit on FSOK for 3rd QTR FY22 awarded by the Installation Commander and CSM. A true testament to the junior Leaders and Soldiers in the Battalion.

At the beginning of June 2022, the Battalion assumed a Contingency Response Force (CRF) Mission, having met all FORSCOM/32d AAMDC requirements two months earlier and successfully completing its CTE at RS-22. Throughout 2022 to present day, the Lethal Strike team remains in a constant state of readiness to deploy and execute

strategic missions in any Geographical Combatant Command (GCC) and in any environment. There is no question that the Soldiers and Leaders of the Lethal Strike Battalion are both technically and tactically proficient; however, its efforts over the year to fuel the force with Subject Matter Experts (SME) is unmatched.

From the beginning of the year to the end, the Battalion demonstrated they were a force multiplier, not just for 31st ADA BDE and the Division, but for the Army as well. The Battalion not only met but exceeded their retention goals for FY23 across all categories, achieved eight Patriot Master Gunner graduates, achieved 16/16 Table VIII status for all medics, five Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officer (ADAFCO) graduates, three Patriot Top Gun graduates, achieved 20 certified/credentialed SHARP personnel, two Green to Gold recipients, over 20 BLC Commandant's List awardees, and one Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduate who went on to LOG-BOLC and finished # 1 of 40 in his class. While building the bench



3-2 ADA practicing crew reloading drills on the Patriot Launcher System during a field training exercise.

with SME's, the Battalion credits its success on maintaining a culture of maintenance, serving as the driving force behind the Battalion's readiness and effectiveness to execute its wartime mission.

It is no secret that the lifeblood of 3-2 ADA is its maintenance program as maintenance drives its operations. In August 2022, after scoring a 97% on its inspection, E/3-2 ADA distinguished themselves as the premiere maintenance experts in 32d AAMDC by being one of four units in FORSCOM to be nominated to compete in the FY23 HQDA Army Achievement Maintenance Excellence (AAME). The Company, along with the Battalion, proved its proficiency and mastery of maintenance through the execution of 3,581 rolling stock repairs that regenerated critical combat power to 3-2 ADA and provided the Battalion with the capability to provide logistical support to the 31st ADA BDE. The Battalion's Service Support Activity (SSA) Soldiers and Leaders also serviced three Battalion's along with the BDE throughout the year. Aside from the FORSCOM AAME nomination, the Battalion was also able to complete RECAP of all four firing units and the ICC within a six-month timeframe with no issues; a testament to the grit and dedication of the Lethal Strike team. As maintenance laid the foundation for equipment readiness, the Battalion AMD crews serve as the decisive effort when it comes to its operational readiness.

In December 2022, the Lethal Strike Battalion, Battery Command Teams, Staff, and AMD crews were invited to attend the Combined Air Defense Working Group (CADWG) 2022 in Israel with our Israeli Defense Force (IDF) counterparts. With the Battalion still on its CRF mission, this served as an amazing opportunity to work alongside foreign allies and train/learn new TTPs in an Area of Operation (AO) that would be something different than the traditional CENTCOM AOR locations. The team conducted site surveys of all battle positions, executed various working/planning groups, and conducted ABM Training both at the Battalion and Battery level, with our IDF partners. It truly was a top-notch event and the Battalion greatly appreciates the generosity and professionalism of our IDF partners and look forward to continue working with them in the future.

The success of the Lethal Strike Battalion in 2022 in its tactical/technical proficiency, its ability to be a force multiplier, maintenance excellence, and operational readiness are a direct representation of the grit, hard work, and determination the Leaders and Soldiers put in on a daily basis. Dedicated to compete and win, the deeds and legacy of 3-2 ADA Soldiers and Leaders tell their story as they are ready to answer the Nation's call while constantly pursuing excellence in the fundamentals. The Battalion looks forward to the new challenges and opportunities that 2023 will bring! Lethal Strike! Defend the House!

4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Beginning in April 2022, the Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (4-3 ADA), deployed to USCENTCOM to deter hostile aggression and deny adversaries coercive power in the region. 4-3 ADA provided theater level air and missile defense coverage of USCENTCOM critical assets in across the Arabian Gulf, including in Qatar and UAE. Their efforts enabled USCENTCOM to conduct kinetic operations, collection, and command and control functions free from the threat of enemy air and missile attack. 4-3 ADA provided protection of strategic assets in multiple regions within USCENTCOM from multi-dimensional Tactical Ballistic Missile (TBM), Air Breathing Threat (ABT), and Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) threats.



4-3 ADA with the command team while deployed to the USCENTCOM AOR.

The Air and Missile Defense (AMD) mission in the USCENTCOM AOR is a theater-strategic level operation that enables effective and decisive operations in support of Operation Spartan Shield. 4-3 ADA provided continuous AMD coverage, threat assessments, and intelligence analysis on developing enemy capabilities in order to protect high level assets and U.S. interests within the USCENTCOM AOR.

In October 2021, the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (4-3 ADA) sent tacticians and equipment to White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), New Mexico, to operate the Patriot Engagement Control Station (ECS) for Project Convergence. The I-Strike Battalion fired four interceptors for the Integrated Air and missile Defense Battle Command System (IBCS) to intercept. This test assisted engineers, gathering critical data on missile interceptions furthering IBCS progress.

Simultaneously, 4-3 ADA sent tacticians and equipment to a joint exercise with the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force at McGregor Range, New Mexico. The exercise was focused on accomplishing two objectives: testing the efficacy of Patriot equipment and strengthening our relationship with Japan. Patriot operators successfully utilized Patriot interceptors to shoot down test drones operated by McGregor Range personnel. Additionally, Soldiers and leaders from both the United States and Japan had the opportunity to learn from each other in a tactical environment as well as engaging in friendly conversation outside of work.

Upon returning to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, the 4-3 ADA was given notice that their deployment date was solidified and that they would be deploy to the CENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR). The I-Strike Battalion conducted a two week Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) in November 2021. As a result of the units equipment reset timeline, many Soldiers were introduced to Patriot site operations for the first time during this exercise. The Soldiers trained hard and executed steady state Air and Missile Defense (AMD) operations for ten days. After successful completion of the exercise, the unit packed up all equipment and prepared for the battalion to take winter block leave.

The weeks following holiday block leave were busy for the I-Strike Battalion including

inventories, packing and wrapping supplies as well as preparing equipment to be rail loaded. The Soldiers worked long hours, diligently preparing for the upcoming deployment. They managed to get all supplies packed and all vehicles on railcars to begin their journey to CENTCOM. After all preparations were complete, 4-3 ADA Soldiers got an opportunity to take pre-deployment block leave and spend quality time with their families and friends before deployment.

In March 2022, the I-Strike Battalion deployed their advanced party to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) laying the ground work for the rest of the battalion to arrive and get to work. Early April 2022, 4-3 ADA deployed the rest of the Battalion, beginning the long process of training and integrating their Patriot equipment in preparation to relieve 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (1-44 ADA). The two battalions worked together to train and simultaneously displace all of 1-44's equipment from the battle positions which were then occupied by 4-3 ADA organic equipment. Since then, I-Strike Battalion has continued to build combat power and maintain operations in support of the Combined Defense of the Arabian Peninsula.

During the deployment to CENTCOM, 4-3 ADA helped facilitate multiple joint exercises hosted by UAE. The first exercise, HAWKEX, was a joint military exercise between the United States and UAE. This air defense exercise allowed air defenders to work together to increase interoperability and validate bilateral command and control between both nations' air defense operations. This exercise resulted in valuable ideas exchanged between our UAE counterparts and all branches of the US military that participated in the exercise. Every crew gained an increased understanding of comprehensive Air and Missile Defense operations in conjunction with defensive air operations to ultimately defend against enemy threats present within the CENTCOM AOR.

The second exercise, Falcon Shield, was hosted by the UAE military in the Air Warfare Center (AWC). The AWC requested support from 4-3 ADA Battalion to send tacticians to facilitate the exercise and provide Patriot tactical expertise to

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the group. Falcon Shield was a joint and combined exercise that included the UAE, US, United Kingdom, France, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain, and the Republic of Korea. Similar to HAWKEX, Falcon Shield served to stress air defense measures in the Arabian Peninsula and test our communication between partners and allies. This gave the I-Strike Battalion the opportunity to further build relationships with UAE and build well rounded operators, armed with increased understanding of their role regarding large scale Air and Missile Defense operations.

In September 2022, the I-Strike Battalion was informed of the definitive timeline for their redeployment. Preparations are on-going and the unit remains engaged in providing expert Air and Missile Defense to the Combatant Commander until the time to redeploy back home to our families and friends.

5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (5-5 ADA) began 2022 by certifying deploying Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) units headed to the USCENTCOM AOR.

From early January to late February, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment (1-111 FAR), Virginia Army National Guard received training from 5-5 ADA. 5-5 ADA guided 1-111 FAR from initial proficiency examinations to Table XII Gunnery Certification, ultimately certifying them during their CTEs. In August, 5-5 ADA also trained and certified 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery Regiment (1-163 FAR), Indiana Army National Guard.

In September of 2022, Charlie Battery, 5-5 ADA (Avenger) completed its own Table XII Gunnery Certification at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California. Meanwhile at Fort Sill, Alpha Battery, 5-5 ADA and Bravo Battery, 5-5 ADA trained and certified 12 Engagement Operations Cells (EOC) and 24 C-RAM crews utilizing Land-based Phalanx Weapon Systems (LPWS). Finally, in December, 5-5 ADA certified 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (2-44 ADA) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky as they prepared for their deployment to the USCENTCOM AOR.

“Forging a Path for the Branch”



Soldiers of C/5-5 ADA execute Stinger MANPAD engagements during NTC rotation 22-10.

An Avenger crew from C/5-5 ADA tracking and preparing to engage a UAS at NTC.



Soldiers of A/5-5 ADA and B/5-5 ADA conduct LPWS reload operations during C-RAM Table XII certification.

The 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Dragon Slayers!) has proven itself to be one of the most “Ready and Resilient” ADA Battalions, capable of providing critical Short-Range Air & Missile Defense (SHORAD) to Geographical Combatant Commanders in order to protect critical U.S., allied, and partner assets from rockets, artillery, and mortars (RAM), enemy Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and all other hostile aerial platforms. Dragon Slayers deployed personnel and equipment to multiple locations across the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) executing high-priority missions in support of both Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Spartan Shield (OSS),

proving we will fight “To the Last Round” any time or place the Nation calls. Simultaneously throughout the last

year, the Dragon Slayers remained the premier trainer for multiple Mission Readiness Exercises (MRE) ensuring Army National Guard units, to include 1-111th FA BN (VAARNG) and 1-163rd FA BN (INARNG), selected to assume counter-rocket, artillery, and mortar (C-RAM) missions in CENTCOM AOR, were ready to deploy, fight, and win! From January to October of 2022, the Dragon Slayer Battalion trained and certified more than 700 National Guardsmen for deployment on Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD) interface software, network integration, Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS), Engagement Operations Cell (EOC) processes and procedures, and Indirect Fire & C-UAS defeat tactics, techniques, and procedures.

Soldiers from all subordinate units deployed in various roles across the CENTCOM AOR to include Sentinel missions in both Iraq and Syria. The Battalion redeployed and welcomed home C/5-5 ADA from their historic deployment and successful Avenger/Stinger intercept. Following redeployment, C/5-5 ADA continued to make great strides with significant impacts for the Branch. After achieving Avenger Table VIII within six months, C/5-5 ADA successfully integrated with and supported 2/1 Armored BDE Combat

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C/5-5 ADA crew complete M3P and C-RAM final checks prior to NTC Avenger Live Fire Exercise (LFX).

Team's (ABCT) rotation at the National Training Center (NTC) from August to September 2022. The NTC rotation was the first time in over a decade that a full Avenger Battery supported a maneuver BDE and culminated with a Live Fire Exercise (LFX). Lessons learned from C/5-5 ADA's 22-10 NTC rotation forged a path for the Battalion and Branch to deploy the entire 5-5 ADA Battalion, to include both Counter Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) batteries, an Avenger battery, and a platoon of M-LIDS representatives in support of 3/1 Armored BDE Combat Team's (ABCT) 23-06 NTC rotation (March to April 2023). This future operation will be another first for the ADA Branch; C-RAM (LPWS) will deploy and conduct live-fire gunnery at NTC. The lessons learned over the past year in addition to the upcoming opportunities will further emphasize the importance of SHORAD support to the maneuver force and U.S. assets in combat.

Remaining on the cutting edge in support of the Army's modernization priorities, the Dragon Slayer Battalion successfully executed Avenger upgrades and built a bench of Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS) maintainers and operators across multiple 91 series and 94 series MOS during the six-month long LPWS Maintainer NET Training from February to July 2022. Additionally, the Battalion focused efforts on F/S- LIDS, M-LIDS, and other counter-UAS capabilities.

With respect to training readiness over the past year, the Dragon Slayers have trained exactly how we fight! In nesting with the FORSCOM Commander's guidance & intent, the Leaders and Soldiers of the Battalion focused on the safe execution of convoy operations at the platoon and battery level, to include both day and night drivers training, ensuring units remain highly mobile and are able to meet the requirements of the maneuver force both during NTC rotations and in combat operations. Dragon Slayers prioritized mission readiness and gunnery certifications within the annual training strategy. Over the calendar year, the Battalion executed two Avenger Table VIII Gunnery as well as two C-RAM Table XII certifications in order to validate all crews, equipment, and the battalion's ability to

synchronize and integrate across Warfighting Functions. All Dragon Slayer Avenger and C-RAM crews have remained highly proficient in all required metrics throughout the past year maintaining 100% certifications without any crew gaps and "T's" across all METs.

As shown by their historical mission success, continued support to Army modernization, selfless dedication to training others, and unwavering dedication to training readiness, it is clear the Dragon Slayer Battalion remains highly trained, disciplined, and fit to fight and win "To the Last Round!"

4th Battalion, 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In March of 2022, 4th Battalion, 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (4-60 ADA) reactivated under 31st ADA to facilitate expanding air defense capabilities and support to BDE and division combat formations. With its activation, 4-60 ADA became the first M-SHORAD unit based in the



4-60 ADA tracking an aerial target with a FIM-92 Stinger MANPADS during Table VI and Table VIII Gunnery Certification.

continental United States. In the same month, 4-60 ADA also completed Table III certifications on Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS), such as the FIM-92 Stinger, that enabled the unit's completion of Table V and Table VIII Gunnery Certifications later in the year.

In anticipation of the first deliveries of Directed Energy (DE) M-SHORAD Stryker vehicles, 4-60 ADA transferred operational and administrative control to the 1st Armored Division in November of 2022 during a repatching ceremony overseen by British Army Brigadier Richard Bell, the Deputy Commanding General of Maneuver for 1st Armored Division. While 4-60 ADA may no longer wear the 31st ADA patch, the BDE will always maintain a close relationship with the unit as it expands and enhances AIAMD capabilities.

69th Air Defense Artillery BDE

The 69th Air Defense Artillery BDE (ADA BDE) Headquarters' focus in 2022 was multifaceted. The BDE Headquarters executed the 'Top Notch'

mission in the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). This rotational mission was a historic one not only for the BDE, but for all Air Defense Artillery forces. The first engagement by U.S. Patriot forces in almost 19 years happened during this deployment. A crew from Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery (1-44 ADA), engaged a Tactical Ballistic Missile (TBM) above Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates. This experience would be relived exactly one week later when Charlie Battery, 1-44 ADA, fired two interceptors at a TBM.

This engagement provided the BDE with a rare opportunity to refine tactics, techniques, and procedures based on the lessons learned. The vast majority of Air Defense Artillery Soldiers have not fired their weapons system in combat. This newfound combat experience proved to be invaluable to the "Lightning BDE," the Air Defense Artillery community, The United States Army, and the Joint and Multi-National force.



The 69th Air Defense Artillery BDE poses for a photograph after a run. Many units conduct BDE level runs but, this was a momentous and rare opportunity for the 69th. This was the first time in over a decade that the unit had been together at Fort Hood, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Lamont Shavers)

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As part of the 'Top Notch' mission, HHB, 69th ADA BDE was also in charge of U.S. Avenger and Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar (C-RAM) forces in Iraq. These Soldiers were from the 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 174th ADA. These specially trained Field Artillerymen had multiple successful engagements in Iraq.



LTC Gambrell shakes PVT Sailor's hand after giving him his 69th patch. CSM Porter smiles while watching this. The Patching Ceremony takes place every other Friday and is the final event of the Lightning Warrior Integration program. Once the Soldiers receive their unit patch, they are handed off to their sponsors. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Lamont Shavers)



SGT Erick Ceja poses with one of his many coins he received during his awards ceremony. Ceja is the 2022 USO Army Service Member of the Year. To his left is Heather Krauss, the Executive Director of USO San Antonio and Fort Hood. To his right is COL Henry "BJ" Bennett Jr., the Commander of the 69th Air Defense Artillery BDE. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Lamont Shavers)



The Hunters had the distinct opportunity to participate in a successful Combined Live Fire exercise with the Japanese Air Self Defense Force. The Hunters displayed their tactical prowess, communication, and the ability to correlate targets with Combined Partners. The Hunters also participated in a gift exchange with their Japanese counter parts. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Matthew Sannella)

Upon their return to Fort Hood, Texas, the Headquarters and Headquarters "Headhunter" Battery created the Lightning Warrior Integration program. This was a BDE level integration program designed to instill Esprit De Corps and provide education, resources, and mentorship to new personnel based on the experiences of BDE senior leadership and input from across the formation.

12th Missile Defense Battery

12th Missile Defense Battery (12th MDB) conducts CENTCOM's strategical mission at Prince Sultan Air Base (PSAB), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During CY22, 12th MDB continued to solidify their new fighting position in Saudi Arabia. The unit built tactical proficiency through building up the communications infrastructure and working hand in hand with the 378th Air Expeditionary Wing to improve capabilities.

Additionally, the Radar Operators and Sensor Managers developed new Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for the Battery's tactical mission focusing on system performance, crew interoperability, and technical proficiency. Lastly, the Military Police Platoon led the huge effort in running the Battery's first small arms range in Saudi Arabia, qualifying all members on their Law Enforcement Weapons Qualifications, certifying their ability to defend, and run the Battery's Security.



SPC Tejada directs students of Haynes Elementary during the annual Happy Hornet event. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Matthew Sannella)

The Prime Power Platoon led the effort in improving the Battery's position in Saudi Arabia. While conducting constant maintenance of small tactical generators and Prime Power Units they repaired and brought to operation six MEP-810D generators and established a temporary 3 MW medium voltage power plant. The Prime Power Operators went onto assist the Air Force in building and operating three other multiple megawatt power plants on PSAB, sustaining the mission of the entire base. Additionally, the Battery continued to work with the Engineer units in theater to design and build site infrastructure, finalizing plans to build structures to support the Battery for years to come.

Calendar Year 2022 saw large strides in improving Soldier care for the Battery. With the closure of Area Support Group Qatar, the Battery went through the process of identifying new lines of support for everything from drawing CIF to receiving orders. With tremendous support from 3-4 Air Defense Artillery Battalion and 108th Air Defense Artillery BDE, the Battery made significant headway in building lasting solutions for continued Soldier care.



SPC Brugh performs an emplacement drill on the Information Coordination Central during Air Defense Gunnery Table VIII certifications. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Matthew Sannella)

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Over the next calendar year, the Jackal Battery has its sights set on the many ongoing projects such as the transition to hard structure buildings, relocation of the ECP, HTT-M project, installation of the new perimeter security fencing, several solar shade projects, and the growth of the Battery and its Soldiers. The Battery continues to build through certifications achieving six distinguished ratings and three superior rating for their Radar Operators and Sensor Managers. The Battery continues to work through the Expeditionary Wing for Base Defense Exercises. 12th MDB is looking forward to another great year and looks to the many challenges ahead.

HHB, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

HHB/4-5 over the course of the calendar year provided critical support to firing batteries and adjacent units that prepaid units for deployment to EUCOM and CENTCOM. In preparation for deployment to CENTCOM in support of Operation Spartan Shield, HHB conducted two Mission Readiness Exercises (MRE).

From January to March 2022, HHB/4-5 logged a total of 53 days in the field. In January, HHB supported the 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Combat Aviation BDE's MRE, and follow-on deployment to Kosovo. Soldiers participated in a Live Air Trainer (LAT) exercise in conjunction with Bravo 4-5 and the O/C from the 166th aviation regiment. Pilots of the 2-224th practiced radar avoidance training where they flew their aircraft as close to the terrain as possible while HHB/4-5's FDC and Bravo 4-5 acted as an enemy surface-to-air missile platform. Following the success of this exercise, HHB/4-5 continued to stay in the field to support the remaining three firing batteries' Air Defense Gunnery Table (ADGT) VIII.

Upon the completion of the firing batteries' ADGT certification, HHB/4-5 would again be heading to the field, this time in support of the battalion's MRE as well as again working with 166th o/c supporting 3-351st Aviation Regiment's MRE. While HHB was being evaluated on mission command functions and enabling the warfighting firing batteries, the 351st Aviation Regiment's dust-off company was conducting their MRE for their upcoming deployment to UCOM.



Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery prepare to cover their simulated casualty during a training exercise. The 166th Aviation BDE provided helicopters and crews to facilitate Medical Evacuation Training. This training was one part of their final training exercise prior to deploying. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Lamont Shavers)



COL Henry “BJ” Bennett Jr. (left) and CSM Seagram W. Porter pour their select choice of beverage into the grog missile during the Saint Barbara’s Day Ball in December. This event honors the Patron Saint of Air Defense Artillery, Saint Barbara, and Molly Pitcher, a folk hero of the American Revolution. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Lamont Shavers)

With the combination of both MREs provided Soldiers, Medics, Aviators, and staff with realistic scenario-based CASEVAC training. This allowed the integration of all firing batteries within the battalion to perform crucial steps within complex procedures for both day/night scenarios. This combined exercise increased the readiness of both organizations for their upcoming deployments through certification of staff functions, air crews, flight medics, combat medics, and BN Role I operations.

2023, HHD is currently postured in camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in support of Operation Spartan Shield, where the unit provides mission command to enable theater-level air and missile defense. We plan to support our adjacent units and other branches of government to enhance our host nation partners by supporting security cooperation initiatives that will ultimately enable regional security and stability.

HHD, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 69th Air Defense Artillery BDE Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD), “Dusters” stood up on 15 November 2022 and took off running. HHD took the lead on funeral details for the Battalion. HHD Soldiers upheld the highest levels of honor and integrity and received accolades

from family members of departed Soldiers for their professionalism.

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During Holiday block leave HHD was on call at the Fort Hood Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group (ADACG) inspecting and staging mission-critical equipment for over eight STRAT AIR flights and provided 24/7 guards for equipment and sensitive items. From 1 to 31 December HHD assumed responsibility of both the East Range Road and East Range Tactical Access Control Points (ACPs). Although this period coincided with major Holidays, Soldiers manned these ACPs 24/7 through the holiday period.

As the forward elements of the Battalion deployed, HHD ensured that barracks rooms were cleared, baggage transported and loaded, and all deploying soldiers were transported to their required departure destinations. HHD has planned and resourced four trail party flights with more in progress to get essential personnel forward.

A team of highly motivated NCOs from HHD inventoried and re-packed three Sensitive Items containers, then accompanied them to Dover Air Force Base to ensure they were ready for movement forward.

HHD has also worked with the Supply Support Activity (SSA) to collect and organize parts that are needed forward. HHD has already coordinated shipment of mission-critical parts and is continuing to prepare containers to transport the remaining parts.

HHD NCOs and leaders are steadfast in their commitment to Soldiers’ health and welfare. Ensuring Soldiers are obtaining proper medical care and attending doctor appointments. For the senior leaders preparing to retire HHD is also committed to working with them to ensure their transition to the civilian sector is as smooth as possible. HHD continues to serve as a fulcrum of communication between SMs families at home and SMs forward deployed. HHD stands ready to prepare Soldiers and their families for deployment and reintegration upon return of the forward elements of the Battalion. The HHD “Dusters” aim to represent 4-5 ADA as best we can while the Battalion provides air and missile defense

to critical assets across the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

full deployment of equipment and personnel and concluding a successful year.

Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The Alpha Battery Archers hit the ground running to start off CY22, stepping off for the New Year to conduct an internal fourteen day AMD field exercise to prepare for Table VIII certifications in March, which would be followed by the CRF mission in April. 4-5 BN equipment recently returned from reset, so the Archers maintenance team worked hard and remained resilient throughout the field, fixing faults and putting the necessary parts on order to keep the training ongoing. After completing our internal training, Alpha returned to the field the following month in February for more movement training as well as netted air battles with ICC. In the beginning of March, the Archers were able to certify Table VIII with flying colors. All six Launcher mobility crews were a first time "GO", and Alpha was able to certify two up range crews. CRF mission was assumed in April, as 4-5 BN was prepared to rapidly deploy to any location in the world as needed. After completing the 30 day mission, the Archers once again set out in June to recertify for Table VIII and the upcoming deployment to CENTCOM in December/early January. Two completely new ECS crews successfully passed their ABML 11 air battles and Launcher recertified mobility and GMT reload. After our summer block leave in July, Alpha battery in August conducted a Change of Command as well as a Change of Responsibility ceremony, introducing a new Commander and new First Sergeant to the team. With a new command team, the Archers jumped into a battalion MRE in September, establishing our set deployment crews and earning a first time "GO" on the air battle portion for our crew one ECS. ORE and crew three sustainment training was also conducted to ensure mission readiness. After completing the MRE, Alpha started preparations for the mobility portion of our deployment to Bahrain. MPA and DRFF rehearsals were completed October, then certifications of containers for our BII, HAZMAT and SI in November. The Archer ADVON team left for Bahrain on December 26th while main body followed on January 2nd, completing the

Bravo Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Bravo Battery, 4-5 ADA BN had an incredibly successful year taking care of Soldiers and training to win. The Bounty Hunter's successfully conducted Patriot Gunnery Certification for Table VIII and Table XII to validate MOS competency and equipment readiness in Q1. Bravo Battery was the first in the Battalion to successfully pass Table VIII Certifications, enabling 4-5 BN to assume the Global Reaction Force (GRF) mission, enhancing combat readiness and lethality. During CY22, Bravo Battery continuously built tactical and technical proficiency through TACSEMs and battle drills, while also maintaining maintenance and personnel readiness while in a LSCO environment. The Bounty Hunters quickly changed focus and completed a change of command, welcoming the new Bounty Hunter 6, while simultaneously training for AMD recertification. Bravo Battery demonstrated unit cohesion by winning the Renegade Cup during 4-5 BN's annual "Renegade Warrior Week." Continuing to build a winning culture, Bravo Battery leveraged the Fort Hood People First Center to ensure Soldiers were provided top-tier financial readiness and resiliency training.

The Bounty Hunters validated unit readiness during the battalion Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) and subsequent mobility operations prior



Holiday Run for Espirit de Corp. Win the Fight!!!



Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery prepare to cover their simulated casualty during a training exercise. The 166th Aviation BDE provided helicopters and crews to facilitate Medical Evacuation Training. This training was one part of their final training exercise prior to deploying. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Lamont Shavers)

to their deployment to the Central Command Area of Responsibility. B/4-5 ADA stands ready as part of the Renegade Battalion and Team of Winners to continue to strengthen partnerships with our allies in the Gulf Region.

Charlie Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Charlie Battery “Cold Steel”, 4-5 Air Defense Artillery Regiment conducts pre- deployment and deployment operations in support of Air Defense Operations in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR). During CY22, Cold Steel planned and executed a rigorous and in depth training plan to build a cohesive, fully trained team that was proficient in the execution of the upcoming deployment in CY23. Cold Steel conducted Table VIII certifications in July 2022 to certify two crews and to exercise all of the Battery’s equipment and ability to deploy its equipment to conduct AMD operations in an effective manner. The unit succeeded in swiftly certifying its crews and shifted its focus to Soldier readiness and preparation for the upcoming Battalion Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE).

During this time before the MRE, the unit focused heavily on individual readiness.

The unit conducted BN and BTRY level ranges to keep the unit at the highest of individual weapons

proficiency, consistently maintaining over 95% weapon certifications through 2022. During this time the unit also executed the first Record Army Combat Fitness Tests to come in compliance with the Army’s policy. The Cold Steel team went into the BN MRE with high moral and excellent AMD proficiency. This was displayed when C-BTRY was the first to certify and meet all of the commander’s training requirements. After its success in the MRE, the unit aggressively took after pre-deployment activities. Cold Steel prepared all vehicles and equipment for deployment in a quick and organized manner. When it came to ship the items, Cold Steel ran into no issues and all items arrived in Saudi Arabia as desired. C-BTRY wrapped up the year with a block leave period to enable Soldiers to spend time with their family’s. Right after New Years the Battery executed movement to Prince Sultan Air Base with the highest Forward Troop Numbers (FTN) in the Battalion.

Upon arriving on ground, C-BTRY hit the ground running. C-BTRY quickly adapted to the new environment and conducted a deliberate and effective Relief in Place (RIP) with B-3/4. Cold Steel certified three AMD crews and assumed the mission on PSAB, PAT XIV without issue. Only days after the Unit’s assumption of mission,



Soldiers from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, conduct railhead operations. This is one of the ways that the U.S. military transports its vehicles. (Photo by 1-44 Air Defense Artillery Regiment)

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C- BTRY participated in the Red Sands Integration Experimentation Center (RSIEC) #2. During this exercise, the Cold Steel crews again showed their proficiency in their jobs by effectively conducting coordinated engagements against simulated UAS and Cruise Missile attacks on PSAB. During this Joint/Combined exercise, the Soldiers of C-BTRY worked with the PSAB Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) for coordinated UAS engagements and with U.S. Air Force F16s in engaging enemy UAS simulated by Penguin and Reaper UAS.

Leading into the next quarter of the calendar year, C-BTRY is expecting to participate in a variety of Joint and Combined exercises at PSAB to include RSIEC #3 and #4. Charlie continues to conduct their assigned mission at PSAB while improving the Air Defense force by conducting

training with the PSAB BDOC, and the Air Force wing to improve joint mission understanding and help develop a skeleton for Air Defense/Counter UAS operations. Cold Steel maintains a high level of maintenance and Soldier readiness with its team of highly motivated, veteran Soldiers. We are ready to tackle any task or mission in our future and stand prepared for Charlie's assigned mission. We look forward to another eventful and engaging year in the Air Defense Force, and more opportunity to let the Soldier's and Leaders of the Cold Steel Battery shine.

*Swift and Sure!
Team of Winners, Willing
and able, Second to none!*



MG Sean Gainey, the Director of Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office, explains to Soldiers that their actions in defending Al Dhafra Air Base have been seen at the highest of levels in the Army. MG Gainey and SGM David Carr, from the Army's G-3/5/7, wanted to talk to the Soldiers of 1-44 ADA to explain the importance of air defense, answer any questions and to present coins for excellence. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Lamont Shavers)

Delta Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

D Battery, 4-5 ADA BN conducts CENTCOM's strategic mission at PAT VI in Bahrain. During CY22, the Battery trained up and prepared to deploy to Bahrain by conducting everything from tactical operations to overseas equipment and personnel movements. Delta also held a change of responsibility saying goodbye to 1SG Rodriguez and welcoming 1SG Vargas in August 2022 as well as a change of command saying goodbye to CPT Johnston and welcoming CPT Zou in November 2022.

The Diablos built tactical proficiency by being the first to certify in both Table VIII field exercises and supported multiple small arms and CBRN ranges across the Battalion IOT certify Soldiers on their weapons systems and PPE for deployment. Alongside preparing the crews to assume mission, the leadership in Delta supported the needs of Soldiers by sending multiple people through BLC, ALC, SLC and other troop schools to strengthen our forces for deployment. The preparation allowed the battery to successfully deploy and assume mission from 3-4 ADA BN in JAN2023.

Over the next calendar year, the Diablos have plans to improve PAT VI's structure before redeploying through acquiring commercial power cables, paving site roads for easier access for the crews, improving RBLs, and installing perimeter sniper screening to increase site security by working joint force operations with the Navy.

Echo Company, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Echo Company has accomplished many significant feats throughout the year. This includes complete inventories for the Supply Support Activity (SSA), the Battalion Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE), pre-deployment operations, and deployment mission tasks.

The Maintenance Section was also successful during the MRE, with the Field Maintenance Teams (FMTs) supporting the Batteries throughout the exercise. The FMTs conducted emergency services on pacer items, jumps, and continued to keep up with scheduled services. Echo company maintainers completed over

290 services varying from weapons, NVGs, and weapons across the Battalion. Echo Company maintainers also provided wrecker support to the Batteries multiple times throughout all sites. As a result, Echo Company obtained the status of T or T+ in all five of their METL Tasks, including Conduct Expeditionary Deployment Operations, Conduct Supply Stock Control Section Operations, and Perform Missile System Maintenance.

After the MRE, Echo Company spearheaded pre-deployment activities, identifying maintenance needed to be conducted prior to shipment of all Battalion rolling stock, containers, and equipment during Movement Preparation Area Operations. The SSA conducted another 100% inventory across its 2,857 lines for their change of Accountable Officer and to ensure pre-movement accountability. Echo Company supported the Battalion during railhead and linehaul operations before going on Block Leave to spend time with family and friends.

Once Echo Company arrived with ADVON in the theater, soldiers immediately began preparing for the assumption of the mission for split operations by conducting 100% inventories for 2,857 lines at the Kuwait SSA and the 2,767 lines at the Bahrain SSA. The Maintenance Section also readied itself for mission assumption by providing continuous and effective support to all Batteries with only 50% of its personnel strength.

1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

2022 proved to be a historic year for the 1st Battalion 44th Air Defense Artillery, the "Strike First" Battalion was forward deployed to the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM AOR) from May 2021 to April 2022 in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The battalion operated in a geographically split mission set providing air defense coverage to critical assets in the countries of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar.

On January 24th and January 31st, 2022, Houthi Rebels from Yemen launched medium range tactical ballistic missiles (MRBMs) targeting US Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, UAE. While operating under the hostile

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threats, crews from A/1-44 ADA and C/1-44 ADA rapidly executed their wartime functions by engaging the MRBMs with a simultaneous launch of PAC-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) Interceptors. These intercepts were the first U.S. Patriot engagements executed in combat in over 19 years and the first ever combined Patriot and THAAD engagements with an allied nation. The actions taken by the Soldiers in the “Strike First” Battalion prevented the potential loss of countless lives of Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians forward stationed on Al Dhafra Air Base, including loss or damage to USCENTCOM critical assets.

Following the deployment, the battalion conducted modernization of the Patriot weapon system and focused efforts on individual training. The “Strike First” Soldiers qualified on both individual and crew served weapons, developed proficiency on Army Warrior Tasks by way of an extensive Leaders Time Training program, and maximized school opportunities for both Professional Military Education and unit readiness. 1-44 ADA finished off the 2022 calendar year conducting buyback of the ICC and some of the FDC air defense equipment to start Air Defense Gunnery Training for the FDC Soldiers and prepare for the next training window.

1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Throughout 2022 the “Aim High” battalion has set the example in modernization efforts, air and missile defense readiness, and investing in people. The Hunters began 2022 with an emphasis on individual readiness. The battalion successfully achieved a 100 percent readiness rate on all individual assigned weapons and Air Defense Gunnery Tables (ADGTs) I-IV while simultaneously performing a Maintenance Stand-down on all conventional equipment. The unit successfully executed buy-back of its tactical equipment back from Letterkenny Army Depot following reset in June. 1-62 Air Defense Artillery battalion developed a Pre-Patriot Master Gunner and Pre-Top Gun course which led to the five Patriot Master Gunners and two distinguished graduates for the 2022 Patriot Top Gun class.

The Soldiers of the Aim High battalion hit the ground running upon the return of equipment as units immediately began to train and certify collective Air Defense Gunnery Tables V-VIII. Throughout August and September, the Hunters were at the forefront of Air and Missile Defense modernization efforts as equipment was upgraded to Post Deployment Build 8.0.6, and the battalion participated in the Limited User Testing for Post Deployment Build 8.1 in White Sands Missile Range, NM. At the conclusion of Limited User Testing, 1-62 ADA BN participated in a Combined Live Fire Exercise at McGregor Range with the Japanese Air Self Defense Force in October. The Aim High battalion successfully strengthened bonds with United States allies while demonstrating power and cohesiveness to enemies. The battalion completed all Air Defense Gunnery Table VIII Certifications in December to set the battalion on glide path for its follow-on battalion Field Training Exercise, and Mission Rehearsal Exercise. B-62 THAAD performed its Culminating Training Exercise in September in conjunction with the battalion Staff Exercise to prepare the unit for its mission assumption on 01 October 2022.

The Aim High Battalion spearheaded people first initiatives during 2022 with an emphasis on spreading influence through the Central Texas region. The Hunters executed its adopt-a-school initiative with Haynes Elementary School in which the battalion sponsors an event every Friday for Soldiers to interact with Elementary School children. The battalion was recognized for its efforts by III Corps as leading all units on Fort Hood and was selected to host “a Day in the Life of a Soldier”. The event included over 60 High School students shadowed Soldiers of the Aim High battalion to experience what a Soldier goes through in their day-to-day activities. The Hunters also extended their influence onto cadets at the United States Military Academy in which 1-62 ADA BN was chosen to represent the Air Defense Artillery at Branch Week. The Aim High battalion also executed “Bandit University” where professors from Central Texas College travel to the battery’s area to host college courses for interested Soldiers. 1-62 ADA BN also hosted opportunities for Soldiers to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB) and the Expert Soldier Badge (ESB), resulting in four ESB and eight GAFPB recipients.

108th Air Defense Artillery BDE

Answering the Nation's call, the 108th Air Defense Artillery BDE (108th ADA) Headquarters focused its efforts in 2022 on preparation and assumption of the Top Notch BDE Air and Missile Defense (AMD) mission within the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR). The BDE Headquarters trained and deployed 3-4 ADA and 2-44 to the CENTCOM AOR, redeployed and reintegrated 1-7 ADA after a very successful nine-month deployment to the CENTCOM AOR, and supported XVIII Airborne Corps' air defense proficiencies through our Air and Missile Defense and Air Management (ADAM) Cell Mentorship program and Stinger Team Training (STT) for non-standard Stinger teams residing in the BDE Combat Teams.

To prepare for the BDE's upcoming deployment, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB) conducted a series of training events that culminated in a Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) in March. The MRE certified that the 108th ADA Staff was ready to assume the Top Notch AMD mission in CENTCOM. Soldiers responded rapidly to dynamic and complex scenarios that tested their ability to adapt and make decisions in an ever-

changing environment based on adversary capabilities with one-way attack Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Tactical Ballistic Missiles. Upon successful completion of the MRE, the Headquarters completed final preparations and deployed in May and quickly assumed mission in theater.

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Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Air Defense Artillery BDE gather after completing a esprit de corps 5K run. (Photo by CPT Calvin Whitaker, HHB 108th ADA BDE)



Soldiers from Echo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment awaiting their turn for an Avenger live fire exercise. (Photo by CPT Calvin Whitaker, HHB 108th ADA BDE)

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From 21 May 2022 – 11 February 2023, the Soldiers of the 108th Air Defense Artillery BDE (108th ADA) Headquarters were vital to the required posture and operations in the region. The mission of the 108th ADA BDE Headquarters was to synchronize, resource, and plan for the defense against air, missile, and indirect fire threats targeting U.S. assets and personnel in the region while working hand-in-hand with our Partners in the region to increase AMD integration. The BDE headquarters provided critical air defense coverage supporting the Combatant Commander's theater-strategic lines of effort. The Air and Missile Defense (AMD) mission is the cornerstone of the Commander's priorities for USCENTCOM and is crucial in providing freedom of action and freedom of maneuver to U.S. and Allied forces. Throughout the nine-month rotation, the BDE remained vigilantly postured to counter enemy Tactical Ballistic Missiles (TBMs), Unmanned Aerial



Soldiers continue training on the Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar Intercept Land-based Phalanx Weapon System. (Photo courtesy of 2nd Battalion, 44th Field Artillery Regiment)

Systems (UAS), and Land-Attack Cruise Missiles (LACMs) as well as Air-Breathing Threats (ABTs) throughout the Southwest Asia area of operations.

While operating as Top Notch, the BDE's assigned forces spanned over seven countries:



LTC Ian MacNab completes a front squat with the assistance of Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) coaches. (Photo by CPT Calvin Whitaker, HHB 108th ADA BDE)



Strike Fear Soldiers learn the intricacies the CH-47 Chinook during Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (Photo courtesy of 2nd Battalion, 44th Field Artillery Regiment)



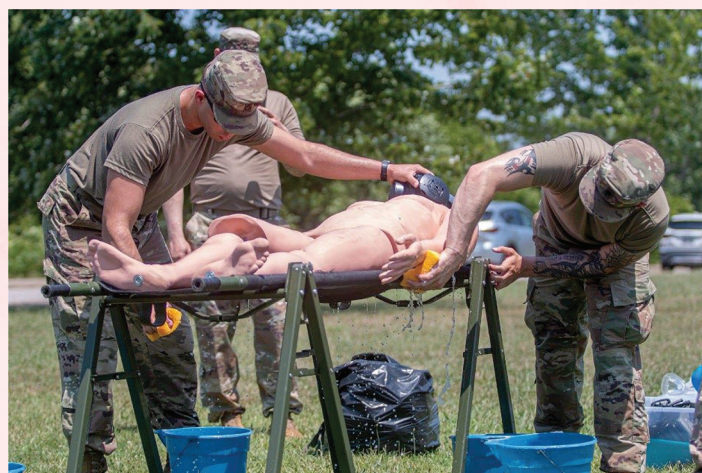
Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 2d Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment participate in Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction System (SPIES) training and low-cost low-altitude (LCLA) aerial delivery training.

UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Kuwait, and Iraq with Air Defense assets postured to defend USCENTCOM and the host nation's critical assets. The deployment was a dynamic



Soldier from Charlie Battery, 2d Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment train Soldiers from 101st Airborne Division on Stinger Operations. (Photo by CPT Calvin Whitaker, HHB 108th ADA BDE)

and fluid operating environment, with the BDE supporting two major named operations to include units in combat. Throughout the two named operations, 108th ADA BDE expanded theater capability supporting Operation Inherent Resolve



The Strike Fear battalion continues to promote MOS proficiency with on-going training such as the medics who are treating a simulated casualty. (Photo courtesy of 2nd Battalion, 44th Field Artillery Regiment)

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(OIR) with Counter-small Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-sUAS) and Counter-Rocket and Anti-Mortar (C-RAM) capabilities in previously never established locations. The BDE also conducted over 65 different key engagements that fostered and improved Joint and Combined AMD operations.

While 108th ADA Headquarters efforts focused on mission readiness as Top Notch, training readiness remained integral to the unit's success for the remainder 2022. In January, the BDE coordinated and executed the first Stinger Live-Fire Exercise at Camp Lejeune, NC in over five years, certifying Echo 3-4 ADA Avenger Crews to Table XII gunnery standards and validating their ability to heavy drop an Avenger from a C-130 aircraft. Later that month, E/3-4 ADA would be ordered to deploy to the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) AOR in support of NATO allies as Russia began its invasion of Ukraine in late February. In April the BDE deployed 3-4 ADA to CENTCOM to replace 1-7 ADA, who returned home in May after completing its assigned mission. As UAS attacks increased in CENTCOM, the 108th ADA was again called upon to deploy contingent forces from 2-44 ADA to supplant current U.S. defense posture and bolster Short-Range Air Defense (SHAORD) capabilities in the region. Simply put, the 108th ADA retained a deployed presence for the entirety of 2022.

In response to the increasing UAS threat to maneuver forces, the 108th ADA has utilized its tenant relationship on Fort Bragg, NC with the XVIII Airborne Corps to better train the subordinate Divisions and BDEs such as the 82d Airborne Division and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) on the Counter Small-UAS (C-sUAS) fight. The two Avenger batteries within the 108th ADA, E/3-4 ADA and C/2-44 ADA directly tied in their platoons to the 82d Airborne Division and 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), respectively, for training and supported Joint Readiness Training Center rotations on a regular basis, to include three total rotations in April, August, and September providing critically needed Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) capability. 3-4 ADA and 2-44 ADA Avenger Master Gunners and other tactical experts worked with both the Division and BDE Combat Team ADAM cells to



CPT DanoBancong from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Air Defense Artillery BDE work with Jordanian Soldiers while assigned to Top Notch BDE. (Photo by CPT Zachary Cochran, HHB 108th ADA BDE)

train the assigned Air Defenders and develop standard tactics, techniques, and procedures across the XVIII Airborne Corps to enable more capable ADAM cells. These units also conducted STT for subordinate commands across XVIII Airborne Corps to train new Soldiers and retrain non-dedicated Stinger Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) holders to bolster SHORAD capabilities in those formations.

2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, "Strike Fear," completed a busy year executing multiple culminating training events, leadership changeovers, and readiness exercises designed to maintain the battalion's proficiency and rapid deployment capability. Battalion training focused on getting back to the basics, building a collective understanding through cross-leveling MOS proficiency, and realistic training designed to stress everyday systems

in Large Scale Combat Operations. In doing so, the Strike Fear battalion built a solid foundation to enhance leaders for tomorrow's challenges while innovating for modern formations. The 2-44th ADAR continues to provide a unit ready and able to deploy worldwide to sense, warn and destroy enemy Rocket, Artillery, Mortars, and Air Breathing Threats in defense of the Designated Asset List.

In October 2021, the battalion executed its first culminating training event and Counter RAM Live Fire Exercise at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Alpha and Bravo Battery took turns engaging live rockets, mortars, and for the first time at Fort Campbell, Unmanned Aerial Systems with the Land Based Phalanx Weapon System. During this event, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and the battalion staff executed a simulated staff exercise to mimic scenario command and control across

a battlefield in support of a maneuver division. The exercise provided staff injects, real-time battle tracking, and evaluation feedback to further develop Standard Operation Procedures and TTPs. Delta Company's participation in the Live Fire Exercise consisted of sling loading equipment to and from their training area, conducting recovery operations in contact, executing field maintenance, and refining site security in a simulated austere environment.

In January, Charlie Battery, Avengers, took monumental steps toward the re-integration of Short-Range Air Defense into maneuver units across the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division. Armed with lessons learned from a Joint Readiness Training Center rotation to end fiscal year 21 with 3rd BDE Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division,



A Soldier puts their helmet back on after donning their mask during exercises at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (Photo Courtesy of 2nd Battalion, 44th Field Artillery Regiment)

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the battery shifted its mission toward aligning a platoon with Sentinel Radar to each of the three BCTs; 1BCT “Bastogne,” 2BCT “Strike,” and 3BCT “Rakkasans.” The inject point in each BDE shifted from the BDE Engineer Battalion or BDE Sustainment Battalion to attaching the platoon to each Field Artillery Battalion. This alignment empowered Avenger platoon leaders to become a part of battle rhythm events at the battalion level, including training meetings, physical fitness activities, and unit organizational days. Field Manual 3-01.44 defines relationships between a BCT and battery and the subsequent support required. With the habitual relationship established, Charlie Battery aided in rebuilding the relationships with maneuver units that had been neglected by both maneuver and air defense formations. Major training events, including two sequential JRTC exercises, air assault and sling load missions, and hosting BCT leadership at Table VIII Gunnery, helped educate maneuver leaders and solidified integration.

An important line of effort for the Strike Fear Battalion is the creation of the Air Defense and Airspace Management cell mentorship program. The education of the undermanned and underutilized ADAM cells helped codify the integration of short-range air defense during field exercises, Combined Training Center rotations and

prepare the ADAM cells to fulfill their intended role for BCT commanders. The program began through efforts to level the tactical and technical competencies of each BCT ADAM cell. Over many integrated training events, the ADAM cells have increased their efficiency in de-conflicting airspace in support of the common operating picture. ADAM Cells have also begun participating in unit-level training exercises, including IFPC live fires and Avenger gunnery. The mentorship program, led by members within the battalion, cultivates expertise and establishes and refines TTPs, further developing relationships and growing the capability and capacity for the ADAM Cells at the BCT and division level. Conceptually proven at Fort Campbell, at the direction of the 108th ADA BDE commander, this pilot program is quickly expanding to the rest of the XVIII Airborne Corps’ divisions and has the potential to grow even further.

In conjunction with Charlie Battery efforts and the ADAM cell mentorship program, the Strike Fear Battalion continues to integrate, innovate and develop enduring solutions to SHORAD training within the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division, Fort Campbell, Ky, as well as working to assist the other divisions within XVIII Airborne Corps. The battalion diligently conducted Stinger Academies with BDE Combat Teams of both the 101st and 82nd Division, retraining non-dedicated Stinger ASI holders and training new Soldiers in the proper employment of SHORAD as a force multiplier. Additionally, 2-44th ADAR continues to foster relationships with 5th Special Forces Group, in tactical training, SHORAD information sharing, and MOS proficiency building.

In May 2022, the battalion participated in Roving Sands 22 at Fort Bliss, Texas, a first for 2-44th ADAR. Alpha and Charlie Battery designed, implemented, and executed SHORAD defense design in a non-permissive environment while integrating into the Patriot and THAAD communications network. Throughout the 10-day exercise, Alpha and Charlie Battery notionally destroyed multiple hostile UAS and RAM and implemented a base ground defense against opposing forces. Charlie Battery focused on platoon-level operations, resupplying isolated crews in austere environments, and defending large stretches of high-speed avenues of approach. Alpha Battery executed two successful



Soldiers conduct night sling load operations at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (Photo courtesy of 2nd Battalion, 44th Field Artillery Regiment)

base defense designs, jumping from one location to another to increase survivability and enhance protection in support of Corps assets. Overall, participation in Roving Sands validated the battalion's expeditionary deployment capability and readiness to meet the needs of Combatant Commanders abroad.

The Strike Fear battalion relentlessly pursues tactical and technical competency. Within the past year, the battalion conducted three Avenger Table VIII Gunnery certifications, one of which was the first combined Table VIII between C/2-44th and E/3-4th ADA. Charlie and Echo certified over 22 crews and conducted cross-training within the platoon evaluations. Alpha Battery executed an additional internal IFPC Table XII live-fire, independent of contractor support, validating internal maintainer capabilities. Bravo Battery facilitated the train-up and certification of 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment and served as Observer, Coach, Trainers (OC/T) for 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Mission Readiness Exercise. Furthermore, Bravo developed Counter-UAS focused training, implementing such training into IFPC Table VIII certifications by prioritizing the air battle focus. Finally, Delta Company continues to refine its maintenance operations in dynamic environments by implementing reoccurring field training exercises and supporting all batteries at culminating training events.

Championing Air Assault culture, the battalion continually increases tactical readiness and capability while cementing the unit's proud legacy at Fort Campbell. Throughout the past year, the battalion significantly increased its number of Air Assault and Pathfinder graduates while participating in deliberate training involving the special required skills. For the first time in 12 years, the unit conducted a sling load with the

Avenger weapon system at Fort Campbell. Alpha Battery coordinated for a Mobile Training Team to certify individuals across the formation in low-cost, low altitude resupply drops. Encouraging this combat multiplier is one of the main reasons this unit is recognized across post as the only SHORAD with Air Assault proficiency in the active forces. The ability to move combat power, resupply, and troops by rotary winged assets, is paramount in the evolving, fast-paced combat environment.

The 2-44th ADAR continues to integrate, innovate and develop enduring solutions to SHORAD training within the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division and Fort Campbell at the direction of 108th ADA BDE and 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The battalion diligently conducts Stinger Academies with the BDE Combat Teams throughout XVIII Airborne Corps, recertifying ASI holders and training new Soldiers in the proper employment of SHORAD as a force multiplier. Moreover, 2-44th ADAR continues to foster relationships with 5th Special Forces Group in tactical training, SHORAD information sharing, and MOS proficiency building. The battalion has solidified its relationship with the only Air Assault division in the world by consistently developing solutions, embracing a ready and resilient mentality, and building a force conditioned to dominate any mission tasked.

3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Following a culminating training event in October 2021, the 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment assumed an Immediate Response Force mission Nov. 1, 2021. The battalion remained on IRF until the beginning of December.



Left: Bravo "Bulls" Battery conduct a reenlistment on the PSAB flight line. Center: Charlie "Cold Steel" Battery host members of the French Armed forces at their site at Camp Arifjan. Right: Bravo "Bulls" Battery on the PSAB flight line.

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In late November, the Skystrikers were also officially notified that they would deploy to the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility in April 2022, replacing their sister battalion, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Following this notification, training emphasis shifted from maintaining tactical crews through IRF to preparing for deployment. Accordingly, the battalion adjusted its training plan and associated timeline to reset tactical crews across the organization and complete all Patriot gunnery certification requirements before mission assumption. Simultaneously, the 3-4th ADAR Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and staff trained on Staff Battle Drills and Tactical Operations Center mobilization by conducting a staff exercise in December 2021.

Following holiday block leave in January 2022, the 3-4th ADAR S6 team conducted an in-depth Communications University to develop and validate the ability to utilize and troubleshoot individual and crew-level communications equipment. Immediately following the Communications University, the Fire Direction Center and Standardization teams conducted an extensive two-week Patriot University, consisting of a variety of classroom instruction, practical exercises, and tactical seminars to create a shared understanding of the Patriot weapon systems and baseline tactical knowledge culminating with gunnery Table IV. Together, these two programs allowed the unit to build deliberately toward



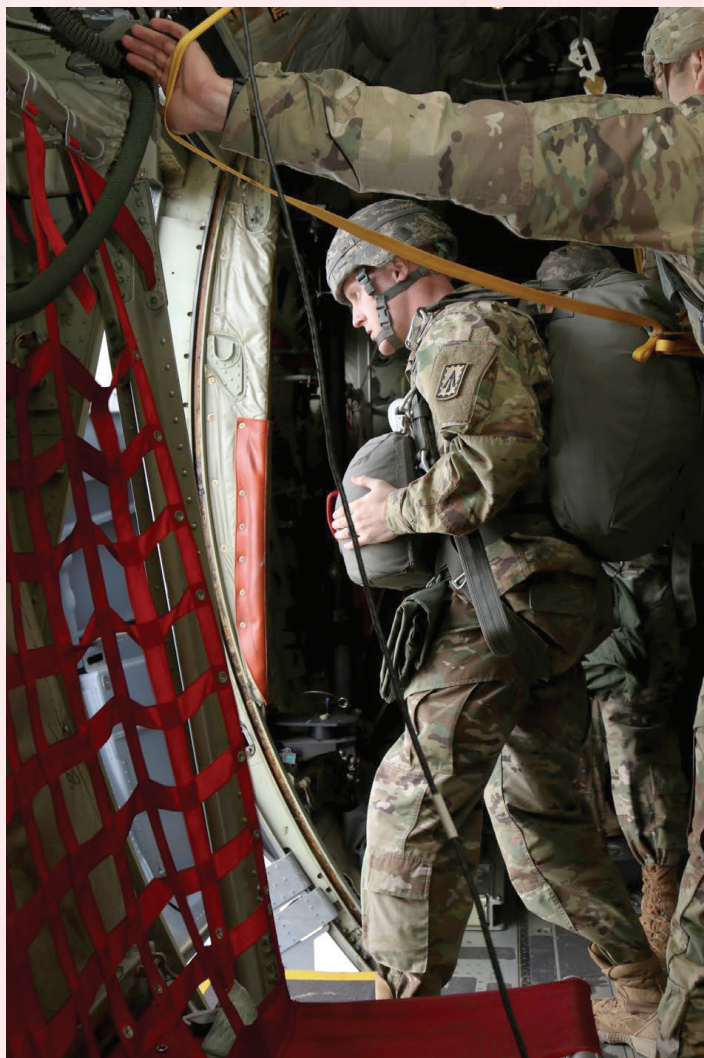
Above : The Skystrikers execute their Mission Rehearsal Exercise prior to Deployment.

gunnery certifications during AMD crew rebuild and abbreviated training space.

Fire units conducted Table VIII gunnery certifications, at the battery level, throughout February 2022. These efforts culminated in



The Skystrikers execute their casing ceremony in preparation for the upcoming deployment.



Soldiers from Echo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment conduct airborne operations. (Photo by CPT Calvin Whitaker, HHB 108th ADA BDE)

a battalion-level Mission Rehearsal Exercise in March 2022 as the final validation of the unit's air and missile defense proficiency before deployment. Using a variety of training areas in the vicinity of Fort Bragg, 3-4th ADAR conducted sustained AMD operations while receiving external evaluation from 108th Air Defense Artillery BDE leaders and others across 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

In April 2022, 3-4th ADAR deployed to CENTCOM to support Operation Spartan Shield. The 3-4th ADAR's tactical mission set spanned three countries: Kuwait, Bahrain, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The battalion executed a Relief in Place with 1-7th ADA, leading up to the Transfer of Authority in May 2022. Echo Battery, 3-4th ADAR assumed a rotational Avenger Platoon mission in the United States European Command AOR

beginning in February 2022 and did not deploy with the remainder of the battalion.

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Soldiers from Echo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment conduct airborne operations. (Photo by CPT Calvin Whitaker, HHB 108th ADA BDE)



Soldiers from Echo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment conduct airborne operations. (Photo by CPT Calvin Whitaker, HHB 108th ADA BDE)

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The battalion could only have executed its mission set with its newly formed relationships with joint and host nation partners. In Bahrain, the battalion, supported by the *Death Stalkers* U.S. Naval Squadron and the Royal Bahrain Air Force and Bahrain Defense Force, enabled the shipment and receipt of critical equipment and personnel. In Kuwait, 3-4th ADAR worked with the Kuwait Air Defense Force and Air Force in several working groups to facilitate airspace deconfliction and synchronize Integrated Air and Missile Defense efforts. In Saudi Arabia, the Skystrikers worked alongside the 378th Air Expeditionary Wing, integrating with the Wing Operations Center and conducting base defense exercises, as well as with the Royal Saudi Air Force, in supporting early warning through the Central Sector Operations Center. Additionally, the battalion relied on numerous external enablers who provided diplomatic clearances and expedited parts movement while ensuring the readiness of 3-4th ADAR Soldiers and mission. The 3-4th ADAR fostered these

relationships throughout the deployment to increase its operational capabilities.

While defending our assigned critical assets, the Skystrikers had the opportunity to host numerous VIPs. The commander of United States Central Command (GEN Kurilla) and the commanders of the primary operational-level commands we work with, United States Army Central LTG Patrick D. Frank and the United States Air Force Central, LTG Michael “Erik” Kurilla, among many others, all visited our Patriot sites. All tactical crews completed modified Table XII evaluations, with 67% certifying on the first attempt. Alpha Battery, crew one, was recognized as the best crew within the Top Notch BDE. The Skystrikers also completed a mass interceptor turn-in from all Patriot tactical sites. Missile turn-ins of this scale take place roughly every 10 years. This one incorporated the highly coordinated movement of 27 interceptors between all Patriot site locations in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia. The mission was successful, in part due to the ability of the battalion to leverage support from its joint and host nation partners.



Soldier from Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment conduct Patriot site setup operations during an MRE. (Photo by CPT Calvin Whitaker, HHB 108th ADA BDE)



A member of Bravo "Bulls" Battery performs a reload drill.



A member of Delta "Dawg" Battery performs a reload drill.

For the duration of 3-4th ADAR's nine-month deployment, the battalion provided a deterrent against hostile action by U.S. adversaries in the region while defending strategically important geopolitical assets deemed critical by the CENTCOM commander. Despite manning challenges, the battalion certified and maintained three Patriot crews at all tactical sites along with the battalion command and control node for the mission's duration. These crews demonstrated their tactical competence through numerous Operational Readiness Evaluations conducted by the 3-4th ADAR team, Transition to War Exercises directed by higher echelon units, and modified Table XII gunnery certifications

enabled by 4-3rd ADA evaluators. The Soldiers of 3-4th ADAR's tactical competency matched their focus on equipment readiness. The battalion performed critical Missile Segment Enhancement upgrades throughout three countries without a single failed interceptor.

Additionally, 3-4th ADAR conducted the first in-theater post-deployment build up-grade. It utilized the Dismounted Patriot Information Coordination Central to upgrade the system without losing command and control of subordinate units or asset coverage. Following a highly successful deployment and a host of unit accolades, the battalion is slated to redeploy all personnel and equipment to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, early 2023.

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"The most successful Warrant Officers are the ones who act as the unit Ombudsman -- for maintenance, logistics, personnel, and training. They understand the standards, procedures, and processes, and are tireless in pursuit of mission accomplishment. The best Warrant Officers are part of a vast professional and personal network that can be relied upon 24/7 to work issues. Their advice, recommendations, and counsel is unvarnished, and they are as at ease working with Privates and 2LT's as they are with CSMs and Generals."

— LTG Karbler



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National Guard 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, continues to provide air defense support throughout the United States and Europe. The year 2022 was no difference in their continued vigilance in keeping the skies safe from air borne threats.

During Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, 2022, the 263rd AAMDC participated in exercise Keen Edge. This exercise enhances cooperation between Japan and the United States. The 263rd AAMDC helped by provide air defense support, working with Joint Forces during the exercise, at Sea Dragon Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The 263rd AAMDC is integral in providing Patriot missile training through the Patriot Training Program and expertise in the Avenger missile system.

February allowed the opportunity for a subordinate unit the 1-178th Field Artillery Regiment (FA BN), to put forward their skills and shine as they conduct a live-fire training exercise, Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The event focused on the employment of crew-served weapons, for mounted as well as dismounted operations, and the overall readiness to the unit.

The month of March held new experiences for many of the South Carolina natives as they traveled to Alaska for ARCTIC EDGE 22 (AE 22). Hosted by Alaskan Command, the bi-national, multi-service exercise reaffirms the commitment in the defense of North America. AE22 highlighted a first for Alaska, with the 263rd AAMDC deploying the Patriot (MIM-104) air defense system, while the USS Curtis Wilbur providing command and control for air defense assets in Dutch Harbor.

As the 263rd AAMDC reset from AE 22 in April, its subordinate units continued to drive ahead. The 678th Air Defense Artillery BDE (ADA BDE) conducted a deployment ceremony mobilizing in support of the European Deterrence Initiative and providing mission command and integrated ADA BDE operations to subordinate air defense units. The "Kings of the Battle Field", the 1-178th FA BN, conducted live fire maneuvers during annual training in Fort Stewart, Georgia. At Fort Stewart, the Soldiers demonstrated the explosive firepower of the M109A6 Paladin Self Propelled Howitzer, both day and night, while perfecting their skills on firing tables and direct fire lanes. Also preparing for a mobilization, Battery C, 2-263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion (ADA BN) conducted pre-mobilization training exercise America's Shield. The training consisted of providing short-range air defense (SHORAD), where the Soldiers tracked simulated and live aircraft representing real-world threats.



With the completion of their training and validation complete, members of the 2-263rd ADA BN conducted a mobilization departure ceremony. These Air Defense Soldiers were mobilizing to the Washington D.C area supporting Homeland Defense as part of Operation Noble Eagle.

The 678th ADA BDE, commanded by COL John Wilson, executed a pass and review during a change of command ceremony, July 12, 2022 at Sembach Kaserne, Germany. This is the third iteration for the 678th ADA BDE as the Mission Command Element (MCE) to the European Theater since 2018.

August was an important month for the South Carolina National Guard and its Air Defenders. Individuals from the 263rd AAMDC, 678th ADA BDE, 2-263 ADA BN and the 1-178th FA BN, attended a ribbon-cutting event conducted for the renovations of Battery B, 2-263rd ADA BN. In attendance were U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, South Carolina State Senator Thomas Alexander, South Carolina State Representative Neal Collins U.S. Army



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Maj. Gen R. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for the South Carolina National Guard, and U.S. Army MG Frank Rice, commander 263rd AAMDC.

Senator Graham spoke on the incredible history of the battalion, celebrating of the renovation. Graham cited, to build a new facility, it would have cost over \$25 million. This renovation cost approximately \$4 million. The renovation is a complete transformation of the unit, providing an updated, state of the art facility for the Upstate Air Defenders. McCarty and Rice both praised the efforts of this BN in the dedication to the remodeling of the facility, the dedication to their ongoing professionalism and the dedication of the 200 air defenders currently serving in the National Capitol Region.

The 263rd AAMDC continued pressing forward as they worked with Air Force North and Air Force Space (CONR-1AF), by providing two U.S. Army Improved Sentinel Radars, a National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) launcher, a Command and Control (C2) mobile suite, along with approximately 70 support personnel for an air defense demonstration on Tyndall Air Force Base. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Richard A. Wholey Jr., 263rd AAMDC deputy commander kicked off the demonstration at a radar location located on Tyndall. September also brought about a continued collaborating with Clemson University and their International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR). The 263rd AAMDC provided Soldiers to the ICAR program as the subject matter experts for the Deep Orange program, which is helping develop the next generation of military vehicles. The current Deep Orange 15 program uses private investments with State and Army funds, blending engineering expertise with the 263rd AAMDC experience. The engineers will compress a normal three to seven year process into a two and a half year program using input from military personnel, helping in the development of land driven vehicles for military use in austere environments. The AAMDC soldiers discussed military vehicle applications with the engineer students and escorted the students in the identification of grades, banks streams and step-over height obstacles, learning how these obstacles may apply to military vehicle movement. The AAMDC will continue to collaborate with the CU-ICAR program over the next few years.

Finishing out the month of October, the 263rd AAMDC hosts its annual Memorial Run, in Anderson, South Carolina. This annual event is to honor and remember those service members that have fallen or passed.

Providing air defense assets for North America and in Europe, keep the 263rd AAMDC and its subordinate units busy. Their annual training and multiple exercises throughout the year, keep their Soldiers well trained, vigilant and at the pinnacle of readiness in providing "America's Shield."

164th Air Defense Artillery BDE

The Soldiers of the 164th Air Defense Artillery BDE remain a ready, combat-credible force. Their achievements this year are evidence of their readiness and unrelenting commitment to duty.

In the summer, the 164th Air Defense Artillery BDE headquarters returned from a year-long deployment to Germany in support of the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI), where they served as the mission command element (MCE) for active duty air defense units throughout Europe under the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC). Their mission ensured continuity of operations and continuous mission command for assigned units throughout the European theater. While deployed for this second rotation, they conducted multinational training events with allied and partner militaries and supported real-world missions.

The EDI mission enables the United States to enhance the U.S. deterrence posture, increase the readiness and responsiveness of U.S. forces

in Europe, support the collective defense and security of NATO allies, and bolster the security and capacity of U.S. allies and partners. Through bilateral, joint and multinational training, the air defense mission command element builds readiness, increases interoperability and enhances the bond between ally and partner militaries.

In September, the 164th ADA BDE was activated in response to Hurricane Ian. The BDE, under the command of COL Adam M. Curry, was the main effort in supporting the devastated southwest region of Florida. Soldiers completed several missions to include law enforcement support and running points of distribution.

174th Air Defense Artillery BDE

Throughout 2022, Soldiers of the 174th Air Defense Artillery BDE were mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle and prepared for mobilization in support of Operation European Assure Deter and Reinforce.

After returning from Europe in 2021, the 174th ADA BDE Headquarters quickly began preparing for their mission to the National Capitol Region



A photo of an Avenger Launching Station in Erbil, Iraq. 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery is a unit in the Ohio National Guard. The Avenger forces in Erbil, at the time, were commanded by CPT Jason Mcnamara. (U.S. Army photo by SGT Lamont Shavers)

and deployed in March of 2022. While on mission they provided mission command to the Short Range Air Defense sites located throughout Washington, D.C. Simultaneously, the BDE began preparation for mobilization back to Europe as the likely final Mission Command Element from the National Guard. Part of the training and preparation included an upgrade of Command Post Systems to better integrate with elements forward in Europe and prepare the BDE to operate as part of the Army of 2030.

In the summer, elements of the headquarters participated in the Ohio Army National Guard's Strategic Partnership Program with Hungary and conducted an advanced Military Decision Making Process training session with elements of the 12th Surface to Air Missile Wing in Győr, Hungary. This partnership has been in place since 2017 and continues to deepen as the units increase training post-COVID.

The BDE also supported domestic operations providing over 300 Soldiers in support of Governor missions across Ohio. These operations included support to Ohio's hospitals, prisons and food banks.

1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery, began the year preparing for conducting Exercise Northern Strike 22-02 and National Training Center 22-08 (NTC). Training objectives for assigned Federal Mission quickly shifted to real-world support of Ohio's COVID-19 response. 173 1-174th ADAR Soldiers performed various duties in Hospitals around the State, predominately in their own local communities. The Battalion also participated in Exercise Northern Strike at Camp Grayling, MI to combine w/ 174th ADA BDE in order to provide local air picture for 37th IBCT as they prepared to mobilize to CENTCOM. 1-174 remained committed to NTC Rotation 22-08, sending B-BTRY1-174 to Fort Irwin, CA in support of PAARNG 56th SBTC. 1-174th primary missions at NTC 22-08 included providing short range air defense against enemy UAV/RPV, fixed/rotary wing, and disseminating early warning to maneuver forces. These missions provided a wide range of skills and experiences the 1-174th Soldiers that will continue to pay dividends for years to come. Immediately following NTC 22-

08, 1-174 shifted focus to pre-mobilization training in support of Operation Noble Eagles National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense Mission (NCR-IADS). During shift of training focuses and mission sets, 1-174 remained resilient and focused on maintenance, achieving an average of 98.2% on Command Maintenance Inspections.

2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Throughout 2022, Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery were mobilized in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Atlantic Resolve.

C BTRY, 2-174 ADA Battalion returned from CENTCOM in July of 2022 having successfully completed their mission to provide short range air defense of critical assets against unmanned aerial systems and cruise missiles as part of an integrated Air Defense System. C Battery's technical and tactical prowess was a catalyst to OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE. C/2-174 provided Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) capabilities and executed operations to detect and defeat Advanced Conventional Weapons (ACW) of the Islamic State at two geographically separate logistical HUBs in Iraq. C Battery's commitment to mission readiness resulted in the successful engagement and destruction of a one-way ACW at Al Asad Air Base, the second-ever combat engagement of an enemy ACW by the Avenger Weapon System and the first-ever by a National Guard unit. C/2-174 was personally recognized by the CENTCOM Commanding General and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. C BTRY was also honored to receive the Major General Alexander Hamilton Award for superior performance and overall excellence. The unit redeployed in July 2022, and has now reintegrated into the 2-174 ADA Battalion.

B BTRY, 2-174 ADA Battalion deployed to EUCOM in May of 2022, and currently provides protection capability for two geographically separated Battalion and BDE elements, Enhanced Force Protection (eFP) Battlegroups, and over 1000 NATO Allies, U.S. Soldiers, and contractors. The unit has established system integration in

support of the Divisional Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, providing Air Picture and Early Warning capabilities throughout

the Baltic states. In addition to the real-world Air Defense Early Warning mission in European Command (EUCOM), B BTRY has maximized training opportunities alongside multinational and U.S. Army units, taking advantage of every joint exercise afforded. The unit became the first Avenger Battery to use Mode-5 IFF successfully and effectively in cross training with a Combat Aviation Battalion. Additionally, B/2-174th's requisition and use of dual-channel, simultaneous send and receive capable L3 Harris Falcon AN/PRC-158 Radios is revolutionizing the capabilities of Short-Range Air Defense Systems (SHORAD), effectively re-writing doctrine as they operate across geographic distances spanning beyond line of sight. After spending 10 months in EUCOM, B/2-174 is scheduled to redeploy to their home station of McConnellsville, Ohio in April, 2023.

678th Air Defense Artillery BDE

Four months after Russian troops crossed into sovereign Ukrainian territory, Soldiers from the 678th Air Defense Artillery BDE deployed to Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany, in June 2022 to support and reassure our Allies, reinforce NATO's Eastern flank, deter any further Russian aggression. This strategic deployment was unprecedented in its occurrence during times of crisis and uncertainty within the USAUEUR theatre. As the assigned BDE Headquarters to two Air Defense Artillery Battalions and two Missile Defense Batteries, 678th was ultimately responsible for 1,300 Soldiers operating in 13 unique locations. These locations totaled nine countries ranging from the Mediterranean to the Baltic and all areas in between.

As the Mission Command Element for the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, 678th ADA BDE was tasked to maintain, and seek to improve upon, the defense of NATO's Eastern Flank. In addition to this globally critical function, the BDE oversaw 5-4 ADAR modernization from an Avenger based SHORAD unit to the first Stryker platform based M-SHORAD Battalion in theatre. This yearlong modernization effort culminated with the unit deploying to Norway in support of



Joint Viking 23, the largest NATO exercise to be conducted north of the Arctic Circle. Under the harsh conditions of the high north, this platform proved its functionality and durability, and is now an additional armament in the deterrence of aggression and assurance of peace in NATO.

A key measure of success for the 678th was the establishment and activation of the 52nd ADA BDE, the newest ADA BDE HQ within the active duty Army. This unit, located in Sembach, will serve as the enduring BDE HQ element for the 10th AAMDC and will further the operational capacity of the air defense mission in Europe. 52nd will operate as a fully staffed HQ, replacing the 53 personnel traditionally assigned to maintain garrison functions with the full 123 personnel required to maintain C2 throughout a complex and multi-domain theatre. For the past nine months, however, the 678th was able to extend beyond their assigned duties to accomplish the mission of a fully manned ADA BDE. These excellent results were achieved during times of uncertainty, and from the very beginning the BDE was tasked to achieve beyond its typical mission set.

Upon arrival, the BDE hit the ground running by standing up the operational headquarters at Rhine Ordnance Barracks. This was a significant undertaking since the previous headquarters was at USAG-Ansbach. This endeavor included initiating network functionality throughout the building, ensuring supplies and furniture were available and establishing Soldier living accommodations. This would be the first MCE to operate out of ROB, and all garrison functions were established by the unit upon arrival. Once

the basics of Soldier care and daily functionality were established, the BDE set out to provide C2 to the current mission while also ensuring the continuation of growth and learning throughout its own formation.

In September 2022, SGT Millar, SPC Goff, SPC Polston, and SPC Tucker participated in the “Value Your Life” litter carry hosted by the 21st TSC Health of Force as an integrated activity approach for Suicide Prevention Month. The Soldiers carried weight on a litter symbolic of life stressors throughout an established 3.6 mile course with multiple stations staffed by support and prevention agencies, such as Unit Missionary Team and Army Community Services.

In September 2022, SSG Waldron completed Unit Supply Course and SGT Williams completed Hazardous Materials Drivers Training Course (HAZ 11) at Vilseck, Germany. Additionally, CPT Sanders completed Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officer Course at Fort Bliss, Texas. In January 2023, 1LT Johnson completed Unit Movement Officer Course at Vilseck, Germany.

Beginning November 2022, 1LT Morgan participated in “The Introduction,” a 21st TSC SHARP production.

1LT Morgan has performed in both lead and supporting roles as well as performed voice over parts. He has performed in Baumholder, Sembach, and Grafenwohr, before a cumulative audience of over 1,500 Soldiers. “This is an opportunity to make a difference,” 1LT Morgan said. “We’ve seen training videos, but I’ve never seen a stage performance or live action play. It gives a look of being on the outside looking in on what is going on in the ranks.”

In November 2022, the BDE planned, coordinated, and executed a BDE level field training exercise, including a 68 mile convoy with 10 military vehicles, combat lifesaver refresher training, and field and operational tactical simulations. In the days leading up to the convoy, Soldiers conducted maintenance on the military vehicles and equipment to ensure functionality, including PCCs and PCIs.

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Throughout the deployment, the BDE planned, coordinated, and executed an extensive seven part Leadership Professional Development program, which included visits to World War II battle site (Operation Fall Gelb and Operation Overlord) as well as the World War II memorial cemeteries for both American and German Soldiers.

1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment was heavily involved in FY22 with planning, preparation, and execution of two major exercises in JRTC at Ft. Polk, LA and RIMPAC 22 in Hawaii. First, approximately 50 PAX, primarily from C BTRY, 1-204th ADA in Morton, MS, provided Air and Missile Defense capabilities to the 79th IBCT CAARNG during JRTC Rotation 22-8.5. Their outstanding performance during this exercise earned the unit high praise from the 79th IBCT and a special visit from the Chief of National Guard Bureau, Gen. Daniel Hokanson.

In the RIMPAC 22 exercise, 43 PAX primarily from A BTRY, 1-204th ADA in Bay Springs, MS successfully integrated our Short-Range Air Defense (SHORAD) capabilities with the 1st Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. This type of integration with other Air Defense echelons and other C2/weapon systems is priority to upcoming training in addition to our standard mission of supporting BDE Combat Teams. The lessons learned from RIMPAC 22 provided a valuable knowledge base to train B BTRY, 1-204th ADA in Forest, MS for Balikatan23 (BK23) Exercise in the Philippines in April 2023. BK 23 will be a joint live fire exercise between the Philippines and other US military assets performing operations ranging from maritime security to disaster relief. In the preparation for BK23, B BTRY completed their normal METL tasks while successfully integrating the Harris Radio for air picture and track data into their training to help prepare them to establish and maintain more reliable communications with adjacent Avenger Fire Units over the mountainous terrain of the Philippines. Overall, this year was extremely fast-paced, but tremendously successful for the Soldiers and Officers of the 1-204th ADA.

"First to Fire, Last to Leave!"

Battalion Information - The 1st Battalion 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard is Headquartered in Newton, MS. We have Firing Batteries in Bay Springs, MS (Alpha Battery), Forest, MS (Bravo Battery), Morton, MS (Charlie Battery) and our Maintenance Company (Delta Company) is co-located with HHB in Newton, MS.

1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 1st Battalion 265th Air Defense Artillery, "Thunderbolt Battalion" has been decisively engaged in supporting both our Federal and State missions in 2022. Charlie Battery augmented by Delta Battery maintainers and elements of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery command and staff, participated in Arctic Edge 22 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, from Feb., 22 to March 21 2022, to provide Short Range Air Defense capabilities.

As the first Army National Guard Avenger unit to participate in AE, the 1-265th successfully integrated with the Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command Region with ground-based missile defense for the Area Air Defense Plan and exercised the NORAD Integrated Air Missile Defense kill chain. The Florida-based SHORAD unit successfully winterized



Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska: 1-265th AD "Thunderbolt" Soldiers practiced passive air defense measures during Arctic Edge 2022 in Alaska. Soldiers used winterized camouflage on their point air defense sites to protect critical assets from highspeed fixed-wing threats. The reversible camouflage was available in fresh snow and dirty snow colors based on operating terrain. (Photo by LTC Tina Madovoy)



Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska: An Avenger crew member from 1-265th ADA "Thunderbolt" prepares the Tracking Head Trainer for crew members to practice avenger crew table training prior to fast-moving live air flights. (Photo by LTC Tina Madovoy)

and deployed their equipment over 3,500 miles from home to the cold, austere arctic region with temperatures averaging around negative 20 degrees Fahrenheit daily. Throughout the duration of the exercise, *Thunderbolt* Soldiers identified, engaged, and destroyed 42 simulated cruise missiles and fast-moving fixed-wing red air threats. This was all while maintaining a 90% operational readiness with zero cold-weather injuries or loss of equipment.

During July, in support of enabling the maneuver commander, the 1-265th provided their best and brightest leaders to serve as guest Observer Coach /Trainers at the Joint Readiness Training Center 22-07 in support of the 79th Infantry BDE Combat Team's rotation. The Charlie Battery, 1-265th Commander, 1LT Timothy Gainsborg, along with the battalion Avenger Master Gunner, SSG Nicolas Colaiacovo, assisted by three Avenger crew members, supplemented an understaffed active-duty Air Defense Artillery OC/T team. The *Thunderbolt* OC/Ts professionally instructed and liaised the proper application of SHORAD against near-peer threats faced by the 1-204th Mississippi Air Defense Artillery unit attached to the 79th IBCT. The 1-265th OC/Ts focused on platoon-level tactics for SHORAD maneuver while stressing the importance of command relationships between maneuver and air defense artillery. The *Thunderbolt* OC/Ts enhanced the overall readiness of the 1-204th AD and the 79th IBCT receiving accolades from the active-duty OC/Ts and IBCT staff.

Looking ahead to training for the future air defense fight, select members of the 1-265th AD Battalion attended a five-day course and fielding of the Improved-Stinger Proficiency Trainer from Blue Halo. The I-STPT is a virtual reality training tool with a stinger missile training aid to simulate the Man-Portable Air-Defense System functions to enhance tactical Stinger proficiency. This new capability allows team chiefs and gunners to conduct Avenger Gunnery Tables I and III in a 360-degree capacity, replicating the live-flying Visual Aircraft Recognition in a variety of scenario environments and weather to improve Soldier tactical proficiency.

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Closing out the training year, the *Thunderbolt* Soldiers were activated by the governor and mobilized for State Active Duty in response to Hurricane Ian's devastation of southwest Florida. Task Force *Thunderbolt* was augmented with Soldiers from the 870th Engineer Company to provide route clearance, the 144th Transportation Company to assist with mobility and resupply and Air National Guard communication assets. TF *Thunderbolt*, under the acting command of the battalion executive officer MAJ Jordan Pagonos, was the main effort for Charlotte County emergency response efforts. The *Thunderbolts* completed over 70 missions, including law enforcement



Charlotte County, FL: A Soldier from 1-265th AD "Thunderbolt" views Hurricane Ian damage while conducting a reconnaissance and presence patrol throughout a local neighborhood. (Photo by SPC Bridget Beasley)

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support, hospital security, presence patrols, traffic control points, point of distribution sites, civilian maintenance support and route clearance operations. In total, TF Thunderbolt served 34,210 vehicles with over 33,000 meals ready to eat, 57,000 cases of water,



The Florida Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1-265th Air Defense Artillery work in tandem with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department and the FEMA in a joint effort to get supplies to the residents of Don Pedro Island Oct. 3 2022. The only access to the island is by private boat or the Palm Island ferry service, and residents had difficulty getting supplies. Over 6,000 service members were activated in response to the natural disaster, along with both military and civilian support from out-of-state locations. (Photo by SPC Christian Wilson)



Port Charlotte, Florida: Soldiers from 1-265th AD "Thunderbolt" provided over 76,000 bags of ice, 57,000 cases of water, 33,000 meals ready to eat and 18,800 tarps to citizens affected by Hurricane Ian. (Photo by SPC Elizabeth Strophe)

18,800 tarps, and 76,000 bags of ice. Furthermore, TF Thunderbolt completed over 19 miles of route clearance and performed over 430 maintenance hours in support of the Charlotte County Maintenance Fleet Facility before transitioning all missions back to civilian agencies.

After a busy year, the 1-265th Air Defense Artillery Battalion has completed hurricane recovery operations and continues to plan for an exciting annual training in 2023.

Home of the "Air Defender of Tomorrow," the Thunderbolts remain postured and ready for their future missions.

3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

On 11 March 2022, Bravo Battery was awarded the esteemed Hamilton Award for their superior performance during OSS. Bravo Battery returned from the Middle East in November 2021 after completing the battalion's first mission in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS). While in the Middle East, Bravo Battery provided static point defense of critical Air Missile Defense (AMD) assets in three different countries. The unit simultaneously served in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Iraq.

In June of 2022, the Lightning Battalion welcomed LTC Harvey Rocha as the new Battalion Commander and wished LTC Kyle Everage the best of luck in his new adventure after two years of outstanding service.

On 23 September 2022, the Lightning Battalion was activated in response to Hurricane Ian, a Category four Hurricane, that decimated Southwest Florida. During the subsequent two weeks, Soldiers assisted Southwest Florida residents by conducting High Water Vehicle (HWV) rescue missions, both stationary and roving presence patrols, and distributed commodities through a Point of Distribution (POD) mission. The 3-265th ADA BN directly provided over 16,000 cases of water, over 10,000 MRE cases, and over 12,000 bags of ice to just over 22,000 citizens.

The 3-265th ADA BN now shifts focus to Avenger Crew training to establish and complete preparations for an upcoming battery mobilization to EUCOM in 2023.



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

**The 2023 submission deadline for the
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