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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 Soldier assigned to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command performs a system evaluation of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, February 5, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adan Cazarez)



COL Curtis W. King

Air Defense Artillery School Commandant

As your 45th Commandant I continue to be amazed at the professionalism, dedication and resiliency of our Air Defense Soldiers, Civilians and Families. Air Defense continues to be the most deployed force in the Army. The ever-increasing demand across the globe continues to stress our force, but you do not waiver... each one of you epitomize our motto earned in World War II, ***First to Fire!***

As Air Defenders, we will continue to face a growing demand to defend our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardians over the next decade. The threat from hypersonic missiles to small drones continues to evolve rapidly in both capacity and capability. And, no one is better trained to defeat these threats than Army Air Defenders. Also, this is why we must continue the most extensive transformation since World War II. This year we've fielded Divisional Air Defense Battalions within two Army Divisions, employed laser and electronic attack systems across multiple Combatant Commands, continued building operational capability with IBCS and LTAMDS and achieved initial operating capability for the Joint Counter-small UAS University.

We're seeing the beginning of organizational changes that will continue towards 2030. We have Air Defenders operating as composite task forces, executing command and control for multiple different systems against an array of missiles and UASs. As we're learning from the adversary in Ukraine and CENTCOM, this is the future for Air Defenders. We must have doctrine, organizations and material that will provide defense-in-depth, overlapping coverage and magazine depth to defeat a vast array of threats.

To meet these challenges, ADA will evolve our training and leader development programs. Our Soldiers must become air defenders capable of employing numerous systems as part of composite task forces. The Directorate of Training and Doctrine and 30th Brigade have started making this transformation. In 2024, ADA will implement pilots for an Air and Missile Defense Planner's course, a Divisional Air Defense Master Gunner course and a Patriot/THAAD Master Gunner course. Additionally, the Regimental CSM is working with NCOA to increase air defense proficiency in ALC and SLC.

Lastly, CSM Macri and I are extremely proud of you all. We look forward to serving with you in 2024 and know we will overcome every challenge because we are part of your team. First to Fire!

Curt W. King





10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

In a year filled with uncertainty and instability, with war continuing between Russia and Ukraine, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (10th AAMDC) provided a bedrock of reassurance to its allies and partners in Europe.

At the start of 2023, the command remained present across the NATO Eastern Flank, providing critical Air Defense capability in multiple nations. The Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) networks developed by 10th AAMDC and our NATO allies have served as a strategic deterrent to our adversaries, protected critical aid and supply depots and currently stand as a standard for excellence. This past year, we have continued to learn from and react to a real-world threat together with our allies. The relationships that form the foundation of the Alliance have been strengthened and we are now a more cohesive and integrated force.

The European IAMD community is the most interoperable and energized it has ever been. The momentum to re-invigorate European Air Defense capability, prompted by the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, has not lagged and 10th AAMDC is leading the charge for an interoperable air defense network to protect the skies. In conjunction with partners from Germany, The Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine, 10th AAMDC supported Patriot Training Validation at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area (DPTA) in Poland. The training event brought together the work of the collective air defense community to deliver combat capability and increased the readiness of Ukrainian Armed Forces.

52D Air Defense Artillery Brigade

In a year marked by innovation and transformative growth, the 52D Air Defense Artillery Brigade (52D ADA BDE) proudly stands as the most recent addition to the army's air defense brigades. It officially commenced its distinguished role on October 6, 2022, during a ceremony held at Sembach Kaserne in Germany. COL Bruce Bredlow and CSM Charles Robinson III were appointed as the inaugural command team for the 52D ADA BDE.

This groundbreaking unit was unveiled in June 2022 by President Biden during the NATO summit in Madrid, Spain, signaling a renewed commitment to collaborative air defense initiatives. The newly formed brigade has been entrusted with the critical responsibility of providing tactical command and control under the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) for all U.S. Army air and missile defense forces within the European Command (EUCOM) jurisdiction. This reinforces command and control capabilities and promotes interoperability with NATO

Allies and Partner nations. Bredlow expressed his enthusiasm, emphasizing the fulfilling nature of their mission in Europe and the anticipation of strengthening ties at the tactical level with Allies and Partners.

Over the past year, the brigade has assumed a significant role as the Air Defense Coordinator (ADCOORD) for V Corps. The ADCOORD serves as the principal air defense advisor to the supported corps' commander for air defense force disposition and capabilities. This role is critical for coordinating unified air and missile defense actions, facilitating swift, coordinated responses to aerial threats and enhancing interoperability among Allied forces during joint operations. The 52D ADA BDE first took on this role during the US Army, Europe and Africa (USAREUR-AF) Defender 23 (DEF23) exercise. The 52D ADA BDE demonstrated operational agility during the exercise, directly contributing to a fortified, responsive air defense capability in coordination with Allied air defense forces from Germany, Poland and Estonia. The complex partnership formed during DEF23 underscored the strategic significance of synchronized air defense operations in joint warfare.

The brigade remains deeply committed to refining and enhancing the ADCOORD concept, continually assessing and adapting based on lessons learned from the DEF23 exercise and its real-world operations on the eastern flank. The 52D ADA BDE will persist in improving how air and missile defense functions at the tactical level, ensuring that the 52D ADA BDE, along with its Partners and Allies, is always prepared and capable of addressing any air defense challenges that may arise.

The 52D ADA BDE conducted a Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority (RIPTOA) from the previous rotational National Guard air defense brigade in the EUCOM theater, the 174th ADA BDE. This transition exemplified the unity and professional finesse of both brigades and included the authoritative shift for the 11th Missile Defense

Battery (11MDB), 13th Missile Defense Battery (13MDB), 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (5-4 ADAR) and the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (5-7 ADA BN). The assumption of several diverse units, as well as the activation of the newest short-range air defense battalion in the army on October 16, 2023, the 1st Battalion, 57th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (1-57 ADA BN), exemplifies the cohesion and adaptability of the brigade.

5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Units from 5-4 ADAR have continued their deployments across the NATO eastern flank. Their continued presence in Romania, Poland and Slovakia have been in support of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence to conduct air defense and unmanned aerial system defense in key locations. During their deployments, the 5-4 ADAR refined and codified real-world operating procedures for air defense, incorporating lessons learned from Ukraine. Their highly successful integration into maneuver units across the Alliance enhanced interoperability at all levels, from individual vehicle crews to high-echelon planning staffs.

Over the last year, 5-4 ADAR completed the fielding of the M-SHORAD system. After conducting a rigorous NET/NEF training program and a detailed gunnery certification, they became the Army's first fully certified M-SHORAD Battalion. In March of 2023, 5-4 ADAR executed Joint Viking 23, an exercise held above the Arctic Circle in Norway to validate the M-SHORAD's ability to operate under cold-weather conditions. The exercise provided an arena to exercise joint and combined aspects of operations at the tactical level, enhancing the warfighting skills and interoperability, focusing on allied units conducting winter warfare training in Norway. The "We Attack" Battalion thrived in the icy arctic conditions, gaining invaluable insight into High North Operations, building relationships with our Nordic partners and strengthening the Alliance.



Left to right: COL Bruce Bredlow, 52D ADA BDE commander, and CSM Charles Robinson, 52D ADA BDE command sergeant major, held a Town Hall meeting for family members and air defenders after 52D ADA BDE assumed responsibility of 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery from the 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade; U.S. Army air defenders assigned to 5th Battalion 7th Air Defense Artillery stand in formation during a patching ceremony Aug. 30 in Baumholder, Germany. The 52D Air Defense Artillery Brigade shoulder patch was placed on 5-7 ADA air defenders during the transfer of authority ceremony; SGT Albren Camillas and his family watch 52D Air Defense Artillery Brigade lead the first brigade run with the 5th Battalion 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment as he prepares to deploy to the Eastern Flank with Alpha Battery, 5-4, on Aug. 2, 2023, in Ansbach, Germany; COL Bruce Bredlow and MSG Gregory Irvine, senior enlisted advisor, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Brigade, reveal the shoulder patch insignia for the new brigade during a ceremony on Oct. 6 in Sembach Kaserne, Germany. Adding the active-duty brigade headquarters to the theater adds significant capacity to the U.S. contribution to the Alliance's ground-based air defense in EUCOM and increases interoperability with NATO Allies and partner nations. (U.S. Army photo by PFC Yesenia Cadavid)



Photos 1–3, U.S. Army air defenders assigned to the 5th Battalion 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment conduct training on the Maneuver Short Range Air Defense System. The 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command conducts training to maintain the highest readiness levels, ensuring our ability to defend our NATO Allies and other partner nations. Photo 4, Training on the Avenger Air Defense System July 28 in Grafenwöhr, Germany.

The 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (ADAR), stationed in Ansbach, Germany, has played a pivotal role in advancing Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) in alignment with the Chief of Staff of the Army’s “Army of 2030” vision. In April 2023, 5-4 ADAR became the first fully fielded Maneuver Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) Stryker variants battalion in the Army. Despite the challenges associated with transitioning to the M-SHORAD platform, over the past year 5-4 ADAR successfully conducted deployment operations to support Operation European Assure, Deter and Reinforce. These operations included deploying the M-SHORAD system, Avengers and Sentinels to the Eastern European flank while also training partner forces on SHORAD systems to assist in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The accomplishments of the battalion underscore the dedication and excellence of all 5-4 ADAR soldiers. The battalion has maintained a high operational tempo, with Alpha Battery already on its second rotation to the mission on the eastern flank. The cost of excellence for the entire battalion has been long nights and few days off, but if the reenlistment data for remaining in 5-4 ADAR suggests anything, it is that the soldiers believe in the mission. This article delves into the detailed highlights of three key missions, as reported by junior leaders within the organization.

Short Range Air Defense in Urban Terrain

In January 2023, Bravo Battery of the 5-4 ADAR, also known as the Black Knights, received the task of conducting Avenger gunnery training for Partner nation forces. They successfully trained an entire battalion’s worth of Avenger crews. During the initial training phase, our partner forces expressed the need for instruction in dismounted SHORAD operations and deployment tactics in urban settings. To meet this demand, our master gunners developed a comprehensive training plan, secured training grounds and developed a realistic scenario based on current threat assessments and lessons learned from their home country.

In early February 2023, Bravo Battery soldiers traveled to Grafenwoehr training area to assist partner forces in Stinger dismounted operations training. The primary instructor for this training was SSG Seth

Gurung, a former Marine instructor at the Marine Urban Warfare Training Center who transitioned to the Army as a 14P. Gurung initiated the training by identifying combat veterans within the platoon and collaborating with them to determine the most effective ways to employ Stingers against potential threats. The training encompassed two scenarios: the first involved positioning Stinger teams in abandoned buildings, while the second focused on seizing a contested building, firing the Stinger from the highest point of the structure and rapidly exfiltrating. Our partner forces preferred to concentrate on the second scenario due to its complexity, as none of them had prior experience with close-quarters battle (CQB).

Training started with a thorough review of the basics of clearing a building, securing key positions, checking for danger areas and communicating prevalent information among team members. It became evident during this training that designating one squad to carry the Stingers and positioning them at the rear minimized the number of rooms they needed to clear. Squads without Stingers would clear the rooms to allow the Stinger teams to reach their firing positions ready to fire. Gurung focused on planning considerations for choosing a building with ample room to fire the Stinger. The building couldn’t be too tall but had to have unobstructed fields of fire along the air avenue of approach. Firing from the rooftop was preferred, while firing from inside a room should be a last resort. In cases where firing from indoors was necessary, a large room with a tall window allowing the soldier to super-elevate the Stinger was recommended. Minimizing debris and maintaining a clear space were essential for safety. Gurung stressed that firing Stingers from indoors should be avoided whenever possible and if unavoidable, soldiers should wear eye and ear protection. Our partners, based on prior experience, demonstrations and descriptions, confirmed that firing Stingers from indoors could be conducted safely.

For the culminating event, Gurung developed a complex training scenario where soldiers would seize multiple buildings, move tactically from one to another until they reached the tower they identified as the optimal Stinger position. The platoon conducted

several rehearsals to practice entering buildings, seizing the necessary infrastructure for roof access, firing the Stinger and rapidly exfiltrating to their starting position. The soldiers exceeded expectations and after completing CQB, they spent some time working on the first scenario, which involved placing Stinger teams in unoccupied buildings.

Gurung emphasized that in urban terrain, that they could not stay in the same position for long, even in urban terrain, with 12 to 24 hours being the recommended limit. Soldiers should always clear the building first, checking for enemy soldiers, IEDs, cameras, or civilians, before establishing their Stinger positions, identifying exfiltration routes and resupply points. Partner forces asked questions about how to camouflage their positions in buildings, to which Gurung recommended using two window fly screens—one placed over the window and another at a 45-degree angle—to create a one-way blackout screen for concealment. The training sessions highlighted lessons learned in the importance of planning and rehearsing primary and alternate exfiltration routes, if possible, utilizing patrols to keep resupply and exfiltration routes clear and secure from ground forces. Lastly, it was emphasized that Stingers must be kept hidden or disguised while moving through the streets to prevent potential adversaries from discovering and reporting their presence. Our partner forces demonstrated their dedication by devoting substantial time to training, reflecting their commitment to prepare for any future conflicts.

As urban warfare becomes increasingly prevalent in the modern era, it is imperative for Air Defense leadership to ensure that their soldiers receive training in urban terrain, treating it as a natural extension of their mission rather than a novel environment reserved for infantry units. Partner-force Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS) teams frequently find themselves emplacing Stingers in abandoned or contested urban positions, highlighting the need for adaptation within the branch and the Army as a whole. While the challenges are not unique to the branch, they extend across the entire Army, as training areas often lack dedicated facilities for urban warfare, analogous to Jungle or Mountain warfare schools. Nevertheless, Air Defense must be prepared to provide short-range air defense in urban environments and equip their soldiers to find innovative ways to employ their weapon systems in the taxing terrain that is created when fighting in villages, towns and cities.

Modernization Efforts

Modernization dominates 5-4 ADAR's priorities, although concrete definitions of modernization are scarce. Notably, FM 3-0, FM 1-02.1 and the DoD Dictionary do not offer precise definitions

of modernization, despite acknowledging the modernization efforts of Russia and China and the necessity for the United States to modernize to maintain its dominant position. Instead, FM 3-0 defines the end state of modernization as the vision for the "Army of 2030," rooted in Multidomain Operations (MDO) and cutting-edge technologies.

5-4 ADAR was established as an Avenger SHORAD battalion with a mission to neutralize enemy aerial threats and facilitate friendly freedom of maneuver. To achieve the modernization end state, in April 2023, 5-4 ADAR became the first fully fielded Maneuver Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) Stryker variants battalion in the Army. The transition leveraged core facets of Air Defense culture that have consistently guided their operations: interdisciplinary leadership, bottom-up refinement and mission-oriented Field Training Exercises (FTXs). Air Defense is unique in that it, by definition, requires interdisciplinary leaders. No other branch demands that its leaders possess expertise in as many diverse weapon systems. The closest comparable branch, Armor, mandates expertise in three weapon systems (Abrams, Bradley, Stryker). In contrast, Air Defense leaders must be knowledgeable about Land-based Phalanx Weapon System Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar (LPWS C-RAM), Avenger, Patriot, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), various radar systems and emerging directed energy technologies.

Air defense leaders are expected to lead formations equipped with any of these weapon systems at a moment's notice. Additionally, they must be well-versed in the tactics and operations of fellow maneuver branches and international partners. For instance, the neighboring Stryker unit, 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2CR), serves as a valuable source of planning guidance and considerations regarding Stryker operations and gunnery. Despite differences in mission sets, 2CR's insights augment Air Defense expertise and inform training plans and Tactical Standard Operating Procedures (TACSOPs). Thus, with the recent operational deployment of the M-SHORAD, the approach of Air Defenders remains relatively consistent. They adapt to new equipment, become technical and tactical experts in its deployment and learn to seamlessly integrate with sister branches. In this regard, Air Defenders possess the unique experience needed to confront and resolve the challenges and transitions associated with "defining the Army of 2030."

Interdisciplinary leadership, however, offers only part of the solution. Even the most tactically and technically proficient leaders cannot be present at every battle position all the time. Ultimately, junior soldiers and NCOs play a critical role in mastering their weapon systems and providing feedback to their leadership for

successful operations. Opportunity cost of developing interdisciplinary leaders means that depth of knowledge is degraded in exchange for breadth of knowledge. As a result, bottom-up refinement is relied upon to validate course headings and achieve the modernization end state. Regarding the M-SHORAD platform, junior soldier involvement has been instrumental in developing and revising standard operating procedures (SOPs), advising maneuver unit commanders and channeling feedback through the chain of command to Advanced Combat Maneuver (ACM) to enhance future iterations of the weapon system.

The approach to fielding new equipment has included supporting and developing the relationships between the civilian Field Support Representatives (FSRs) and engineers, the operators and leaders. This environment prioritized and valued junior soldier feedback and has greatly accelerated our progress in both improving our knowledge of the equipment and our tactical expertise. Moreover, this environment has encouraged experimentation, which has been instrumental in testing our capabilities and determining troubleshooting procedures in the absence of an approved TM. For example, the manufacturer did not design the M-SHORAD with shoot-on-the-move capabilities. However, through junior soldier experimentation, it was determined that the system does in fact have this capability which greatly increases our employment capabilities. This culture of permitting and encouraging experimentation relies heavily on trust within the chain of command. Soldiers must trust that leadership listens and acts on their feedback, while leaders must trust that soldiers are actively engaged and motivated to test equipment limitations. Once again, Air Defenders are uniquely positioned to cultivate this environment of trust, as SHORAD has historically operated in a decentralized manner, placing significant responsibility and decision-making authority on Avenger team chiefs, who are prepared to operate autonomously when required.

The culmination of operator-level refinement and interdisciplinary leadership has manifested through mission-oriented FTXs, a cornerstone of Air Defense operations. One of the most significant challenges faced during the transition to the M-SHORAD platform has been the change in mission execution. While the foundational principles of air defense employment remain constant, the battalion has been tasked with operating in closer proximity to the Forward Line of Troops (FLOT) and integrating more closely with maneuver operations. Consequently, FTXs have been designed to test the limits of the new equipment, provide soldiers with opportunities for skill development and feedback provision and enhance the interdisciplinary knowledge of leaders. For example, Charlie Battery's culminating training event spanned 72 continuous hours of decentralized operations, featuring red air threats and limited resupply opportunities.

Over the past year, planning for future training events are building upon this foundation, including autonomous operations, transitions between offense and defense and conducting operations under enemy contact conditions. These conditions simulate attachment to a maneuver unit, where higher headquarters may be several kilometers away, resupply opportunities scarce and the tempo significantly higher than experienced with the Avenger system. Training under such conditions not only enhances proficiency with weapon systems but also instills confidence in the maneuver units 5-4 ADAR supports, paving the way for multidomain operations. The Air Defense branch's distinct characteristics, including interdisciplinary leadership and a focus on decentralized operations that value junior soldier refinement, have played a pivotal role in achieving the modernization endstate articulated in FM 3-0 and shaping the future of M-SHORAD.

Operation EADR

Throughout 2023, 5-4 ADAR maintained its commitment to deploying forces to the eastern flank of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Building on the United States' longstanding tradition of upholding peace and security in Europe since World War II, the battalion continued to stand alongside Allies, defending against potential aggression. The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 had posed a serious threat to the rules-based international order, prompting NATO Allies to seek reinforcement.

Responding to Russia's unprecedented aggression, the United States swiftly deployed forces in coordination with Allies to bolster the eastern flank, with 5-4 ADAR playing a crucial role in this effort. The battalion deployed forces to five countries across the length of the flank in support of Operation EADR, contributing significantly to the mission. This commitment persisted throughout 2023, with the battalion rotating forces to various locations on the flank. While stationed forward, the soldiers of 5-4 ADAR maintained their readiness to protect our Allies and acted as a deterrent against aggression. Their presence reassured Allies and Partners of the United States' unwavering commitment to defending every inch of NATO member territory and demonstrated the U.S. Army's capability to deploy SHORAD units across the United States European Command (USEUCOM) Area of Responsibility (AO).

In addition to fulfilling their assigned missions, these soldiers actively sought opportunities to train with other U.S. and Allied forces stationed alongside them. Whether conducting live fire exercises (LFXs) for Avenger Gunnery Table VIII, integrating into a brigade combat team LFX, cross-training with Allied SHORAD soldiers, participating in training with Allied fixed-wing aircraft simulating enemy forces, or acquainting

other U.S. and Allied forces with the FIM-92 Stinger missile and its utilization, 5-4 ADAR soldiers remained engaged and proactive in training when not executing their primary mission. Moreover, they interacted with their Host Nations through public events, community volunteering and embracing local cuisine.

Throughout the past year, the battalion successfully conducted two Avenger Gunnery Table VIII LFXs forward, including one at a range that was not traditionally utilized for Avenger gunnery. These exercises were made possible through collaboration with the 7th Army Training Command's Expeditionary Training Support Division and the expertise of the battalion's Avenger master gunners. These ranges proved highly effective, allowing for safe and efficient qualification of Avenger teams and certification to carry out their mission. Although the battalion commander could have waived this gunnery requirement for units deployed forward, it was deemed essential to certify new teams and provide practice for existing teams in engaging targets with the Multi Mission Processor (M3P) .50 caliber machine gun, thereby enhancing their readiness for wartime missions in case deterrence failed.

The battalion integrated Avenger elements into a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CAMLFX) conducted by the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. This exercise, conducted as a Company Situation Training Exercise (STX) lane exercise by the brigade to certify company teams in joint fires integration, benefited significantly from the inclusion of 5-4 ADAR Avenger teams. The battalion integrated Avenger teams with infantry company teams as they conducted their lanes, overseen by platoon leaders serving as liaison officers embedded within the infantry battalion headquarters, tracking the companies' activities. This not only allowed Avenger teams to maneuver with an infantry formation but also offered maneuver leaders insight into SHORAD operations on the battlefield and the facilitation of defense for maneuver formations.

While deployed this past year, elements of the battalion capitalized on the opportunity to cross-train with Allied SHORAD soldiers, allowing for mutual familiarization with each other's systems. Training included instruction on the Stinger missile and Avenger system, as well as exposure to the SHORAD systems of Allied soldiers. This interaction proved invaluable in comparing tactics, techniques and procedures, fostering insights and challenging existing operational practices to enhance operational effectiveness. Moreover, building interoperability with Allies strengthened deterrence by improving the ability to fight alongside Allies, thereby creating a more combat-capable force prepared to prevail if deterrence faltered. At one deployed location,

5-4 ADAR soldiers conducted training exercises involving Allied fixed-wing aircraft. In this scenario, the Allied aircraft acted as simulated enemy forces, approaching on attack vectors and providing SHORAD teams with a realistic opportunity to practice engaging hostile aircraft. This training significantly improved the teams' ability to effectively counter genuine aerial threats against defended assets.

In addition to their core mission and training efforts, 5-4 ADAR soldiers undertook frequent familiarization training on the FIM-92 Stinger missile, catering to various audiences. This training was extended to special operations forces, non-dedicated Stinger teams from brigade combat teams and Allied and Partner forces. Conducting such training allowed 5-4 ADAR soldiers to enhance their own skills through instruction and knowledge sharing. While this training did not certify non-dedicated U.S. Stinger teams, it provided them with valuable familiarity and the capability to engage Stinger missiles in self-defense if necessary.

For the past year, the actions of 5-4 ADAR soldiers on the eastern flank served to reassure Allies, fortify NATO's presence and deter Russian aggression. Their commitment to training, alongside their primary mission, further enhanced the battalion's readiness and combat effectiveness, ensuring they were prepared to prevail if deterrence strategies fell short.

Conclusion

In an era where terms like "air defense systems" and "Stinger missiles" have become commonplace, 5-4 ADAR stands as a pivotal player in all things related to SHORAD in Europe. Whether executing Short Range Air Defense capabilities or instructing partner forces, 5-4 ADAR has firmly established itself as subject matter experts in high demand, largely thanks to the trust vested in junior leaders. Remarkably, 5-4 ADAR has made substantial contributions to SHORAD within Europe, with junior leaders playing significant roles in the battalion's operations. For instance, a Staff Sergeant led the Stinger urban operations training, while M-SHORAD vehicle chiefs, primarily Sergeants, managed critical responsibilities. Lieutenants led platoons deployed to the eastern flank and worked closely with higher-level staff from supported maneuver units. The growth and advancement of SHORAD primarily occurred at the platoon level, as junior leaders were empowered by their senior counterparts. In the midst of a rapidly changing and complex operating environment, 5-4 ADAR has consistently demonstrated its ability to adapt and excel in any mission. This accomplishment should provide reassurance to both the Air Defense branch and the entire Army, showcasing the battalion's readiness to tackle diverse challenges and contribute to the Army's future.

5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

5-7 ADA BN has also continued their deployment to the front lines of the NATO eastern flank. In Jasionka, Poland, affectionately called “J-TOWN” by the Soldiers of the No Fear Battalion, Charlie and Delta Batteries continued their improvement of the impressive tri-lateral defense design with British “Sky Saber” air and missile defense system and the Polish Air Force. The past year strengthened the sharing of Link-16 track data to more NATO systems and proved that technical interoperability could be sustained through continuous operations. In the early spring, these two batteries redeployed back their home-station in Baumholder, Germany and the mission in J-TOWN was taken over by Alpha Battery 5-7 and Alpha Battery 2-43. These two batteries will expand and improve the real-world TTPs already in use and uphold a level of competence that signals the unwavering U.S. commitment to NATO.

In Slovakia, Bravo Battery completed their deployment as the first Patriot unit transferred to NATO operational authority. Their deployment alongside Patriot units from both the Netherlands and Germany enabled them to become highly proficient in NATO tactics and procedures. Bravo Battery built relationships and bonds of trust through their professionalism and technical expertise. They redeployed to Baumholder, Germany, where the lessons they learned enabled the 5-7 ADA BN to become more interoperable with our NATO partners.

5-7 ADA BN oversaw a highly dynamic year of deployments and re-deployments of its Batteries across the NATO eastern flank. In spite of all the moving pieces, 5-7 ADA BN never let the mission gap and stood ready to deploy at a moment’s notice in defense anywhere in NATO Alliance territory.

Enhancing Interoperability in NATO Allies and Partnerships

In March 2022, the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (5-7 ADA BN) deployed to Jasionka, Poland, embarking on a mission with unique characteristics that set it apart from typical Patriot deployments. This mission presented an opportunity to be co-located with numerous North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) partners and explore human, procedural and technical interoperability. Within the defended asset site, various weapon systems from the United Kingdom, Poland and Germany converged, with the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) Patriot and Maneuver- Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) units serving as the lead integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) integrators. CPT Kurt Blumeyer and MAJ Michael Nizolak from 5-7 ADA played a pivotal role during their year-long assignment on the NATO Eastern Flank from summer 2022 to 2023. They convened weekly IAMD working groups where representatives from each allied AMD system worked to establish a shared understanding of capabilities and maximize them in support of asset defense.

Interoperability comprised three facets, commencing with the cultivation of human relationships between operators and the establishment of secure real-time communication. This faced initial challenges since NATO systems in European Command (EUCOM) were not inherently designed for such communication. Over time, real-time chat and secure voice capabilities were integrated, enabling the second facet of interoperability – procedural. The process of devising engagement procedures involving multinational weapon systems unfolded, marked by dynamic participation from allies and partners. This collaborative effort yielded outcomes including a “lessons learned” document and joint-combined tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) recommendations submitted to NATO. These



Left to right: U.S. Patriot missile batteries from the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment stand ready at sunset in Poland on April 10, 2022. The deployment of these air & missile defense systems is purely defensive and contribute to the robust shielding provided along NATO’s Eastern flank. (U.S. Army photo by SFC Christopher Smith); Patriot Launching Station Operator Maintainers, SGT Paul George, PFC Genesis Vidal, PFC Erika Vidal and PFC Edgar Alamendarez, assigned to Bravo Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command, rest on a 10AAMDC Patriot missile launcher after completing Bravo Battery’s certification tables for their transfer of authority to NATO, Aug. 9 in Slovakia. (U.S. Army Photo by 2LT Emily Park); U.S. Army air defenders with Delta Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command, reunite with family and friends after a year-long deployment during a ceremony Mar. 7 in Baumholder. Charlie and Delta Batteries deployed to NATO’s eastern flank just days after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, their mission to reassure our Allies that the U.S. stands firm in our commitment to Article 5 and to deter any potential acts of aggression. (U.S. Army Photo by SSG Robert Wormley); 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command, during a change of command ceremony June 2, 2023, in Baumholder, Germany. (U.S. Army Photo by SSG Robert Wormley)

TTPs encompassed the sortie generation capabilities of the Allied Air Command and the United States Air Force (USAF), illuminating their operations in the airspace above and forward of Ground-Based Air Defense (GBAD).

Meanwhile, strides were made in technical interoperability, particularly between the British Sky Sabre system and the US Patriot system of 5-7 ADA. The contributions of CW3 Kevin Everett, SSG Johnathan Walker and SGT Jarad Eckley of 5-7 ADA in sharing Link 16 air picture with British allies facilitated in-depth discussions concerning engagement and ID/classification procedures.

After the redeployment of Blumeyer and Nizolak, 1LT Emily Park assumed responsibility for the IAMDC program. Armed with foundational knowledge from her predecessors, Park collaborated directly with British Sky Sabre and SHORAD units co-located with the US Patriot to create a site exchange program. This program enabled tacticians from 5-7 ADA to visit the Sky Sabre site, gaining insight into equipment and training. Tacticians also visited the newly fielded M-SHORAD, participating in training exercises and acquiring proficiency in equipment operation. They collaborated with counter unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS) representatives from the 10th Mountain Division, engaging in a Drone Buster Exercise. In return, representatives from the Sky Sabre, SHORAD and C-UAS teams visited the US Patriot Site, immersing themselves in our equipment, training and doctrine.

The site exchange program empowered tacticians at the most junior level, enabling them to acquire vital knowledge about NATO counterparts and adapt practices to maximize capabilities in a co-located environment. This program resulted in Air Force partners serving as our Defensive Counter Air (DCA), visiting Jasionka to tour all Air Defense sites in the Area of Operations (AO). These meetings catalyzed discussions on creating combined TTPs, amplifying combat power and effectiveness. These dialogues also led to the identification of limiting factors impeding complete integration and prompted discussions at a doctrinal level to rectify these issues.

This interoperability program has sparked multiple NATO and Partner interoperability exercises in Germany, the home station of 5-7 ADA. In the most recent interoperability exercise, 5-7 ADA showcased the US Dismounted Patriot Information Control Center's (DPICC) capability to interface and control a German Engagement Control Center (ECS) and US ECS simultaneously. Over the course of this two-week exercise, US Patriot and German Patriot systems achieved unprecedented levels of integration, preparing our Air Defense community to defend as a combined

effort, rather than individual entities. Plans are already underway to schedule additional German-United States interoperability exercises.

The 10th AAMDC, 52nd ADA Brigade (BDE) and 5-7 ADA BN have collectively emphasized fostering communication and partnerships with NATO allies to facilitate combined growth. As part of this commitment, leaders within the organization attended a seminar in the United Kingdom alongside their counterparts. This gathering led to discussions on the future of Air Defense, an exploration of the capabilities of British Air Defense and deliberations on the necessary changes to enhance our ability to integrate during future missions.

11th and 13th Missile Defense Batteries

On May 18th our air defenders cut the ribbon symbolizing the grand opening of the 11th Missile Defense Battery Ready Building in Türkiye. Though Türkiye experienced two devastating earthquakes during the construction of the Ready Building, our Allies were resilient and ensured completion. We are grateful for their steadfast support and our continued personal friendships which form the foundation of the alliance. The "Mountain Beasts" Battery continues their mission in support of Operation Atlantic Sentry, providing surveillance and early warning of TBMs in defense of NATO Allies and U.S. Forces. Despite their remote location and often harsh winter weather, the 11th MDB remains steadfast in the 24/7 mission.

The 13th Missile Defense Battery uniquely manages supply and maintenance in order to ensure sustainability on their remote operating site. This year, the "Watchman" Battery will transfer authority from 10th AAMDC to the 32nd AAMDC. They will continue to participate in the Combined Air Defense Working Group (CADWG) and the Israeli Test Bed (ITB), which serve as an important touchpoint between the U.S. and Israeli ADA communities to discuss tactics and TTPs.

Overall, both Missile Defense Batteries remain vigilant and ready as they feed the Joint Air Picture and provide visibility to the Joint and Combined force.

Conclusion

10th AAMDC will continue to lead the European theater in IAMDC. As the "First to Fire" Air Defense unit in Europe, the command stands ready to deploy an Integrated Air and Missile Defense that is interoperable with our allies and partners. Our excellence, dedication and expertise will ensure that we are always ready and able to protect U.S. and NATO interests. Shield of Victory!

32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command

The 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, “Blackjack” is the world’s premier Air Defense Artillery Command. In fiscal year 2023, the Blackjack Command boasted a long list of accomplishments and accolades. Among these are the accomplishment of achieving the highest retention rate out of all Division level elements in the United States Army, winning the SGM of the Army’s Retention Competition by accomplishing 105% of Retention goals: a testament to the winning culture upheld by the Brigades of the 32d AAMDC.

This year, the Blackjack Command oversaw and supported the rotation of the BDE Headquarters– Top Notch. In February, the Blackjack Command welcomed home COL Marc Pelini and the 108th ADA Headquarters, transferring authority to 11th ADA Headquarters and BDE CDR, COL Timothy Woodruff and later COL Brennon Kavanaugh.

In June, the 32d AAMDC welcomed their new commanding general, BG Richard Harrison. BG Harrison hit the ground running in his command, recently participating in the Combined Arms Defense Working Group and preparing for the upcoming coalition operation, Juniper Cobra. Stateside, BG Harrison has conducted visits to local Chapin High School in support of the 32d AAMDC’s Partners in Education Program and participated in many El Paso community events as well, strengthening our community relationships. As the 32d AAMDC moves into the new fiscal year, they stand ready serve our nation and execute our missions with tenacity.

In 2023 the 32d AAMDC tested its mettle as a headquarters, participating in a multitude of exercises including AMDEX (Air and Missile Defense Exercise), Virtual Sands and the Combined Air Defense Working Group in support of the defense of Israel. In 2023, the 32d AAMDC also saw approximately 1,600 Soldiers rotate through the USCENTCOM area of responsibility to execute Air Defense missions in support of CENTCOM and protect American interests and assets. With a worldwide 72-hour deployment mission, the 32d is always ready to fight and win the nation’s battles.

As the global political climate remains turbulent, the 32d AAMDC and subordinate Brigades stand ready to accomplish any mission– anywhere, anytime– in support of the regional combatant commander.

11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In 2023, the 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, ‘Cobra Strike,’ embarked on a series of critical training operations known as Operation Glory Road, culminating in the successful execution of a Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) in May 2023. These operations took place during the 2nd and 3rd Quarters of FY23 at Fort Bliss, Texas, with the primary goal of preparing the unit for its FORSCOM forward-deployed mission in the USCENTCOM AOR while adhering to the high standards set by the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

These operations provided an overview of the training objectives and outcomes, emphasizing the battalion’s focus on air and missile defense crew proficiency and unit cohesion. The 1-43 ADA unit meticulously followed the 8-Step Training Model, ensuring thorough planning, resource allocation and execution of training in accordance with the Battalion Mission Essential Task List and the relevant Tactical Exercises and Operations and supporting doctrine.

During the first phase of Operation Glory Road, occurring from March 20–29, 2023, 1-43 ADA conducted a Battalion Field Training Exercise within Tactical Area 2A and McGregor Range.

From March 21–28, 2023, Cobra Strike successfully executed Table VIII certifications for assigned Fire Units. Notably, seven out of ten Fire Unit Crew 1 and 2 certified Table VIII, including the validation of Remote Launch (RL1 and RL3) operations from A/1-43 and D/1-43. D/1-43 achieved Q1s for all aspects of intermediate gunnery, earning the Gunnery Title for this FTX.

The second phase of Operation Glory Road, taking place from April 17–26, 2023, saw the remaining three



Left to right: Alpha Battery, 5-52, Completes Squad Tactical Exercises; GEN Randy George, Chief of Staff of the Army, shakes hands with 11th ADA Brigade Soldier; 11th ADA Brigade building community relationships at the University of Texas at El Paso; LTC Ghikas checks on his units as 5-52 ADA conducts a Field Training Exercise.

Fire Unit Crews 1 and 2 complete Table VIII certifications. Additionally, the Information Coordination Central Crews 1 and 2 achieved Table VIII certification, positioning 1-43 ADA for advanced gunnery tasks. This operation also featured CBRN STX lanes on April 20-21, 2023, to train Soldiers for chemical/biological attacks. All available 1-43 ADA Soldiers participated in this exercise, which focused on reacting to contact during a CBRN attack and concluded with all Soldiers successfully completing the gas chamber event.

In conjunction with gunnery certifications, the battalion staff conducted doctrinal MDMP sessions, responding to evolving scenario-based training objectives. These sessions prepared the staff for the Battalion Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) in May and the unique challenges they would face during their USCENTCOM AOR mission. Staff members also effectively executed battle tracking tasks in the Battalion Tactical Operations Center (TOC) and rehearsed Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) injects, refining battle drills.

Cobra Strike also prioritized human dimension training, which included hosting the El Paso Imam, Nazmi Masoud, for a Ramadan service at the McGregor Base Camp chapel, enhancing cultural awareness within the formation. Additionally, ACE-SI training focused on suicide intervention, providing Soldiers with the skills to intervene when teammates are at risk.

In addition to their training regimen and mission readiness activities, 1-43 ADA distinguished themselves by actively participating in the Partners in Education program with local schools in El Paso. This involvement set the unit apart from all other units stationed at Fort Bliss, recording the most hours volunteered in support of their community. The Cobra Strike Partner's in Education program hosted the Pebble Hills High School students for the Battalion's birthday celebration and created lasting bonds with students. Furthermore, the PIE program exceeded the standard on Fort Bliss and enabled the Cobra Strike Battalion to receive multiple awards for Most Hours Served, Outstanding Project and Partnership of the Year Award.

Throughout 2023, Cobra Strike continued to demonstrate its commitment to military history and unit cohesion through the consistent implementation of Battalion Staff Rides to historically significant locations. These educational excursions provided valuable insights into military history and played a pivotal role in enhancing the bond and cohesion among unit members.

One notable destination for these Staff Rides was Columbus, New Mexico, the historic site of the Pancho Villa Raid. By visiting this location, Cobra Strike leaders had the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the past, gaining a deeper understanding of the complexities and

challenges faced by military leaders and Soldiers during this historical event. The Staff Ride to Columbus allowed the unit to connect with the rich military heritage of the region and draw valuable lessons from history to inform their present-day mission readiness.

Additionally, Cobra Strike recognized the importance of understanding the evolution of military technology and strategy. To this end, they visited the White Sands Missile Range Museum, offering a unique perspective on the advancements in missile technology and military capabilities. These visits not only enriched the unit's knowledge but also instilled a sense of pride and appreciation for the contributions made by previous generations of servicemen and women.

Cobra Strike demonstrated exceptional readiness and professionalism by successfully executing Movement Preparation Area Operations and Rail Load Operations as integral components of their Unit Movement Operations, marking a significant milestone in their preparation for an imminent deployment. Due to the attention to detail and dedication of its maintenance teams, the Cobra Strike Battalion was equipped with a 95% Operational Readiness Rate prior to Rail Load Operations. Through meticulous planning and synchronized efforts, the battalion efficiently organized and prepared equipment and personnel for transportation, ensuring that all assets were properly configured and secured for deployment. Their attention to detail and commitment to safety ensured the seamless loading and securing of vital equipment onto railcars. These operations, having been performed during one of the hottest summers on record in El Paso, TX, with only 70% strength of MTOE personnel, underscored the unit's readiness and its ability to respond to any challenge.

1-43 ADA achieved remarkable success by adhering to the principles of 'Fight and Win' through intellect, intensity and integrity. These priorities were woven into the fabric of their training, community engagement and historical education, shaping them into a unit that not only excelled in sustaining readiness but also conducted themselves with the highest ethical standards.

Upon their arrival in the USCENTCOM AOR, Cobra Strike immediately began dominating as they made history with the achievement of 100% certification in less than three weeks upon arrival. In addition, they provided command and control of multiple fire units across five countries from a single C2 node. Undoubtedly, the Soldiers of Cobra Strike will continue to 'Fight and Win' until the mission has been accomplished.

2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In September 2022, the 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, received activation orders

through the Secretary of Defense Orders Book. The Battalion had less than two months to complete all necessary certification and pre-deployment tasks before assuming their mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Spartan Shield. Despite the magnitude of the task, leadership at all levels of the Warrior Battalion came together to achieve this mission. In the realm of logistics, 2-43 ADA set a record at the Fort Bliss Logistics Readiness Center by rail-loading 100 pieces of tactical equipment in less than two days. With both personnel and equipment prepared for deployment, the Warrior Battalion commenced its final individual readiness preparations in October 2022. To provide a morale boost for the service members and families, the battalion organized an organizational day consisting of seven different events, fostering camaraderie and a sense of unity for the challenges ahead.

The Home Station Mission Command officially stood up and worked hand in hand with the Battalion Soldier and Family Readiness Group to support families throughout the deployment. Following block leave, 2-43 ADA departed from Fort Bliss, Texas to the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility days after Christmas.

2-43 ADA initiated its Relief in Place cycle with 4-3 ADA in January 2023, originally based out of 31st ADA BDE in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The battalion assumed responsibility for the air defense of Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates and Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. Demonstrating the intense period of training at their home station, over 70% of crews achieved Q1 standards during Crew Certification and Validation. After the transfer of authority via Top Notch Brigade, 2-43 ADA received a directive to send one Battery to U.S. European Command to support the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. 2-43 ADA Headquarters quickly conducted an analysis to best support this directive while maintaining uninterrupted coverage in United States Central Command. Ultimately, Alpha Battery, 2-43 ADA deployed to USEUCOM to defend a critical asset and relieve Charlie Battery, 5-7 ADA, who had been defending the location since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

In the first quarter of the deployment, 2-43 ADA achieved several logistical milestones. C/2-43 ADA supported the movement and display of a Launching Station at the International Defense Exposition, an event attended by over 50 countries. In total, 2-43 ADA turned in over 100 items of the Enduring Equipment Set, worth more than \$50,000,000. This marked the first successful E2S turn-in in over three years, significantly streamlining theater property for future Air Defenders. Additionally, 2-43 ADA conducted Command Maintenance Discipline Program, Command Deployment Discipline Program and Command Supply Discipline Program staff-assisted visits to ensure

logistical success forward and upon return to the home station.

In the second quarter, 2-43 ADA led the theater in Regional Security Cooperation, making significant progress in the UAE and KSA, while laying the groundwork in Qatar. The Warrior Battalion formed a deliberate partnership with the 4th Air Defense Battalion (UAE), subordinate to the 71st Air Defense Artillery Brigade (UAE). This partnership included introductions of senior leaders, sports competitions and a months-long Subject Matter Expert Exchange plan. Leaders at all echelons of 2-43 ADA shared their collective knowledge with Emirati Air Force Air Defense members, covering best practices for convoy movement, Air Battle Management and conventional maintenance. Furthermore, 2-43 ADA collaborated with the Air Defense Liaison Team based out of the AFCENT Air Warfare Center in ADAB to revise the UAE Operations Guide, a joint exchange that improved knowledge and inspired changes in processes last codified in 2018. 2-43 ADA also contributed to Air Defense tactical knowledge through HAWKEX 16 in UAE and Eagle Resolve 23 in KSA, both combined joint exercises with GCC countries.

Lastly, in Qatar, 2-43 ADA engaged with the Office of Defense Partnership to restart a relationship that had stagnated since 2020. 2-43 ADA's last major event before the change of the quarter was a change of command from LTC Kurt Pryor to LTC Ralph Merrill.

At the beginning of the third quarter, 2-43 ADA shifted its focus to preparation for redeployment and reintegration. They briefed the new 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command CG on their R-90 preparations, conducted an exchange of lessons learned and best practices with the incoming unit and hosted a long-range planning and manning conference in UAE. They made final improvements to the surrounding area in terms of power distribution, conducted Movement Preparation Area Operations for 100 pieces of rolling stock and 50 containers and handed over all ongoing RSC efforts to the incoming unit. 2-43 ADA's objectives in the coming months include a successful and safe reintegration of all Warriors with their families, followed by a well-deserved block leave and a focus on individual readiness skills. This will be followed by a deliberate train-up of all Air Defense Gunnery tables in preparation for assuming contingency response force duties near the end of FY24.

3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In July 2023, the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment initiated the fourth quarter with Operation Vulcan, the battalion's collective training event. This training exercise served as both a precursor to the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor

(LTAMDS) Operational Assessment (OA) and as a culminating event to assess the battalion's ability to conduct air missile defense operations in a contested environment. Throughout the fourth quarter of FY23, 3-43 ADA supported a congressionally mandated testing requirement while simultaneously training its batteries and battalion staff. This dual focus allowed the unit to meet its testing requirements while still striving to maintain its identity as a FORSCOM operational unit.

In the first quarter of FY23, the 3-43 ADA initiated planning for the LTAMDS OA while collaborating with the Army Test and Evaluation Command. With LTAMDS OA dates scheduled from September through December 2023, the 3-43 ADA began reverse planning to conduct collective training in July and August. The mission of collective training had a dual purpose: first, crews practiced prescribed critical tasks on the Integrated Battle Command Station (IBCS) and second, the staff exercised their respective battle drills as if the unit were in a contested environment. Crews focused on practicing critical tasks to reduce the likelihood of human error affecting LTAMDS OA data collection. This led to more accurate data integration as the 3-43 ADA incorporated LTAMDS into the IBCS. Despite the emphasis on integration, collective training also showcased the staff and units' ability to execute air and missile defense, sustainment and mission command in an operational environment.

Collective training enabled 3-43 ADA to test alternate systems, processes and battle drills with the implementation of IBCS, LTAMDS and remote launcher sites. While IBCS and LTAMDS share some capabilities with Patriot, their differences ultimately allow 3-43 ADA to generate creative solutions beyond the capability of legacy systems. Instead of deploying as batteries, IBCS allowed the 3-43 ADA to deploy as a modular task force, with remote launcher sites, sensors and command-and-control (C2) nodes distributed across the battlespace. The modularity provided by IBCS allowed for a more efficient and effective defense design but also stretched the limits of tactical communications and sustainment organic to the battalion.

In the past, establishing a remote launcher site required the use of a Patriot Communications Relay Group (CRG). The CRG not only enabled a battery to integrate launchers but also provided its own organic UHF and VHF communications to allow the battery to control the launcher crews at the remote site and to allow the remote site to pass reports back to the battery. This is not the case with IBCS. The IBCS relay provides the same capability to integrate launchers into the Integrated Fire Control Network (IFCN) but lacks any additional capability to provide voice or data communications between the launcher crew and the Engagement Operations Center controlling

them. Under legacy systems, the CRG could serve as an ad hoc Tactical Operations Center for the remote launcher site, whereas under IBCS, the IFCN relay cannot. This shortfall was overcome using Joint Battle Command-Platform and Satellite Communication Systems but needs to be deliberately considered for all future operations.

Collective training proved essential for creating a smooth transition into Soldier Training Event #1 (STE#1) for LTAMDS OA, which commenced on 05SEP23. It also identified areas for continued training and experimentation, such as tactical communications and sustainment. The Legion Battalion's mission set continues to prove vital to senior leaders such as the Army Chief of Staff, GEN Randy George and the Sergeant Major of the Army, CSM Michael Weimer, who visited 3-43 ADA Soldiers in August. Despite the challenges in integrating LTAMDS into IBCS, collective training was a success in establishing the tactical foundations for STE#1 and codifying battalion operations going forward into LTAMDS OA and ultimately IBCS FOT&E next year.

5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, "Team Deuce" had a successful year with multiple complex operations. Throughout the year, 5-52 ADA focused on Integrated Air and Missile Defense, Advanced Gunnery Training and refining Soldiers' skills with warrior tasks and battle drills. The year began with the assumption of the Contingency Response Force mission and the execution of system RECAP. This involved shipping equipment to Letterkenny Army Depot for modernization and 5-52 ADA maintained operational readiness through careful planning. The battalion's ability to execute numerous operations was tested with Operation Balikatan 23 and Operation Olympic Defender.

Operation Balikatan 23, a yearly multinational exercise held in the spring by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, saw Team Deuce selected to send one Fire Unit to assess the capability of deploying a FORSCOM Patriot Battery in INDOPACOM. During the exercise, 5-52 ADA effectively implemented a minimum engagement package and directly contributed to strengthening relations with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Concurrently, Team Deuce conducted Operation Olympic Defender, requiring the use of one of B-2 THAAD's Army Navy/ Transportable Radar Surveillance radars to provide continuous radar coverage over the Continental United States in support of the 7th Space Warning Squadron. The operation took place at Pituffik Space Force Base in Greenland and involved over 30

Soldiers, 15 Guardians, 32 Airmen and 40 DOD Civilians. B-2 took the lead in the operation, demonstrating its ability to rapidly deploy the AN/TPY-2 radar from FORSCOM and operate in Forward Base Mode.

As the summer of 2023 approached, Team Deuce was once again called upon to support an additional multinational exercise. Tasked to support the Israel Test Bed mission, 5-52 ADA sent an array of experienced Patriot tacticians to Israel from throughout the Battalion. Throughout the duration of ITB, Team Deuce tacticians worked with Israeli counterparts to better understand joint tactics, techniques and procedures, with a focus on Integrated Air and Missile Defense. The collaboration included Israeli systems like David's Sling, Arrow 2 and Iron Dome system, in conjunction with Patriot, AEGIS and THAAD.

Transitioning into the fall of 2023, 5-52 ADA successfully executed Operation Shining Star, as well as Patriot as a Target. Operation Shining Star consisted of a joint Live Fire Exercise with the Japanese Air Self Defense Force and Japanese Ground Self Defense Force. Team Deuce supported the operation with one Fire Unit in conjunction with their Japanese partners. Operation Shining Star provided ample opportunity for the Battalion to operate in conjunction with the Armed Forces of Japan and to continue building a strong relationship between the U.S. Army and the Japanese Armed Forces. Patriot as a Target served as the first utilization of the Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor in the integration of Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System. As the first employment of LTAMDS in a live fire exercise, Team Deuce played an instrumental role in the initial testing of the system's capabilities. Two PAC 2 missiles were fired from 5-52 ADA Launchers, with LTAMDS serving as the sensor in place of AN/MPQ-53/65. The data collected by Team Deuce will prove vital for the further testing and implementation of the new system.

In addition to the numerous multinational exercises and initial system testing, 5-52 ADA has maintained their ability to conduct Air Defense Gunnery Training and execute Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. Throughout 2023, Team Deuce executed over eight Air Defense Gunnery Table VIII certifications, effectively maintaining operational readiness throughout the year. During this time, Team Deuce set the 11th BDE GMT reload time record, with 36 minutes and 34 seconds. 5-52 ADA also conducted numerous Deployment Readiness Exercises in conjunction with CRF. Through the multiple DREs, Team Deuce displayed their effectiveness in their ability to deploy to wherever need be if called. 5-52 ADA also placed a heavy emphasis on Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, effectively training Soldiers on Patrol base operations, medical STX lanes and react to contact battle drills. This culminated in a successful Convoy

Live Fire Exercise. Professional development proved to be a key point of emphasis for 5-52 ADA as well. Team Deuce had the opportunity to participate in the USMA branch week, providing an astounding example of what Air Defense Artillery does to the Army's future leaders. 5-52 ADA also found the time to conduct a staff ride to Letterkenny Army depot, as well as the Battle of Gettysburg. 36 Officers, Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers were successfully trained on the importance of historical lessons learned.

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade

In 2023, the 31st Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade continued its unwavering commitment to enhancing lethality and readiness. This pursuit of excellence extended not only to the Brigade and its subordinate battalions stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma but also reached various operational theaters around the globe. 31st ADA Brigade left a lasting mark on air defense operations worldwide brought about through the careful designing and implementation of excellent training programs, ensuring the Brigade's readiness while also influencing other units and areas of operation. In all, every battalion under 31st ADA Brigade played a pivotal role in advancing global air defense missions and safeguarding our nation across multiple theaters.

3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment seamlessly assumed the Contingency Response Force (CRF) mission, swiftly deploying elements to the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) while maintaining a high level of readiness at home station. Meanwhile, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment returned from a year-long deployment in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), where they diligently defended key assets in the region. After a period of rest and recuperation, the battalion wasted no time in executing operations to rebuild combat power and prepare for their next deployment rotation. In the Short-Range Air Defense (SHORAD) realm, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment broke new ground by conducting a rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, marking the first time an air defense battalion deployed in full to support a brigade combat team's rotation and thereby effectively showcasing the utility of short-range air defense battalions in large-scale combat operations (LSCO). Simultaneously, they orchestrated a comprehensive training program, preparing both themselves and 3rd battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment of the Texas National Guard (TXNG) for upcoming deployments overseas to CENTCOM. In all, far-reaching impacts of the 31st ADA Brigade's battalions extended across the globe.

Within the headquarters battery of the 31st ADA Brigade, 2023 saw farewells to accomplished air defenders, the welcoming of a new battery commander

and CSM and intensive preparations for assuming the Top Notch mission. In February 2023, the 31st ADA Brigade wished the best to CSM Greg Thigpen, a dedicated air defender who finished out a distinguished career of 20 years in the Army. Following him, the headquarters battery bid farewell CPT Kolton Smith, who now serves as an instructor at the Air Defense Artillery School and welcomed CPT Rebecca Pobiedzinski, a Chemical Corps Officer by trade, as the new battery commander. Her command tenure in an air defense unit commenced with thorough pre-deployment activities. The headquarters battery maintained its readiness in line with the assumption of the CRF mission from the previous year. Concurrent to these activities, the battery undertook critical Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) and loading operations for deployment to CENTCOM. Later in the summer, trainers from 108th ADA Brigade and 32d AAMDC evaluated the battery during a Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) on its ability to conduct theater operations and execute the Military-Decision Making Process (MDMP). The outstanding performance of the headquarters battery throughout the MRE garnered numerous accolades, exemplifying the cohesion and expertise of the brigade staff. Amidst all of this, the Brigade welcomed CSM Tommy Flores in June 2023. Coming from the 1st Multi-Domain Task Force at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, CSM Flores brought a wealth of experience to the Brigade, significantly enhancing readiness across the unit.

In October, the 31st ADA Brigade deployed and conducted a transfer of authority ceremony, with 11th ADA Brigade. With this transition, the Brigade assumed responsibility for key air defense assets in the U.S. Central Command region under the Top Notch mission and tasked with safeguarding critical locations from air and missile threats. The headquarters seamlessly integrated all assets with minimal delay. The Brigade has successfully executed this mission and will remain ready and vigilant in the coming year.

3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (3-2 ADA, Lethal Strike/Eagles Dare), continued to set the standard for excellence in the air defense branch.

Following their return from a demanding deployment to USCENTCOM in the year prior, the Lethal Strike Battalion remained committed to mission success and the continuous upkeep of mission readiness to support upcoming Contingency Response Force (CRF) requirements.

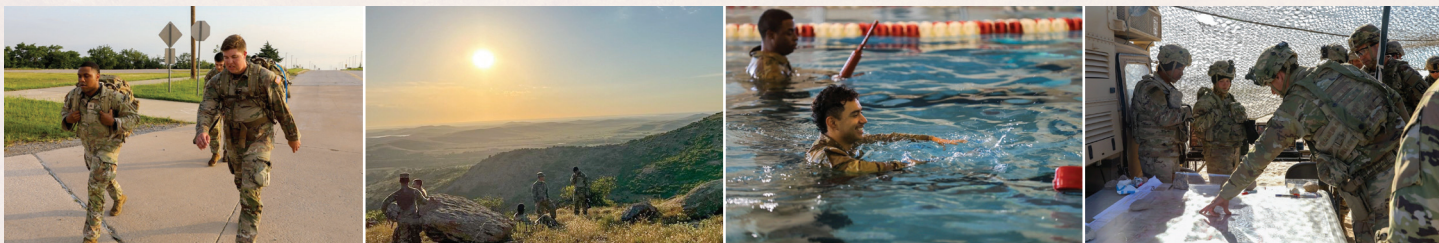
In January 2023, the Lethal Strike Battalion conducted Table VIII Stand-Alone certification. The 3-2 ADA Standardization Teams fully demonstrated their dedication as they traveled to each Patriot site, evaluating line batteries, including their proficiency in jumping and emplacing into contingency site locations. In mid-January, the Lethal Strike Battalion implemented the new Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) as part of modernization efforts. This cutting-edge device not only enhances reliability but also efficiency in commercial backup power. In February 2023, 3-2 ADA executed gunnery training to ensure compliance with CRF requirements. February also saw the battalion execute a deployment ceremony for the 3-2 FDC Crews heading to EUCOM, where they would provide crucial support for to the Ukrainian mission set. The battalion executed a rapid train up of three Information Coordination Central (ICC) and Tactical Control Station (TCS) crews. This involved a development of a speedy training plan that transitioned the crews from CENTCOM tactics to EUCOM tactics. Though the timeline was tight, the Lethal Strike Battalion had no problem taking up the mission.

In March, 3-2 ADA commenced Table V-VII Gunnery Training, uniting cohesively in preparation for the upcoming Table VIII Certifications. The late-March Table VIII certification window opened, allowing units to showcase their prowess in Air and Missile Defense (AMD) and Missile Reload operations. Simultaneously, the Battalion selected a handful of Soldiers to support 5-5 ADA as Observer, Coach, Trainers (OC/T) at the National Training Center (NTC). Toward the end of the month, the Battalion extended their support further by assisting the AMD Cross Functional Team (CFT) for Large Tactical Power System (LTPS) Events.

April arrived with a continued focus on maintaining readiness. The battalion executed an M4 zero and



Left to right: 31st ADA Brigade welcomed CSM Tommy Flores during an Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony in Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Soldiers from 4-3 ADA arrive back home after a year-long deployment to CENTCOM; Delta Battery, 3-2 ADA conducted joint training with the Air Force at Altus AFB, Oklahoma; A HMMWV from Echo Company, 3-2 ADA returning from the range during a Convoy Protection Platform exercise.



Left to right: Soldiers from 3-2 ADA completing the ruck march portion of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge assessment; Soldiers from Echo Company, 3-2 ADA completing STX Lanes that challenged their communication and land navigation skills; Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 4-3 ADA completing Combat Water Survival Swim Test training; Soldiers from 5-5 ADA go over their defensive plan with COL Schrock.

qualification range, further ensuring individual weapons proficiency. Mid-April also allotted land navigation training for Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) candidates, who honed their map reading and navigation skills in preparation for the forthcoming EFMB competition. In June 2023, the Lethal Strike Battalion assumed the CRF mission, necessitating a Battalion STAFFEX that included Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (cUAS) familiarization and air load operations. This STAFFEX cemented the Battalion's familiarity with cUAS, mobility and AMD operations. Delta Battery also conducted a vital exercise at Altus AFB to validate their ability to maneuver and operate effectively in a joint environment.

May saw the battalion focusing on recovery and re-equipping after the strenuous BN STAFFEX. Amidst this period, Charlie Battery (Wolfpack) held a CoC ceremony, marking the transition of command from CPT Vincente Trejo, who the Army recognized as a General Douglas MacArthur Award recipient, to CPT Abdurrahman Colak. Soldiers from the Battalion showcased their mettle by participating in the 31st ADA Brigade Blackjack Warrior Competition, where 32d AAMDC evaluated them on their professionalism, tactical proficiency and mental and physical fortitude.

June ushered in a fresh wave of training opportunities, including a German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB) Training and Certification with the participation of German Army representatives stationed at Fort Sill. Among the 25 contenders, 11 emerged with the prestigious GAFPB. Mid-June also marked a Change of Command ceremony from LTC Christopher Majors to LTC Christopher Garnett, signaling a significant transition that renamed the Lethal Strike Battalion as the Eagles Dare Battalion. LTC Garnett emphasized his priorities of AMD Readiness, personnel readiness, small-unit warfighting skills and tactical proficiency. In mid-July, the units wasted no time and commenced planning and preparations for the 31st BDE MRE STAFFEX. This week-long endeavor was pivotal, encompassing maintenance, personnel status updates and AMD-focused training, crucial in supporting the Brigade's impending deployment to USCENTCOM.

August witnessed the successful conclusion of the BDE MRE and the introduction of STX Lanes executed by junior officers throughout the battalion. These officers planned and reconnoitered routes using maps and land navigation knowledge. The training not only evaluated their basic Soldiering skills, but also served as an opportunity to train the Soldiers' ability to use communications equipment essential for maintaining connectivity during movement operations. Concurrently, AMD operations proceeded smoothly, with junior officers, NCOs and Soldiers effectively planning, rehearsing and executing their Situational Training Exercise (STX) Lanes while continuing to support the BDE MRE. As AMD operations continued, the battalion Standardization Team led a Patriot University, where they provided comprehensive training on several topics for all MOS categories, ensuring readiness for upcoming gunnery.

The latter part of August through September witnessed a dedicated effort to breathe new life into the Battalion's programs, ranging from the arms room to the Command Supply Discipline Program (CSDP) and the Master Driver program, among others. Every facet of the Battalion's programs underwent a revitalization process, ensuring that they were all finely tuned and in optimal condition. 3-2 ADA also seized a unique opportunity to send representatives to attend and actively support the United States Military Academy Branch Week, acting as ambassadors for the Officer Candidate School of Air Defense Artillery (OCADA). These individuals played a pivotal role in assisting with the logistics of equipment movement, ensuring safety protocols were strictly adhered to and strategically placing equipment for effective displays. Their primary focus was to represent the ADA Branch to the cadets at West Point and offer valuable insights into the life of an ADA Officer. Some of the dedicated representatives even had the privilege of leading seminars, skillfully showcasing the numerous advantages and opportunities within the ADA Branch, effectively recruiting more cadets into its ranks.

From mid-to-late September to October, the units undertook a comprehensive training and certification program, delving into Table VI, VII and VIII during their Field Training Exercise (FTX). This intensive

training regimen was a testament to the Battalion's unwavering commitment to honing their skills and expertise in Air Defense operations. In a deliberate effort to not lose sight of fundamental warrior tasks and drills, the Eagles Dare Battalion also introduced a Range Density block, affording all units the opportunity to certify on essential weapons such as the M4 and M249L to reinforce their combat readiness. Units also embarked on another challenging set of STX Lanes, this time focusing on a H8 Recovery Operation. This multifaceted training aimed to refine their ability to handle recovery operations efficiently and effectively. Towards the latter part of October, the Integrated Control Center (ICC) team undertook a significant technological upgrade by transitioning to PDB 8.0.6. The battalion made this move in preparation for an upcoming deployment scheduled for the spring of 2024, ensuring systems and technology aligned with each other and could support the mission set.

In conclusion, the latter half of the year saw Eagles Dare Battalion continuing their steadfast commitment to excellence and readiness. Their proactive approach to program revitalization, engagement at the United States Military Academy Branch Week, rigorous training and technological upgrades all point to a battalion that is fully prepared to face any challenges that lie ahead. The dedication and professionalism exhibited by the Eagles Dare Battalion serves as a beacon of inspiration for all within the ADA Branch and beyond.

4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (4-3 ADA, I Strike) returned home in January 2023 following completion of a deployment to the USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility. 4-3 ADA began the Calendar year conducting redeployment operations, which involved meticulous redeployment of equipment, sensitive items and personnel, all executed without a hitch. Before returning home, the Soldiers of 4-3 ADA went above and beyond to assist in training the incoming unit, ensuring a seamless transition that would sustain comprehensive Air and Missile Defense coverage in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR). Once back at Fort Sill, the 4-3 ADA Soldiers participated in a series of reintegration sessions designed to facilitate their transition back home. The completion of all required reverse Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) requirements paved the way for a well-deserved 30-day post-deployment block leave, providing Soldiers with the opportunity to reconnect with their families and recharge for future missions.

Following the post-deployment block leave, 4-3 ADA wasted no time and swiftly engaged in annual training and individual weapon qualifications. The entire unit was put through rigorous battalion density ranges,

including M4, M249AR, M249L, M17, M320, MK19 and M50, to certify proficiency in both individual and crew-served weapons. Additionally, the battalion executed a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) chamber training to validate the capabilities of their M50 protective masks and refresh their CBRN warrior tasks. The battalion further underscored its commitment to readiness by sending 90 Soldiers through the Combat Life Saver (CLS) course, which improved their ability to provide critical medical care in a combat environment.

Upon completion of range densities and annual training, 4-3 ADA extended its support to the Texas Army National Guard (TXARNG) Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (CRAM) Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE), a mission-critical endeavor aimed at preparing TXARNG for deployment in the CENTCOM AOR. This effort was large in scope, involving the movement of over 150,000 rounds of 20mm ammunition and 150 rockets and mortars, as well as operating the firing point for the MRE. The Soldiers of 4-3 ADA received abbreviated driver's training on the required equipment and undertook the task of transporting the vast amount of ammunition required for the mission, executing the task without incident. In addition, 4-3 ADA provided OICs and NCOICs to operate the firing point, an essential component of the exercise. This support extended over 30 days and was instrumental in the successful training of TXARNG for their upcoming deployment.

Following the CRAM MRE, 4-3 ADA shifted its focus towards building readiness in preparation for equipment buyback. Soldiers actively participated in weapon ranges for the M4, M249L/AR, Mk19, M2 and M320, with an impressive 90% or higher qualification rate across all units. Echo Company executed their Convoy Platform Protection (CPP) LFX, which involved shoot-on-the-move convoy operations with the M240B, resulting in a 100% qualification rate. Driver's Training assumed a central role in anticipation of equipment buyback, with the entire program being meticulously reestablished in accordance with proper standard operating procedures (SOPs) and Fort Sill regulations. This effort ensured that more than 40 new Soldiers received the necessary training to operate the equipment upon its arrival. Throughout these training endeavors, 4-3 ADA remained committed to enrolling Soldiers in Primary Military Education (PME) schools. The battalion celebrated the graduation of over 20 Soldiers from Basic Leader Course (BLC), four from Advanced Leader Course (ALC), two from Senior Leader Course (SLC) and one from Master Leader Course (MLC). SGM Blevins, the 4-3 ADA Operations Sergeant Major, also achieved a significant milestone by graduating from the Sergeants Major Academy. Of the four ALC graduates, two earned the Distinguished Honor Graduate designation for their exceptional performance during the course.

Looking ahead, 4-3 ADA is preparing for gunnery and setting the stage for assuming the contingency response force (CRF) mission. In the meantime, Soldiers are engaging in simulator training and collaborating closely with the 30th BDE schoolhouse to gain hands-on experience with expected equipment. The battalion is actively conducting staff and Tactical Operations Center (TOC) exercises to hone the skills of the staff. Multiple field exercises are on the horizon for individual batteries, culminating in a convoy to Altus Air Force Base (AFB) in January for Table VIII Gunnery. Once the batteries complete their training, the battalion will execute a culminating training event at Fort Sill, designed to assess the battalion's warfighting capabilities and ensure preparedness for any mission that may come their way.

In conclusion, 4-3 ADA has demonstrated unwavering dedication and commitment to training and readiness since their return from a CENTCOM deployment. The Battalion's steadfast focus on Soldier readiness and unit preparedness has positioned them for their next mission. As equipment buyback and gunnery preparations unfold, 4-3 ADA stands as the premier Patriot Battalion in the Army, fully poised and ready to execute any mission that may arise. Their tireless efforts serve as a testament to their dedication and professionalism.

5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (5-5 ADA, Dragonslayers) has continued to prove itself as one of the most "Ready and Resilient" ADA Battalions. Repeatedly, the battalion has demonstrated that it can provide critical Short-Range Air & Missile Defense (SHORAD) to Geographical Combatant Commanders to protect critical U.S., allied and partner assets from rockets, artillery and mortars (RAM), enemy Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and all other hostile aerial platforms. The Dragonslayer Battalion has had an event filled schedule. This has included supporting the Mission Readiness Exercises (MRE) for the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment of the Texas National Guard (TXNG); executing numerous gunnery certification events; validating unit proficiency in a

Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX); supporting the first deployment of a SHORAD ADA Battalion to the National Training Center in over 15 years; and preparing elements of the Battalion to deploy to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) executing high-priority missions in support of both Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). Throughout 2023, the Dragonslayers continue to prove they will fight "To the Last Round" any time or place the Nation calls. The success of the Battalion is a direct reflection of the hard work put in by everyone, from our maintainers ensuring equipment is ready to Air Defense crew members adapting to ever changing aerial threats.

January 2023 contained the units first culminating training event of the calendar year with a C-RAM Table XII certification, Avenger Table VIII certification and a CALFEX that included numerous other units. Alpha (C-RAM) and Bravo (C-RAM) Batteries certified 100% of assigned crews to gunnery standards in addition to C-UAS operations with the Land Based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS). Simultaneously, Charlie Battery certified 12 Avenger crews while executing an FTX. The gunnery certifications culminated with the arrival of the Air Defense Airspace Management (ADAM) cell from 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery regiment coming together for a CALFEX. The CALFEX framework validated the Battalions ability to execute simultaneous C-RAM and Avenger operations against a complex threat (sUAS and RAM) while providing a common tactical picture for a simulated maneuver unit (ADAM Cell, 3/1 AD) to pass fire missions to supporting cannon artillery (B/2-2 FA). Over the course of 72 hours, all units successfully replicated their roles in a large scale combat operation (LSCO) environment. Aerial threats were destroyed and enemy points of origin were engaged through data provided by the Battalion's fire units.

The Dragonslayer Battalion immediately transitioned into recovery operations in preparation for a full Battalion deployment to the National Training Center (NTC) in March and April, representing its second culminating training event of the calendar year. NTC rotation 23-06 was the first time a SHORAD ADA BN



Left to right: A C-RAM system from 5-5 ADA preparing for a live fire at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California; LT Wallace from Echo Company, 4-3 ADA goes over the training plan for the unit's Convoy Protection Platform Exercise; Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 5-5 ADA execute C-RAM operations ISO 3/1 AD (ABCT) during NTC 23-06; Soldiers of Charlie Battery, 5-5 ADA conduct PCIs prior to execution of crew certifications in JUN 23.

had supported a NTC exercise in over ten years. The maintainers of Delta Company (Desperado) shifted focus from gunnery certifications to simultaneous recovery operations and pre-deployment operations. While working through frigidly cold temperatures, Desperado maintainers brought the Battalion's equipment above a 92% readiness rate. Dragonslayers from all subordinate units successfully integrated with the "Bulldogs" of 3/1 AD during NTC 23-06. The unit accomplished its core training objectives of refining tactics and laying the groundwork for continued integration of SHORAD ADA units at NTC to train for multi-domain and large-scale combat operations.

During force-on-force (FoF) operations, the Battalion saw itself challenged with units spread across 3/1 AD's operational framework. Leaders and Soldiers found themselves integrated at all echelons, from LNOs at 52ID Headquarters to Stinger teams providing support to the Brigades Cavalry Troop. The validation of C-RAM established a historic precedent with capabilities moving with and defending key designated defended assets in support of LSCO. Subsequently, the unit transitioned to two separate live fire events. Charlie Battery executed a combined maneuver live fire with 3/1 AD Battalions, executing aerial engagements during offensive and defensive operations. Alpha and Bravo Batteries, with the help of the NTC Dragon Team and 11th ACR, planned and executed the first ever C-RAM live fire to occur at the National Training Center. Throughout this operation, the unit's deliberate training plan resulted in operational success while preventing any accidents despite austere and challenging conditions throughout the rotation. Highlights such as C/5-5 ADA's Avengers maneuvering under limited visibility with a Combined Arms Battalion and D/5-5 ADA's recovery team conducting over 14 wrecker missions reflect the proficiency and tenacity of Dragonslayer Soldiers. The lessons learned from this rotation further emphasize the importance of SHORAD support to the maneuver force and U.S. assets in combat.

Following the Battalions return from NTC 23-06, the unit executed three deliberate lines of effort. First, recovery operations took full precedence for leaders and Soldiers. Delta Company's maintainers executed an in-depth maintenance inspection of all deployed equipment and worked diligently to return combat capability to subordinate units across the Battalion. Second, the battalion provided Soldiers' time to recover from the exertions of a challenging but rewarding NTC rotation while also focusing on individual readiness. The third line of effort consisted of supporting the simultaneous execution of the 3-133rd TXNG and 5-5 ADA Battalion pre-deployment mission readiness exercises. For the TXNG, the Dragonslayer Battalion trained and certified more than 300 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. For the Battalion's own certification, the unit executed a Battalion STAFFEX that replicated the projected split-mission command requirements of the upcoming deployment. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Batteries successfully certified all crews for operations in the CENTCOM AoR. As the exercise ended at the close of June 2023, the Battalion validated its proficiency in all aspects of LSCO having completed offensive, defensive and stability operations in less than four months.

Remaining on the forefront of support for the Army's modernization priorities, the Dragonslayer Battalion successfully executed 14P Land-Based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS) operator training and 94T LPWS trouble-shooting training. Both efforts to increase proficiency across the branch and establish increased competencies for projected mission requirements. Charlie Battery's efforts to sustain its Avenger combat capacity resulted in the movement of numerous Avengers to the Letterkenny Army Depot for sustainment level pass-back maintenance resourced through 31st ADA Brigade and 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

With respect to training readiness over the past year, the Dragonslayers have trained exactly how they 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 can meet the requirements of the maneuver force both during NTC rotations and in combat operations. Dragonslayers prioritized mission readiness and gunnery certifications within the annual training strategy. Over the calendar year, the Battalion executed two Avenger Table VIII Gunneries as well as a C-RAM Table XII certifications to validate all crews, equipment and the Battalion's ability to synchronize and integrate across Warfighting Functions.

The future of the Dragonslayer Battalion holds numerous opportunities for personnel and units to expand their proficiency and validate the necessity of SHORAD for maneuver commanders. The Battalion staff is on glide-path for the execution of a Warfighter Exercise in support of the 1st Infantry Division, executing a deliberate mission command train up timeline to provide the "Big Red One" with a competent and capable SHORAD Battalion staff. C-RAM units are establishing a "C-RAM University" to continue crew training, implement lessons learned from past training events and provide supported commanders with trained units. Charlie Battery's Avengers remain focused on

their LSCO oriented mission set with a timeline that will culminate with support to a multi-national training event next year.

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 Dragonslayer Battalion remains highly trained, disciplined and fit to fight and win “To the Last Round!”

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

In 2023, leaders and Soldiers of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade improved on the brigades main Lines of Effort maintaining a “People First” mentality throughout the year. Soldiers remained as the most precious resource and number one priority. 69th ADA BDE built cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined and fit who are ready to fight and win. Leaders were responsible for building and fostering PRIDE (Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence) in their formations while maintaining professional teams grounded in the Army Values. Leadership involvement was rooted down to the squad level through leading by example and teamwork. Formations practiced disciplined initiative and empowering subordinates to lead and succeed. Leaders also remained committed to Soldier and Family readiness, providing predictability and fostering a positive command climate.

Through People First initiatives, the 69th ADA BDE implemented Health of the Force (HoF) program initiatives ensuring establishment and emphasis of quarterly SHARP, EO, MRT, Professional Military Education (PME) and pre-deployment and post-deployment training. Furthermore, the 69th ADA BDE developed trailblazing programs such as the Lightning Warrior Integration Program, which resulted in over four hundred inbound Soldiers receiving hands on in-processing and direct leader engagement prior to being released to their unit. The program’s desired outcomes were evident as a more ready, resilient, informed and supported Soldier is ready to be received at echelon. Through People First initiatives in Fiscal Year 2023, the 69th ADA BDE was able to build trust and empower leaders across formations.

The 69th ADA BDE remained committed to Mission Accomplishment and winning the fight. Whether deployed or at home station, the 69th ADA BDE stood ready to defeat the full range of air defense threats in any theater. 69th ADA BDE remains the most capable Air Defense unit in the Army by facilitating the Army’s

efforts in fielding additional joint air and missile defense capabilities. 69th ADA BDE is a cohesive and professional team that is highly trained, disciplined and fit underpinned by respect and trust. The Brigade Headquarters remains ready to mobilize, deploy, fight and win in any environment in the world as they assumed the Contingency Response Force Mission.

At Warfighter Exercise 23-4, the 69th ADA BDE served as the first ADA BDE to fully integrate and provide ADA BDE support to a Corps in a LSCO fight. The results this proved immeasurable and provided lessons learned to both the maneuver force and ADA community. The 69th ADA BDE effort not only positively reflected great credit upon the ADA force but lead to lasting impacts as feedback and lessons learned is now being implemented into Joint and Army doctrine such as FM 3-01.7 Air Defense Artillery Brigade Operations.

4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 4-5 Air Defense Artillery Battalion deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield from early January to late 2023. HHB, responsible for supporting Patriot missile operations in the countries of Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and HHB/4-5 ADA successfully executed its assigned mission while supporting four Patriot firing batteries, the battalion’s maintenance company and serving as ADCON for a Sentinel team from 2-44 ADA.

HHB/4-5 took aggressive actions to improve its work site by working contracts to repair two buildings back to useable standards. This work included enhancing SIPR networks and removing those that were not in use, which reduced the required security measures, lessening the workload for future units. The unit refurbished the work site by coordinating new roadways and gravel to make a more sustainable site. Finally, the unit conducted the organization of excess equipment from the work site. This consisted of the removal of eight containers full of equipment that previous units abandoned. HHB/4-5 medics conducted training events for several U.S. Army units and the local clinic team. The training consisted of education in I.V.s, trauma aid and reacting to chemical attacks.

The HHB medic team trained over an estimated three thousand Soldiers at all three aforementioned countries. HHB partook in the base wide exercise “Texas Pete.” This exercise conducted training involving C-UAS, IED and missile attacks. Throughout the execution of these exercises the Soldiers of 4-5 ADA were able to use their tactical and technical knowledge of AMD operations to improve Camp Arifjan’s SOPs for reacting to different air, UAS and missile attacks.

HHB supported the Joint/Combined Central Center

Operation Center (CCOC) by imbedding Soldiers in a Saudi Arabian command center to deconflict airspace and coordinate engagements. While HHB Soldiers served in this position, they participated in several Joint/Combined exercises that involved U.S. Patriot and F16s: coordinating engagements with Saudi Arabian F15s against simulated UAS, cruise missile and TBM attacks. The success of these exercises not only strengthened the understanding of the Joint/Combined partner capabilities, but also helped to increase the confidence of the team to tackle all variations of threats.

Headquarters Battery distinguished itself during the duration of Operation Spartan Shield by successfully executing the mission in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). The Soldiers of HHB/4-5 ADA were tested both in AMD operations and the changing posture of AMD in theater. The Hostile team was able to remain dynamic and adapt to the ever-changing threats and relationships that have been forged in CENTCOM for years.

Alpha Battery

A/4-5 ADA BN deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield from January to late 2023. Alpha Battery was responsible for conducting Patriot missile operations in the country of Bahrain. A/4-5 ADA was able to successfully assume mission while simultaneously developing Patriot operations exchange programs, improving bilateral relationships with host-nation military personnel and conducting a site survivability jump.

A/4-5 ADA developed and implemented the Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) program with the Royal Bahraini Air Force (RBAF). This 10-week SMEE program gave RBAF personnel the opportunity to gain experience on all the proper procedures for operating the Patriot Missile system. The SMEE program allowed RBAF to better prepare themselves for when they receive their own patriot missile system. The foundation of the SMEE program will continue to be utilized at other Patriot sites to further build relationships with host nations in the CENTCOM AOR.

Alpha Battery had the opportunity to serve as the Air Defense Artillery liaison by sitting on a review board for the doctrine that covers the defense of the Kingdom of Bahrain during a transition to war. The unit worked directly with RBAF officers, Bahraini Defense Force (BDF), U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force personnel to delegate roles and responsibilities to all BDF, RBAF and Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) service members stationed in Bahrain. All efforts significantly improved the bilateral relationship of US Forces and RBAF personnel in Bahrain.

The unit completed a site survivability jump in conjunction with the Information Coordination Central (ICC) during the deployment. Alpha Battery Soldiers mobilized and emplaced the radar set, engagement control station and the electric power plant to an entirely new location on site. The unit successfully completed initialization and system validation to accomplish the mission. This site survivability jump was the first jump completed on site since its establishment in 2011. All crews properly demonstrated Prepare for Movement and Emplacement (PM&E) drills to the military personnel from the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Alpha Battery demonstrated tactical proficiency and dedicated service to the overall mission. The unit dedicated countless hours to maintain operability and a prominent level of lethality. The unit had the opportunity to work in unison with host-nation military personnel along with creating an environment of excellence. Alpha Battery strived for Air and Missile Defense excellence and Soldier readiness. Prepare for Battle!

Bravo Battery

The Bravo "Bounty Hunter" Battery, 4-5 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, had an incredibly successful year taking care of Soldiers, deterring adversaries and winning. The Bounty Hunters deployed to the CENTCOM AOR. The team hit the ground running downrange during Crew Certification Verifications (CCVs). Two Bounty Hunter crews successfully certified during Relief in Place (RIP) from a thorough external evaluation team from the 31st ADA Brigade. During CY23, The Bounty Hunter Battery continuously built tactical and technical proficiency through TACSEMs and battle drills, while also maintaining maintenance and personnel readiness while in a deployed environment. The Bounty Hunters boasted the best Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) scores in the Battalion during the deployment. The Battery conducted a major survivability jump exercise with external support and coordination from various organizations at their deployed installation. The installation wide exercise was the first of its kind in three years and demonstrated the tactical expertise, readiness and adaptability of the Bounty Hunter team. 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 installation flag football tournament three times during the deployment. The Bounty Hunter team worked diligently to coordinate projects with multiple external agencies and units to significantly improve their assigned Patriot Site downrange.

The Battery hosted a multitude of visits from numerous commanding generals and other VIPs, setting a high standard for a CENTCOM Patriot Site.

The Bounty Hunters also reestablished relations and combined cooperation with the host nation Ground Based Air Defense (GBAD) forces while deployed to the CENTCOM AOR. This partnership had not been consistently maintained for two years prior due to restrictions in the host nation. B/4-5 ADA stands ready as part of the Vanguard Battalion and Team of Winners to continue to strengthen partnerships with our allies in the CENTCOM AOR.

Charlie Battery

Charlie Battery, 4-5 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, over the course of the calendar year provided air and missile defense to critical assets in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The unit successfully supported adjacent units and other branches of government to enhance host nation partner relationships by supporting security cooperation initiatives that enabled regional security and stability. Highlighted below are two significant joint exercises the unit successfully conducted during their deployment.

In January 2023, C/4-5 participated in the theater-level Red Sands Integration Experimentation Center (RSIEC) exercise. The unit played an integral role in the exercise helping plan, create and test new tactical procedures in support of base defense operations. The unit established communications between the engagement control station and the F-16 fighter jets to test tactical procedures. This combined exercise increased the readiness of C/4-5 ADA, the Air Force's 375th Air Expeditionary Wing and the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) on their ability to successfully defend the base.

In May 2023, the unit conducted a Maintenance focused SME exchange with the RSAF's 5th Air Defense Artillery Group. This was the first time such an exchange ever occurred and its successful outcome established long-term relations between the RSAF and Army Air Defense units. The first part of the exchange involved C/4-5 ADA hosting ten Air Defense Officers from RSAF, to execute joint training on Patriot equipment maintenance processes. The unit provided them with information on how to conduct proper, by the -10 standard, Preventative Checks and Services on Patriot equipment and properly showed them how C/4-5 ADA manages their maintenance at the battery level. The primary emphasis was to demonstrate the importance of routine maintenance to prolong the usage of the equipment. The second half of the exchange involved C/4-5 ADA sending seven of their Soldiers, including the Commander CPT Ekaterin Gjonaj, to Daharan, KSA where RSAF 5th Group is located. The four-day trip consisted of various activities, including tours of both Battery and Battalion-level PATRIOT sites (101 RSAF Patriot Battalion). The Saudis explained various aspects of their mission in KSA as well as the similarities and

differences in their tactical and maintenance processes compared to what they learned from their visit to Prince Sultan Air Base (PSAB). The SME Exchange fostered excellent bi-lateral relations with the host country of Saudi Arabia. The trip was invaluable for both sides with both RSAF and C/4-5 ADA expressing an interest in maintaining the relationship they built.

Delta Battery

D/4-5 Air Defense Artillery (ADA) conducted pre-deployment operations, a successful nine-and-a-half-month deployment in the Kingdom of Bahrain and redeployed during the end of 2022 into the end of 2023. The pre-deployment operations allowed the Battery to successfully deploy and assume mission from D/3-4 ADA in January 2023 and through coordination with our sister Battalion, the Battery was able to have a successful transition with C/1-62 ADA in October 2023.

D/4-5 ADA "Diablos" built tactical proficiency by being the first Battery in the Battalion to have an Air and Missile Defense Crew receive a first time "GO" during an initial certification. The crews also executed a successful site jump exercise and two of our Launcher Reload Crews had one of the fastest training times for Alert State Assumptions in the Battalion, resulting in the continuous recognition of the crew by the Information Coordination Central (ICC) for their efforts.

D/4-5 ADA increased force protection on site with establishing in-depth guidelines for joint operations between the Battery Command Post and Navy Joint Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (JCREW) operators. Battery Leadership coordinated with civilian contractors and Navy Anti-Terrorism officials IOT execute a training exercise to assess our system alongside the JCREW for posturing against Unmanned Aerial Systems to increase site defense capabilities. Battery Tactical Control Officers were also able to fly with Navy pilots in a P-8 aircraft where they saw the tactical data link between the Patriot system and the aircraft.

D/4-5 ADA leadership were able to make several improvements to the Patriot site that will assist future units with their missions such as installing sniper screening to increase force protection and installing a built-up gravel road through coordination with the Navy and Bahrainis IOT improve ease of downrange operations. Leaders were able to coordinate to have Wi-Fi installed on site and started the planning for the project to replace and improve upon the buildings on site to improve quality of life while deployed. Throughout the duration of the Battery's time downrange, they were consistently assisted by contractors and representatives from ARCENT, 408th Brigade, 31st TSC, Top Notch Brigade, Navy personnel and local Bahraini companies

for site projects. The Delta Battery leadership is grateful for their ongoing support to the Army ADA Units.

Over the next calendar year, the battery has plans to receive our equipment back from reset and jump back into training and garrison operations.

Echo Company

Echo Company over the deployment provided field level maintenance support to an air defense artillery battalion (Patriot) for all automotive, ground support equipment, communications-electronic, missile peculiar systems and Class IX repair parts support within the USCENTCOM AOR and prioritized focusing on readiness, lethality and Soldier welfare. The Company ensured all service members stand ready to support, engage and defend against air threats while maintaining an unbroken logistical supply chain across three countries and in support of various host nation entities and multiple Joint Armed Service Branches. Echo Company maintained a strong mindset of relationship building across the AOR while lateral external support agencies and adjacent units. Echo Company was able to seamlessly provide manning support despite shortages of key billets within its formation allowing the expedient identification and repair of critical assets. The company ensured Soldier care throughout the deployment by providing Officers, NCOs and Soldiers with the opportunity to absorb host nation culture with MWR events whenever possible. The unit conducted community outreach in the form of volunteer with community partners to better strengthen the bond already in place.

1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Upon re-deployment, 1-44 ADAR continued to accomplish and train individual gunnery tables to be ready to assume any mission set. After thoroughly analyzing the training timeline, the Battalion identified a plan to Table VIII certify within three months after receiving its organic Air and Missile defense equipment back from reset in order to be mission ready. After coordinating support with their sister Battalion 1-62 ADA, 1-44 ADAR was able to complete multiple individual gunnery tables utilizing 1-62's Patriot systems. This decreased the training time 1-44 ADAR needed upon reception of their organic Patriot systems, allowing the Battalion to move onto Intermediate gunnery while building the functional and cohesive teams necessary for successful Table VIII evaluations.

The 1-44 ADAR, "Strike First," Battalion planned and executed multiple communication exercises across Fort Cavazos. These communication exercises were aimed on training the servicemembers on various

skills necessary to establish and maintain successful communications in a Large-Scale Combat Operation (LSCO) environment. The Battalion planned three training exercises that increased in difficulty and requirements. The Soldiers and NCOs trained on establishing short distance, long distance and vehicle communications as well as building the infrastructure necessary to establish Battery Headquarters and a Battalion Main for sustained operations. This would allow commanders had maximum command and control (C2) over their respective area of operations. By the end of the training exercises, the Servicemembers were familiar with handling COMSEC, loading communication encryption keys and setting up OE-254's in different locations to increase the clarity and effectiveness of voice communications.

In January of 2023, the 69th ADA BDE held a "Lightning Warrior" competition in preparation for the 32nd AAMDC Black Jack Warrior Week. 1-44 ADAR held their best warrior competition to select the best candidates to represent the "Strike First" Battalion. The Brigade Lightning Warrior competition consisted of events to include a 12-mile ruck, combat water survival test, M4 qualification range, ACFT, obstacle course, leadership board, CLS evaluation lane and a land navigation test. The Battalion then identified the Servicemembers who scored the highest across all the events to create a squad to represent the unit in the Brigade competition. The squad went on to compete against the other Battalions in 69th ADA BDE, resulting in the squad achieving the highest score in the Brigade and winning the competition. Not only did the squad from 1-44 ADAR win the "Lightning Warrior" competition, but multiple squad members scored the highest for each position (Officer, Warrant Officer, NCO and Soldier). Each of the following personnel has received recognition, a trophy and an ARCOM for their participation in the event and identified as "Lightning Warrior of the Year" for FY23: 1LT Maule, Lightning Officer of the Year, SSG Schaeffer, Lightning NCO of the year, CPL Burns, Lightning Soldier of the year and WO1 Pfeiffer, Lightning Warrant Officer for FY23.

In February of 2023, 1-44 ADAR began to receive its organic Patriot Air Defense equipment back from reset upon return from the previous deployment. In February, the Battalion only received two Fire Units worth of equipment. While waiting for the remaining equipment to return, the Fire Units quickly developed training plans to maximize Patriot crew training and allow every Battery across the Battalion the opportunity to conduct AMD training. The coordination between Fire Unit commanders allowed each other to prepare for the upcoming Table VIII evaluation window and set the organization up for success. By mid-April 2023, the Battalion had received all their Patriot equipment back from reset, allowing the Fire Units to focus heavily

on Basic and Intermediate Patriot Gunnery to prepare for summer training and meet mission assumption requirements.

In June of 2023, 1-44 ADAR sent all Fire Units and the FDC section to the Fort Cavazos training areas to complete Table VIII certifications. This was accomplished through the rigorous training plans developed by the Battery commanders to meet MP3 mission requirements outlined by 32nd AAMDC. Over two weeks, the “Strike First” Battalion conducted Table VIII evaluations in the field. With the Fire Units operating in the field, the Battalion staff used the opportunity to train warrior tasks and testing the functionality of the Battalion main alongside the FDC section. The HHB staff sections set up an operational Battalion main HQ co-located with the FDC section to validate the established headquarters’ operability. 1-44 ADAR successfully constructed the infrastructure of the main headquarters that would give the Battalion commander the most C2 over his unit. By the end of the two-week training exercise, 1-44 ADAR completed Table VIII certifications and validated the Battalion’s planned site layout, infrastructure and ability to conduct regular Battalion functions concurrently with ongoing AMD operations in preparation for the upcoming Culminating Training Exercise (CTE).

In preparation for the Battalion’s assigned mission timeline, 1-44 ADAR planned and conducted a Culminating Training Exercise (CTE) IAW 32nd AAMDC annual training guidance to prepare the unit for rapid deployment to any environment needed around the globe. Throughout multiple planning sessions, the Battalion developed a timeline and training plan that would take the unit through equipment reception, Table VIII certifications and a CTE in order to ensure Mission Essential Tasks were at the required proficiency to conduct war-time functions in any given environment. Given the current global climate, 1-44 ADAR designed a scenario that would force the Battalion to operate in a LSCO environment and be prepared to successfully conduct Air and Missile Defense (AMD) operations against a near-peer adversary. The training scenario included OPFOR direct fire and indirect fire, establishing mobile complex communications infrastructure, conducting passive air defense against modern UAS tactics and providing organic force protection for

the Fire Unit, all while simultaneously conducting Table VIII evaluations. The Battalion coordinated the support of UAS assets on Ft. Cavazos to conduct ariel reconnaissance and provide intelligence to the OPFOR to support coordinating attacks on unit operating sites. This allowed the Battalion to identify weak areas in standard Patriot Operating tactics and evaluate the effectiveness of the unit’s passive air defense measures. The conclusion of this exercise resulted in 1-44 ADAR meeting mission requirements given by 32nd AAMDC and being ready to assume the mission assigned to the “Strike First” Battalion.

6th Battalion, 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

First Team! On September 17th, 2023 marked one year of activation for 6-56 ADAR under America’s First Team, 1st Cavalry Division and 1st Cavalry Division Artillery. The Nighthawk Battalion, led by LTC Sam Pearson, took off running by immersing within the 1st Cavalry Division Command Post / Warfighter Exercise series. By the end of October 2023, 6-56 ADAR Battalion integrated into the Division Main Command Post for Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) simulations six different times. Having the full Battalion staff integrated into 1st Cavalry Division operations at this frequency was a first for Air Defense since the activation of the newest M-SHORAD Battalions.

During these CPX/WFX’s, the Battalion synchronized and established DIVADCOORD responsibilities, integrated into the Division G5 planning process, providing target nominations within the Division Targeting Working Group and stood shoulder to shoulder through the MDMP process with Division planners. Along with developing and standardizing over 40 programs of record for the BN and subordinate units, 6-56 ADAR conducted multiple Deployment Readiness Exercises. The execution of those DRE’s, including a division directed, evaluated exercise and tested and improved the Battalions Command Deployment Discipline Program.

Readiness being the forefront of the Nighthawk Battalion’s focus, the Battalion zeroed in on a myriad of programs that would best prepare the unit to be ready to assume responsibility of the 1st Cavalry Division’s Short Range Air Defense Battalion. Over the



Left to right: 1-44 ADA Water Environment Training; 1-44 ADA Field Training Exercise; 1-62 ADA Combined Training; 1-62 ADA Live Fire at Fort Bliss, TX.

course of 12 months, the formation grew to over 500 soldiers and their families and the Battalion focused on weapons qualifications, driver's training, conventional equipment maintenance and preparing for National Training Center rotations. The Battalion participated with MANPAD platoons and Battery Command teams integrated into their respective Brigade Command Posts during both NTC 23-8 and NTC 23-09 rotations. 6-56 ADAR received one of two division set of C-sUAS equipment the Army has issued and conducted a C-sUAS Live Fire Range during the 4th QTR of FY23.

MANPAD gunnery was paramount to 6-56 ADAR being ready to support 1st Cavalry Division in any circumstance if they were called upon to conduct combat operations. Over the course of the first twelve months, the 6-56 ADAR Nighthawk gunnery program produced over 60 certified MANPAD teams across the Battalion. Demonstrating their ability during Table VI during Platoon Field Training Exercises and their ability to engage under evaluation during Table VIII. The Nighthawk soldiers brought an immense amount of combat capacity to the First Team.

A/6-56, led by CPT Dante Di Giansante and D/6-56 ADAR, led by CPT Galen Wood, led the charge being the first units to certify during MANPAD gunnery, only two quarters after Battalion activation. A/6-56 successfully integrated their Battery Command team and a MANPAD platoon into NTC 23-08 with 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. B/6-56 ADAR, led by CPT Shaun Carter, led the charge at NTC 23-09, successfully integrating their team into the 3rd Cavalry Regiment rotation with a MANPAD platoon, Command team and augmentation of the Blue Halo Titan systems.

C/6-56 ADAR integrated into 1st Brigade "Ironhorse", 1st Cavalry Division's execution of Remagen Ready. Remagen Ready, a division level FTX, which saw enemy red air, a wet gap crossing and complete integration of the Crazy Horse Command team, led by CPT Dan Ryan, into the 1st Brigade Main Command Post. With

all the accomplishments across the year, maintenance is paramount and E/6-56 ADAR, led by CPT Dustin Nguyen, supported all exercises from platoon field training exercises to NTC rotations.

Soldiers and Families being critical to the Battalions success, 6-56 ADAR hosted the first DIVARTY Turkey Bowl, first Battalion Organizational Day, first battalion ball, developed the first Foundational Day Program and conducted the first 6-56 ADAR Cavalry Spur Ride. These Nighthawk oriented activities were critical to building the current atmosphere within the Battalion, which is centered around the Nighthawk Soldiers and their families.

With the future fielding of the M-SHORAD Strykers in late November 2023, the Nighthawk Battalion will receive 36 systems and all associated training to ensure successful integration of these combat platforms into 1st Cavalry Division tactics and operations. In the months to come, D/6-56 ADAR will be integrating into 3rd Brigade Combat Team "Greywolf", 1st Cavalry Division's NTC 24-06. 6-56 ADAR Nighthawk Battalion continues to execute and improve as an organization through complex training and integration across the 1st Cavalry Division.

1st Battalion, 62d Air Defense Artillery Regiment

2023 was a year of growth and development for the soldiers and leaders of 1st Battalion, 62d Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Defined by an unwavering commitment to both soldier welfare and mission readiness, the last twelve months saw achievements in several areas, from tactical proficiency to team building. The Hunters successfully transitioned from a training phase to mission readiness with a complete Field Training Exercise (FTX), a Field Surveillance Program (FSP) live fire and Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE). Despite changes in leadership, the Battalion's commitment to its family environment and presence in the community was demonstrated by a distinguished



Left to right: Soldiers from D/6-56 and A/6-56 had a visit from Honorable Douglas R. Bush, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology. The Nighthawk soldiers highlighted the C-sUAS and Sentinel capabilities and 1st Cavalry Division mission set; Soldiers from C/6-56, Crazy Horse Battery, teamed up with 1st Cavalry Division Aviation Brigade to conduct their own anti-aircraft missile training. These two Nighthawk troopers are working as a MANPAD team and targeting a low-flying rotary wing aircraft; B/6-56 ADAR and D/6-56 ADAR sent soldiers and leaders to integrate into the battlefield at the National Training Center in support of the Brave Rifles of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Bull Battery Commander, CPT Shaun Carter, and 2LT Chido Rwakonda from Diablo Battery, let these troopers through a highly successful rotation as noted by the 1st Cavalry Division Commander, MG Kevin Admiral; Echo Company, led by CPT Dustin Nguyen, conducted the Full Send Company Turkey Trot, where families and friends were invited to come walk/ruck with canned food donations for the Killeen Care Center. Donations by Echo came to 652 pounds of food, which will go to needy families in the Killeen area.

Adopt-a-School Program and numerous family days in the local area. The “Aim High” Battalion continues to live up to its motto as it works tirelessly to increase readiness to conduct forward AMD Operations.

After holiday block leave, the Hunters immediately began preparation for a complete Air Defense Gunnery Table (ADGT) certification. In February the “Aim High” Battalion conducted a FTX to complete remaining crew evaluations from the previous quarter. Each battery was given hands on Air and Missile Defense (AMD) training from the most experienced Officers, Warrants and NCOs in the battalion. Each battery completed the FTX with two ADGT VIII certified crews and a passing site evaluation. Multiple injects were included and conducted by battalion staff to train on Mission Essential Tasks (MET) tasks. The Hunter Battalion met its FTX objectives and redeployed from the field prepared to navigate its upcoming MRE.

The Hunters deployed to the field a final time for their MRE in April following a month of thorough preparation. Each battery was evaluated on the Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) standard and familiarized with all theater-specific reporting procedures. 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and 1-44 Air Defense Artillery Battalion conducted graded injects to evaluate batteries and battalion staff on all necessary METL tasks. Having successfully completed the exercise, the Hunter Battalion left the field prepared to assume deployment operations.

The Hunter Battalion was afforded another opportunity to conduct a Patriot live fire in May following its MRE. Eighteen Soldiers from three crews traveled to White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico and successfully completed training in support of Shield’s Field Surveillance Program (FSP). The Hunters fired six interceptors in total.

A key highlight for The Hunters was the unwavering dedication and support of families and the surrounding community. As part of an adopt-a-school program with Haynes Elementary, the Hunter Battalion was awarded four outstanding awards including Best Unit Overall, Best Unit Commander, Best Unit POC and first place in Service Hours. No other unit at Fort Cavazos had an Adopt-a-School program as successful and decorated as 1-62 ADA BN. The final event for Haynes Elementary consisted of a static display of Patriot equipment at their school. Numerous Hunters volunteered their time in order to make each event. The children of Haynes Elementary and their families greatly appreciated the support they received and look positively on 1-62 ADA BN’s and Fort Cavazos’s commitment to its community.

108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is headquartered at Fort Liberty in North Carolina. The Panther Battalion consists of four Patriot firing batteries, one maintenance company and one headquarters battery. The Battalion has showcased its unwavering commitment to excellence, forged new partnerships and achieved significant milestones that have solidified its reputation as a formidable force within the military landscape. The 1-7th ADA Battalion’s journey resonates as a tale of resilience, strategic acumen and the power of collaboration. Amid challenges and triumphs, growth and adaptation, the Battalion remains poised to continue its legacy of excellence into the future. From participation in recruiting events to air load training and leader professional development sessions, the battalion embraced a spectrum of activities that highlighted their adaptability and strategic prowess.

Patriot Air and Missile Defense

The strategic significance of Air and Missile Defense (AMD) training was illuminated by the successful execution of Air Defense Gunnery Table (ADGT) VIII gunnery certifications and by all the Patriot batteries in February of 2023. The Battalion ensured the success of these certifications by collaborating with one another to repair parts and fix faults on both conventional and Patriot equipment. Faults with Patriot equipment prompted innovative collaboration between batteries with the maintenance company to ensure batteries were at a fully mission capable status. This united approach, combined with the lack of strength in personnel, showcased the battalion’s adaptability and resourcefulness in the face of challenges. The batteries’ active involvement in installing parts on vehicles exemplified the dedication the firing units and maintenance personnel had to the mission. This commitment to collaborative readiness efforts demonstrated the battalion’s strong ethos of mutual support and teamwork. Echo Company, the maintenance company, developed creative solutions and increased man hour productivity by scheduling maintenance within the Battalion and prioritizing Patriot equipment over conventional equipment. The Panther mechanics in conjunction with the firing battery unit operators worked long hours and tirelessly to ensure the firing units were able to certify their respective ADGT VIII evaluations.

The completion of ADGT VIII’s fortified the battalion’s operational readiness and ability to respond effectively to a spectrum of scenarios. The Panther Battalion certifying ADGT VIII marked a significant milestone for the unit, as it was the first certification since deploying. Upon redeployment, the Battalion

assumed equipment from their sister Battalion 3-4 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (ADAR). This was launched the Panther Battalion's maintenance focus and led to the development of efficient motor pool operations and the occurrence of certifications, proving to be an impressive feat for the unit. The battalion's dedication to continuous improvement was evident as 14T (Patriot Launching Station Enhanced Operator / Maintainer) Soldiers embarked on familiarization with forklift reloads from the spring to summer of 2023. This training aimed to equip the team with licensed operators, ready to conduct reload certifications in accordance with Army standards. Batteries continued to train the newest of Soldiers to certify reload operations to increase combat readiness. The Battalion standardization team encouraged training by hosting a forklift reload competition for the firing batteries. Charlie Battery's forklift reload crew shone as they achieved the highest score in the battalion, setting a standard for precision and efficiency. This not only showcased individual talents but also underscored the collective strength of the battalion and its tenacity to strive for excellence. This commitment to proficiency was a consistent theme throughout the year. Collaboration remained a hallmark of the battalion's endeavors, as the Information Coordination Central (ICC), tactical command station (TCS) and communications relay group (CRG) sections joined forces with the firing units to ensure the success of their sustainment crew certifications after the ADGT VIII certification window. This collaborative training not only elevated their skills but also reinforced the importance of working harmoniously to achieve heightened combat readiness. Certifications became a beacon of the battalion's readiness and allowed for productive joint training with the United States Air Force (USAF) and United States Marine Corps (USMC).

Joint Training

The Battalion's Fire Directions Center began fostering working relationships as they hosted the United States Air Force (USAF) 944 Fighter Wing and United States Marine Corps (USMC) 307th Fighter Squadron for multiple staff rides upon redeployment. These interactive engagements offered a comprehensive understanding of the Patriot weapons system to include

its capabilities and limitations. Additionally, these interactions contributed to fostering strong collaborative relationships between the Battalion and other military units. Bravo Battery and Echo Company continued to bolster these relationships with Operation Panther Talon at MCAS Cherry Point in March 2023. This joint exercise not only demonstrated the battalion's prowess in expeditionary deployment operations with line haul and air load operations, but also highlighted their Patriot AMD operations with Live-Air Tracking (LAT) capabilities in conjunction with the USAF 944th Fighter Wing and USMC 307th Fighter Squadron. Embarking on Mission Planning and Analysis (MPA) operations proved to be vital to the success of the deployment of these two units to MCAS Cherry Point. This exercise fostered working relationships and synergies that were instrumental in the successful execution of an even bigger mission, Operation Razor Talon in July of 2023.

The purpose of the operation was clear - execute expeditionary deployment operations at previously unvalidated Patriot sites to evaluate mission assumption capability and strengthen relationships with joint partners. The Battalion's key tasks encompassed securing essential resources, validating communication structures and ensuring all necessary sustainment requirements were in place. From Class I to Class X, every aspect was meticulously considered to ensure operational success. Throughout the operation, the 1-7th ADA Battalion's resilience and innovation shone brightly. Their ability to adapt to new challenges and work seamlessly with sister units underscored their role as a force to be reckoned with. Operation Razor Talon is a comprehensive deployment exercise aimed at testing the Battalion's preparedness and fostering joint partnerships tasked with defending critical assets at multiple locations, including Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, Marine Corps Auxiliary Landing Field (MCALF) Bogue, MCAS New River and the Fort Liberty training.

The Battalion's meticulous planning materialized into a seamless execution. In the initial planning phase weekly interim progress reports were conducted, reconnaissance of command-and-control nodes were conducted and all units coordinated air load and line



Left to right: CPT Dylan Pablo's winning round at the 2023 Week of the Eagles Combatives Championship; Bravo Battery 2-44 ADAR Soldiers following their response to a MASCAL Event; Delta Company 2-44 ADAR conducting their convoy protection platform gunnery; Bravo Battery 2-44 ADAR posing with an LPWS.

haul operations. Strategic planning and preparedness came to the forefront as the Battalion conducted route reconnaissance for Operation Razor Talon to ensure the safety of equipment and personnel. This meticulous approach ensured that the Battalion was well-prepared for the challenges that lay ahead and aided in battle tracking of the units, highlighting their commitment to thoroughness in every endeavor. The Battalion's unwavering dedication to preparedness was evident as Echo Company's maintenance platoon worked tirelessly to ensure mechanical readiness for Operation Razor Talon. Echo Company's maintenance section's strategic expertise shone as they set a high standard for Mission Planning and Analysis (MPA) operations excellence. This demonstration of leadership and collaboration underscored the importance of meticulous planning and innovative thinking in ensuring mission success in preparation for deploying equipment to various Marine Corps installations across North Carolina.

The proactive spirit of equipment readiness was evident as the Panthers initiated the Patriot maintenance summer program (PMSP). This deep dive into equipment diagnostics and fault rectification underscored their commitment to operational efficiency. Collaboration efforts also extended to the realm of air load operations. In May, the Battalion completed air load Expeditionary Air Ground Liaison Elements (EAGLE) training in partnership with the USAF 621st Mobility Support Operations Squadron. This collaboration not only enhanced the Battalion's expertise in expeditionary operations but also fortified their capabilities for rapid deployment scenarios as the unit looks ahead to assuming the contingent response force mission. Multiple units' networking prowess was evident as they connected with sister units on the Fort Liberty. This networking effort proved instrumental in securing resources such as water buffaloes, additional secondary containment and C-wire. These resources were pivotal to the successful execution of Operation Razor Talon, showcasing the Panthers' strategic thinking and ability to leverage collaborative relationships.

The foundation was laid for the subsequent phases of the mission, setting the stage for deployment – a testament to the Battalion's adaptability and precision. The carefully orchestrated ground and air movements saw each Battery strategically deploying to their designated locations. From the ground movement at the Fort Liberty Installation Transportation Deployment Support Area (ITDSA) to Pope Army Airfield to the air load inspections and loading onto USAF aircraft, every step was methodically executed. The Battalion's ability to establish unvalidated Patriot sites highlighted their operational excellence. As AMD Operations unfolded, the 1-7 ADA Battalion seamlessly integrated into joint forces. Live air tracking of USAF training showcased their joint capabilities, with hardcopy data collected for

future analysis and follow on missions. The successful communication of air pictures across units marked a significant milestone, emphasizing the cohesion achieved through the operation. The Battalion began redeployment, marking the transition from operational engagement to strategic withdrawal. Joint inspections, loading operations and movement to staging areas were meticulously orchestrated. The Panthers safely returned to Fort Liberty with no damage to equipment or personnel. Recovery, saw personnel and equipment accounted for and the completion of an After Action Review (AAR) to reflect on lessons learned and improve for future missions.

Staff Training

The year was characterized not only by operational achievements but also by the battalion's active engagement with broader military initiatives. In a notable stride, the battalion's command team and SHARP representatives participated in the Fort Liberty SHARP Leadership Conference. This engagement underscored the battalion's commitment to promoting a culture of safety, respect and inclusivity within their ranks.

Throughout the year, the battalion actively engaged in a series of engagements that exemplified their commitment to growth, collaboration and fostering working relationships. The Panthers had the opportunity to host series of leadership engagements that underscored the battalion's commitment to growth and development. The battalion had the honor of hosting Major General Gainey, the Director of Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office and Director of Fires in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff. This leader professional development session, focusing on counter-UAS systems and the evolution of the air defense branch, provided invaluable insights that will shape the battalion's strategies moving forward. A notable highlight was the battalion's engagement with BG Stewart, the 32nd AAMDC Commanding General. The Commanding General's repeated interactions with the battalion's command teams underscored a commitment to effective leadership and strategic planning. Recruitment efforts remained a key focus as the 1-7th ADA Battalion participated in the Hyundai Air and Sea Show recruiting event in Miami, FL during Memorial Day weekend. This engagement not only showcased the battalion's capabilities to potential recruits but also highlighted their dedication to building a stronger force for the future. Additionally, the Panther battalion led not only the 32nd AAMDC, but also FORSCOM in retention. The Battalion was recognized by Brigadier General Harrison for their efforts and stewarding the profession of arms.

With a legacy of excellence firmly established, the 1-7 ADA Battalion looks ahead to the future

with determination and a shared commitment to safeguarding the nation's security. The battalion's impact extended beyond operational achievements; it encompassed the development of new policies, the forging of connections with sister units and a series of engagements that highlighted their dynamic presence within the military landscape.

In summary, the 1-7 ADA Battalion's journey through 2023 is a narrative of growth, collaboration and operational excellence. From joint exercises to leadership engagements, the battalion has shown an unwavering commitment to professionalism and readiness. As the year draws to a close, the 1-7 ADA Battalion stands poised on the precipice of the future, with a legacy of achievements that will undoubtedly shape their path ahead.

2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Fiscal year 2023 (FY23) provided a high operational tempo for the 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (2-44 ADAR) located on Fort Campbell, KY. The battalion started the year under the command of LTC Edmund Guy III and CSM Francisco Lloret Jr. and following a change of command, finished the year under the leadership and of LTC Ian A. MacNab. The Strike Fear Battalion conducted multiple short-notice deployments in support of USCENTCOM's Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) providing Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (CRAM), as well as Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) capabilities in addition to providing air picture and critical early warning in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS). The battalion also participated in multiple Live Fire Exercises and Field Training Exercises throughout the year and maximized the unit's dedication to the "Air Assault" culture by participating in several long-range air assault operations with the 101st Airborne Division and by graduating a multitude of Soldiers from The Sabalauski Air Assault School (AASLT) and Pathfinder Courses. Furthermore, the Battalion supported the 101st Airborne Division during Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and National Training Center (NTC) rotations. Fulfilling their role as the senior Air and Missile Defense (AMD) training leads for Fort Campbell, the Strike Fear Battalion launched its Air Defense and Airspace Management (ADAM) Cell Mentorship Program working collectively with the division AMD cell and airspace managers. The training program brought together ADAM cells across the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) for multiple training events that provided Air Defense Officers and Operators the ability to employ SHORAD forces and effectively plan, integrate and manage airspace users within the BDE Area of Operations in Large Scale Combat Operations environment. As one of only two composite SHORAD battalions in the US Army 2-44 has remained in demand and at the forefront of US Army

Fires. The high operational tempo and multiple combat missions has provided a challenging but rewarding year for the battalion. 2-44 ADAR continuously strives to be the best SHORAD battalion by pushing its Soldiers, leaders, equipment and units to maximize their ability prepare for combat missions around the world.

During the first half of fiscal year 2023, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (Halo Battery), 2-44 ADAR, was initially led by CPT Rivera and 1SG Evoy; serving as Halo 6 and 7. Following a change of command and two change of responsibilities HHB closed out the year with CPT Pablo and 1SG Holstrom serving as Halo 6 and 7. The immediate focus for the start of FY23 was the unit's Command Post Exercise (CPX) conducted in November of 2022 in preparation for the battalion's expeditionary contingency operation in the USCENTCOM AOR. The Warfighting System Solutions (WFSS) team externally evaluated the exercise. Although the deployment did not occur immediately after the exercise, it was just over the horizon. Following the unit's return from holiday block leave in December, the battalion received a short notice Prepare to Deploy Order (PTDO) mission to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) in support of OIR. From January 05, 2023 to January 20, 2023, HHB worked tirelessly to enable the deployment readiness of sister units. The battalion staff conducted an additional Command Post Exercise (CPX) to validate the battalion's ability to perform Command Post operations. The battery simultaneously supported, resourced and facilitated the Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) which consisted of an Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) Gunnery Table XII for Bravo Battery and an Avenger Gunnery Table VIII (SALT Silver) certification for Charlie Battery. After successfully validating the unit's ability to assume its expeditionary contingency operation, the battalion staff continued efforts to ensure the unit's personnel, administrative and logistics requirements were met. The battalion's Unit Movement Officer (UMO) resourced multiple aircraft to support air load operations for the unit's Minimum Engagement Package (MEP) to enable 2-44's ability to conduct air and missile defense operations in support of its forward mission in USCENTCOM. From February 2023 to the present, Halo Battery continued efforts on increasing combat power in the rear, enhancing operational readiness rate through the completion of equipment services and usage and ensuring Soldiers were always prepared to support the BN's mission in support of OIR and OSS.

In the second half of fiscal year 2023, Headquarters Battery continued its support of the Battalion's USCENTCOM aligned missions. From May 30, 2023 – June 06, 2023, 2-44 ADA assisted with FAAD C2 integration and OC/T support alongside Task Force Guardian, 10th MTN WAMDC and Axient FSRs during (2)10th MTN Mission Readiness Exercise (MRX) at the Fort Drum,

NY Mission Training Center IOT enhance readiness for Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) crews. During the 101st Airborne Divisions (AASLT) annual Week of the Eagles event. Two Halo service members were recognized during the week's competition. CPT Dylan Pablo captured the Combatives Championship for the second consecutive year as the 2022 and 2023 1st place winner in his respective Flyweight Division. CPL Jaanai Placencia competed in the Best Adjutant Team Competition on May 22, 2023, as part of the 101st DIVARTY team. The event was a Human Resources (42-Series MOS) team competition where Soldiers demonstrated their skills in MOS-related tasks under physically and mentally demanding conditions. 101st Division Artillery (DIVARTY) placed third, with CPL Placencia identified as a "Top Performer" during the event.

Throughout 2023 Alpha Battery (Assassins), 2-44 ADAR performed its role as an Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) Battery. The battery was initially led by CPT Hrdlicka and 1SG Hunter. CPT Coddington and 1SG Price took over in March 2023 and June 2023 respectively to lead the Battery in future operations. During the first half of the fiscal year, the Battery's mission focus was preparation for the receipt of a request for forces support order to the USCENTCOM AOR. During this time the Battery completed IFPC Table VIII Certifications and Counter small Unmanned aerial systems (C-sUAS) training to posture the unit for expeditionary contingency operations. Following a rigorous training and preparation phase the unit conducted a widely successful Live Fire Exercise (LFX). The unit conducted a rapid deployment to the USCENTCOM AOR in support of OIR and OSS. During this time, the unit participated in several supporting tasks including new equipment training (NET), Sentinel software and hardware upgrades in preparation for OSS and integration into the ADAM Cell Mentorship program. Within the Army and Fort Campbell communities, the battery supported numerous community service and outreach events.

For the second half of the fiscal year the Battery's main mission and training focus remained providing support to the USCENTCOM AOR under OSS and OIR. During this period the battery also took on the National Guard Exercise Control (EXCON) support mission. During that time those personnel were directly responsible for the training and preparation of 3-133 Texas Army National Guard Field Artillery Battalion to assume their mission in the USCENTCOM AOR. In August of 2023, the unit conducted a joint IFPC Table VIII with Bravo Battery 2-44 ADAR. The Table VIII emphasized building deployable crews, with personnel remaining in garrison, ready to deploy in the event of contingency operations. Additionally, the battery leveraged relationships on Fort Campbell and supported training with 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (5th

SFG(A)). During the training Assassin soldiers received knowledge and training on small unit tactics and in turn provided 5th SFG(A) essential training on air defense weapon systems. Additional Soldier highlights from the year included nine personnel graduating from The Sabalauski Air Assault School (AASLT), three from the Pathfinder Course, one from Rappel Master and one from Ranger School. The Assassin team finished out the fiscal year with two major community service and volunteer events. The first consisted of 35 Soldiers assisting Habitat for Humanity in providing upkeep and maintenance support for the Clarksville Chapter. The second event involved more than 30 Soldiers volunteering at Loaves and Fishes, which is a food bank that provides meals for the Clarksville community.

In FY23, Bravo Battery (Gunslingers), 2-44 ADAR, operated as an IFPC Battery led by Captain Kirk and 1SG Bunker with the responsibility of the Battery transitioning to 1SG Evoy. In the first half of the fiscal year, the Battery's mission focus was preparation for the receipt of a request for forces support order to the USCENTCOM AOR. During this time the Battery completed IFPC Table VIII Certifications and C-UAS training to posture the unit for expeditionary contingency operations. Following a rigorous training and preparation phase the unit conducted a widely successful LFX. Bravo Battery then conducted a rapid deployment to the USCENTCOM AOR in support of OIR and OSS. During this time the unit participated in several supporting tasks including NET, Sentinel software and hardware upgrades in preparation for OSS and integrating into the ADAM Cell Mentorship program. Bravo Battery took every opportunity to develop the Non-Commissioned Officers in the Battery and sent a total of 10 personnel to Senior Leaders' Course and Advanced Leader's Course.

Bravo Battery Soldiers in USCENTOM participated in responding to a Mass Casualty Event in which Bravo Soldiers saved the lives of Coalition and Partner Forces in the region. During the fighting between the SDF and DMC last week, there were casualties. The base leadership and medical role called multiple MASCALS in which both Bravo's Medic and Soldiers responded through conducting tactical casualty combat care and provided blood donations. Bravo's support enabled the treatment of over 64 host nation soldiers, potentially saving their lives.

Bravo Battery continued its mission and training focus in support of OIR throughout the second half of the fiscal year. The Gunslinger Battery rear detachment also provided support for the National Guard EXCON support mission. During this time these personnel were directly responsible for the training and preparation of 3-133 TXARNG FA BN to assume their mission in the USCENTCOM AOR. Upon the completion of the EXCON

mission, the unit conducted a joint IFPC Table VIII with Alpha Battery. This gunnery emphasized building deployable crews out of Bravo's garrison personnel, certifying them to be ready to deploy in the event of contingency operations. Key sustaining operations throughout this year included two personnel graduating from the Sabalauski Air Assault School (AASLT) and Pathfinder Courses. The Battery additionally had one Soldier graduate from Ranger School. Bravo Battery continued Soldier development during this time period with one Soldier graduating from WOCS and starting WOBC to become a 140A Warrant Officer. The Battery also prioritized MOS specific Training with one soldier attending Integrated Air and Missile Defense Course and another three attending CRAM Distributed System of Systems Simulation (CDS3) Training in Huntsville, Alabama to better train other Soldiers on IFPC Gunnery simulations in the Battery. Bravo Battery continues to support operations in the USCENTCOM AOR while also conducting rigorous air defense training in the rear.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2023, Charlie Battery (Hellfighters) was called upon to deploy and serve its role as both an Avenger/Stinger and IFPC Battery, led by CPT Buenger and 1SG Zaccagnino. The Hellfighter's mission, to start the fiscal year focused on the preparation for their deployment to USCENTCOM AOR in support of OIR. This included the successful completion of successive JRTC rotations with the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division. Additionally, Charlie Battery immediately began the fiscal year with a Table VIII Gunnery Certification and Platoon Certification (Table VI). This combined certification event was unique, including the first Joint Forcible Entry (JFE) Exercise conducted with the Air Assault of an entire Platoon's worth of combat power into a simulated hostile environment. The multi-day event saw the certification of 12x Avenger Crews and an increased capability unique to Charlie Battery and Fort Campbell. Upon receipt of the deployment orders, Charlie Battery shifted attention toward culminating Commanders Planning Exercises (CPX) and the Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) with a Table XII certification of all LPWS Crews. Due to the requirements of the deployment, Charlie Battery was selected to serve both the Land-based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS) and Avenger mission at multiple locations across the USCENTCOM AOR. In 60 days, Charlie Battery readied all assigned personnel, conducted the largest Strategic Air movement of equipment Fort Campbell has seen in 20 years and assumed the SHORAD mission defending operational sites within the USCENTCOM AOR from the continual threat of sUAS and RAM threats. Each site presented isolated challenges requiring a new defense design, the construction of fighting positions and integration of new technology. Charlie Battery in its entirety confirmed the readiness competency established and maintained prior to the receipt of short-

notice deployment orders. In addition to the deployment preparation, training with the rear detachment did not stop, as the unit conducted combined Avenger Table VIII's Gunnery with E/3-4, NET Training for TXARNG and repeated Stinger Trainings of all 101st Brigade Combat Team Stinger team certified personnel.

Charlie Battery continued its assigned mission to the USCENTCOM AOR for the remainder of the Fiscal Year. While on mission the Hellfighter Battery's force protection excellence proved effective by defending against multiple threatening and combative enemy actions. This capability saved American lives on multiple occasions within Charlie's area of operation. Charlie Battery, both LPWS and Avenger, added value to a very complex and contentious part of the globe, leaving an enduring legacy for future units. Charlie Battery's rear detachment remained steadfast in the evolution of SHORAD by providing observer controller (OC/T) support for C/5-5 ADA while at NTC and trained with 3/101st BCT during their Culminating Training Exercise (CTE). During the CTE, Stinger MANPAD teams provided coverage for the Battalion TAC, Assembly Areas and initial Air Assaults. Despite not having Avengers, the team was able to provide adequate coverage, enhancing unit capabilities and deterrence. In August 2023, Charlie Battery rear detachment provided Stinger MANPADS support for 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division's Operation Lethal Eagle III (OLE3). During OLE3, Charlie integrated with 1-187 IN BN, supporting their initial Air Assault to begin the operation and provided air defense coverage for their battalion command post and personnel assembly areas. Closing out the year, Charlie remains on track to redeploy CONUS after the completion of a 10-month mission. The conditions are set for a complete equipment reset and overhaul, training of back to basic Soldier tasks and the re-integration of the formation into Maneuver units across the 101st Airborne Division.

The Delta Company (Desperados), 2-44 ADAR continued to expertly serve as 2-44 ADAR's maintenance and support company. Initially led by Captain Wilson Santiago and 1SG Timothy Huddleson. CPT Adelphe Jeatsa and 1SG Huddleson finished out the fiscal year. The company is comprised of Soldiers from a diverse set of MOSS that accomplish the dynamic and challenging maintenance mission for a composite SHORAD battalion. In the first half of 2023, e Desperados ensured that the battalion's vehicles and equipment were prepared for their upcoming mission and that 2-44 was able successfully deploy its combat power to the USCENTCOM AOR. Delta Company provided Soldiers and equipment in support of the battalion's combat operations aligned to OSS and OIR, where Soldiers provided three field maintenance teams to support three air defense sites across USCENTCOM. The decentralized nature of operations created the

unique challenge of provided system specific services across geographically separated sites in a combat environment. The Desperados overcame this challenge through deliberate planning and strong leadership at all levels.

During the second half of fiscal year 2023, Delta Company continued support of OSS and OIR missions, along with maintenance support for the rest of 2-44 ADAR. The Company conducted a change of command where the company guidon was passed from CPT Wilson Santiago to CPT Adelphe Jeatsa in April of 2023. Desperado Soldiers continued to train individual Soldier tasks and battle drills to maintain proficiency on individual and collective tasks. Delta company also conducted a culminating training event, testing these skills in a simulated hostile environment. During this event, the Desperados tested its ability to defend its area of operations a form a secure perimeter as well as their ability to defend a convoy during recovery or sustainment operations utilizing the CPP. Under simulated enemy threat, Delta company was able to continue maintenance operations, thereby enabling the whole of 2-44 ADAR to accomplish its air defense mission. In garrison, Delta company's maintenance operation stood out among other maintenance companies in 32nd AAMDC. The Desperados were selected to represent the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) at the USFORSCOM level to compete for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) award. Looking forward into the next year Delta Company stands ready to receive much of Bravo and Charlie Battery's equipment and weapons as they return from the USCENTCOM AOR. With the diligent maintenance support of Desperado Company, 2-44 will complete its mission and stand ready to answer the next call.

2-44 ADAR remains at the forefront of Air Defense Artillery. During fiscal year 2023, the Strike Fear Battalion supported the USCENTCOM aligned missions of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve, conducted CTC rotations, Mission Readiness Exercises and Live Fire Exercises in support of 101st Airborne Division's and 108th ADA Brigade's missions. 2-44 ADAR continued to display a winning mindset through participation in 101st's Week of the Eagle, the FORSCOM Army Award for Maintenance Excellence and many other events. 2-44 ADAR also increased our individual Soldier lethality through continued effort to send Soldiers to Air Assault, Pathfinder and Ranger School. The Strike Fear Battalion is looking forward to its training events in fiscal year 2024, as the unit continues to execute its mission and conduct tough, realistic and combat-focused training. In doing so, the battalion will continue to thoroughly prepare for all combat missions, anywhere in the world that the battalion may be called to. Through past and future

efforts, 2-44 ADAR continues to Strike Fear and live the motto of Per Ardua.

3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Alpha Battery

In the 2023 Fiscal Year, Alpha Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, was extremely busy. From continuing expeditionary deployment operations in Bahrain to conducting field operations on Fort Liberty, the Soldiers of Alpha Battery have accomplished a great deal to be recognized as the premier unit within 3-4 ADAR.

As FY 23 began in October, Alpha Battery was amid their deployment to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility in Bahrain. While conducting steady state operations, Alpha participated in the brigade-wide Air Battle Management Level 16 evaluations. During these evaluations, all three crews received excellent ratings as their assessment. Due to their stellar performance, the battery was awarded with both the Air Missile Defense excellence ribbon and the Top-Notch Excellence ribbon, for having the highest scores for all three crews not only in the battalion, but in the brigade. In November, Alpha presented their Defense Design Briefing to VIPs of Prince Sultan Air Base. This project was spearheaded by both the Crew Three TCO, 1LT Hoag and the Crew One TCO CW2 Hudson. To round off the first quarter, the battery conducted preparation for the incoming battery from Fort Cavazos. Alpha conducted inventories of all equipment and created training plans for the incoming unit in order to ensure a successful changeover.

During the second quarter of the fiscal year, Alpha received the incoming unit and assisted in ensuring they were prepared to assume the mission. All personnel assisted in training and with Alpha's help, the unit successfully assumed the mission so that Alpha battery could begin their redeployment at the end of January. The Assassins then redeployed to Fort Liberty, where they were greeted by family members and the Rear Detachment. They completed their post deployment requirements upon return, then took a well-deserved thirty-day block leave. As leave came to an end, Alpha hit the ground running with range preparations in March, to be conducted in the next fiscal quarter.

The third fiscal quarter was considered a low op-tempo for 3-4 ADAR. During this time, Alpha was tirelessly preparing for Table IV examinations. Through remarkable networking, arrangements were made with their sister battalion to utilize their equipment for training. Launcher platoon took advantage of the opportunity and sent their Soldiers, with the supervision of key leaders, to conduct PMCS on the HEMMT, Launcher and generator every Monday. They

also conducted PM&E drills and exercised the GMT crane for familiarization. As a result of Alpha Battery's tenacity, they achieved a 100 percent passing rates for all Soldiers on the Table IV test.

After Summer block leave, the unit immediately started to execute the BDE's vision with field preparation. Alpha had meticulously designed a plan of action to conduct an FTX in lieu of equipment delays staying proficient in their Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. The exercise consisted of critical tasks such as occupying a new site and continuous site security and a culminating event that included the use of MILES gear.

In closing, Alpha Battery has taken incredible strides to avoid being complacent and always being active with hopes of continuing this momentum for the future. While Alpha has been unable to conduct AMD training to their standard, as equipment delays and conflicts with sister battalion events severely hindered them, they have made the most of their time. Alpha has instilled a culture of perseverance and extreme adaptability that will be essential for the arduous road ahead as certifications approach. However, this battery will exceed expectations and continue to execute the mission violently.

Bravo Battery

October and November were filled with excitement for the Bravo Battery Bulls. The unit started the year running with the United States Army Central Commanding General, General Frank, visiting the Bravo's Patriot Site in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. His visit consisted of a Bravo crew executing the first-night training exercise ever to be viewed by General Frank. This exercise highlighted Bravo Battery's ability to swiftly posture the unit and prepare to engage any threat in our assigned AOR. October also was the month when Soldiers were able to generate a greater understanding of their purpose and the mission on PSAB by sitting in on an Air Wing threat brief. This threat brief articulated both the Air Force and Army's defense design and how they work together jointly to defend the units assigned defended assets. Furthering the defense design work, the Battery hosted a series of site defense rehearsals with their assigned quick reaction force and force protection element to ensure that they were prepared to respond to any threat to the site within a few short minutes. October culminated in a series of real-world events that left the Battery postured to respond at a moment's notice.

In November, the Battery had the opportunity to conduct a Live Air Trainer joint exercise with the Air Force. This exercise consisted of testing the communication latency between Air Force fighter jet pilots and ECS operators, which highlighted the ability

to pass track data across Link 16. Furthermore, the Battery participated in a series of Counter Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) tests within their assigned area of operations in which they flew a "red team" UAS against their defended asset and attempted to detect, deter and defeat the threat alongside joint assets. November also kicked off the start of the holiday season. For Thanksgiving the crew on shift was surprised when their fellow Soldiers came out to the site and enjoyed a well-prepared Thanksgiving dinner with the Battalion Command team on site. Those who opted out of eating dinner on the site had the luxury of going out to Riyadh to enjoy the day and a Thanksgiving dinner out in the city. Moreover, while still in the footprint, the Battalion Command team presented the Battery with a streamer for their AMD success from OREs and external table XII evaluations.

December brought significant challenge to Bravo. It was able to demonstrate its AMD competency by successfully executing a Bravo survivability jump exercise which was the first in USCENTCOM in nearly five years. This exercise consisted of moving from one PAT site to a newly occupied sentinel radar site within the area of operations. This exercise helped increase CENTCOM mission readiness by validating an additional PAT site in the AOR deeming it sustainable for units to emplace and defend the assigned critical asset.

The Battery continued to focus on AMD proficiency and worked to complete a successful transition with 4-5 ADA throughout January. During this time, the battery assisted in numerous alert recalls and operational readiness exercises to ensure the incoming unit was prepared to assume Bravo's mission.

The battery continues its AMD mission today with the deliberate reset of all Patriot equipment at Letterkenny Depot, Pennsylvania and the home station reset of all conventional equipment. During this time, the Battery has utilized training resources such as the FT Liberty Simulations Center and cross training with sister units in 1-7 ADA to build proficiency in anticipation of the return of its assigned equipment. During this period, the battery put its training to the test, bringing home accolades as the number one launcher reload crew in the battalion. Finally, Bravo also used this time to bring the Bulls back to the basics exercising warrior tasks and battle drills in a weeklong field training exercise and the completion of 14 different qualification ranges.

Charlie Battery

Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (ADAR), began fiscal year 2023 deployed to defend U.S. Central Command's (USCENTCOM) critical assets in support of Operation Spartan Shield in Kuwait. From April 2022 to January

2023, the Cold Steel Battery conducted steady state Patriot operations, established and supported the theater's only Patriot Remote Launch Site, conducted monthly Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (c-UAS) training and successfully redeployed back to Fort Liberty, NC. Upon redeployment, the Cold Steel Battery focused on individual readiness as all Patriot equipment was sent for reset and upgrades.

The Cold Steel Battery routinely executed Operational Readiness and Transition to War exercises to maintain readiness and increase tactical proficiency, while also providing critical situational awareness and track amplification during real-world periods of interest. Despite multiple stretches at heightened alert states and a high operational tempo of training, maintenance and steady state operations, the Cold Steel Battery also conducted detailed military decision making processes and refined defense designs. The defense design project allowed tacticians and Soldiers to provide recommendations for improving Patriot tactical positions to better defend against current threats.

The Cold Steel Battery increased and fostered partner nation working relationships by establishing a Remote Launch (RL) site within a Kuwaiti Fire Unit's operational footprint. The RL site enabled the movement of Kuwaiti Air Defense Forces and the execution of a Kuwaiti live fire exercise while still maintaining coverage of co-defended assets. The operation provided a unique opportunity for the Cold Steel Battery to conduct daily Key Leader Engagements (KLEs) to strengthen U.S. and Kuwaiti partnerships, experience a real-world application of RL operations and troubleshoot the challenges of maintaining constant communications through a Communications Relay Group (CRG) across irregular terrain.

The Cold Steel Battery coordinated with joint partners, the USCENTCOM C-UAS Mobile Training Teams and the local base defense operations center (BDOC) to better understand and address UAS threats and capabilities. The Soldiers of C/3-4 ADAR trained on the Dronebuster C-UAS and conducted joint monthly exercises to establish and refine C-UAS Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) for the Patriot site. The Soldiers were also able to train with the counter-drone Mobile-Low, Slow, Small Unmanned Aircraft Integrated Defeat System (M-LIDS) simulation system for familiarization.

Upon redeployment in January 2023, Charlie Battery immediately sent its Patriot equipment to Letterkenny Army Depot to undergo reset and upgrades. With no Patriot equipment, Soldiers increased individual readiness by continuously training Warrior Tasks/Battle Drills, individual and crew-served weapon certifications and Air Battle Management training in the Fort Liberty

Reconfigurable Table-Top Trainer Simulation Lab. In addition, the Cold Steel Battery conducted two Reconnaissance, Selection and Occupation of Position (RSOP) exercises to increase tactical proficiency of site selection and emplacement and one Battery Defense Design to increase technical expertise in planning Air and Missile Defense Operations.

Delta Battery

Delta Battery was deployed to Bahrain from 01 April 2022 to 26 January 2023 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Spartan Shield. During that time, Delta Battery pulled mission at a 96% Fully Mission Capability status and began the process of re-deployment to Fort Liberty, NC. Major events on this deployment included Battery PMSP and full annual services conducted on all major end items and commercial power establishment of the radar and Engagement Control Station for more sustained and continuous site operation.

Delta Battery conducted RIPTOA and received Delta Battery 4-5 ADA BN and their equipment to ensure they were completely ready to assume mission. This ensured the continuity of operations of the occupied Patriot Site and the ability to send 30 pieces of Delta Battery, 3-4 ADAR's equipment back to Letterkenny for a reset process.

Upon re-deployment and re-integration, the unit took a long-needed time for rest and relaxation to reunite with families and begin the process of achieving readiness once again for upcoming AMD Evaluations. Delta Battery received all incoming conventional equipment and shipping containers, conducted full inventories to include change of command inventories in preparation for incoming leadership to the battery. 3-4 ADAR and Delta Battery established all programs and processes for a garrison environment by setting up shops and standard operating procedures for all commodity shops. Delta Battery also established all new maintenance plans, conducted full equipment technical inspections and repaired all deficiencies by July 1, 2023. Delta Battery has since been focused on improving individual training as it awaits the return of Patriot equipment in October.

Echo Battery

Echo Battery began the fiscal year in support of the 82nd Airborne Division in Poland during Operation Assure, Deter and Reinforce. 2nd Platoon replaced 4th Platoon in July of 2022 in EUCOM consisting of 6 Avenger crews and one Early Warning section. 2nd Platoon redeployed from EUCOM in November of 2022 with a transfer of mission to 5-4 ADA out of Germany. Stateside, Echo conducted their semi-annual required

Avenger Gunnery Table VIII at OP5. 24 crews certified on their assigned weapon system, the AN/TWQ-1 Avenger, with the successful engagement of 6 unmanned aerial systems with the M3P .50 caliber machine gun. Immediately following the gunnery, Echo was sent to support 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division (1 BCT, 82 ABN DIV) at their Culminating Training Event (CTE) at Fort Polk, LA from October to November. Key to the success of the JRTC rotation was the early integration of 1st Platoon with 1BCT during their train up to the event consisting of a CTE, FTX, Leader Training Program (LTP) and outload prep. While out at JRTC, 1st Platoon successfully neutralized 9 aerial threats with no casualties throughout the rotation due to their ability to camouflage systems, remote out from the Avenger and conduct deception operations to lead aircraft into their kill zone.

December of 2022 was focused on Airborne proficiency and Toy Drop. Echo was afforded the opportunity to conduct a ramp-side jump out of a CASA C-41A to gain familiarity with different Army aircraft and earn their German Airborne wings from a current and qualified German Jumpmaster. Additionally, Toy Drop was hosted by the 82nd ABN DIV where 30 personnel from Echo earned their foreign jump wings that included the counties of Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Chili and Poland.

3BCT, 82 ABN DIV conducted their LTP at Fort Polk, LA in January where Echo provided the assigned 3rd Platoon Leader to attend. 3BCT's JRTC rotation was conducted in March of 2023 where 3rd Platoon attend with a complement of 6 Avengers, 2 MANPAD teams and an Early Warning section.

From 01 April 2022 to 06 April 2023 Echo was TACON to 2-44 ADAR and ADCON to 1-7 ADA while 3-4 ADAR was deployed. Echo Battery was reintegrated into 3-4 ADAR after their deployment in March of 2023 relinquishing ADCON and TACON authority from 1-7 ADA and 2-44 ADAR.

The 82 ABN DIV requested support from the Echo Battery Jumpmasters (JM) in training their ASI A5 personnel on MANPADS and Stinger Missile Jump Pack (SMJP) airborne operations in January of 2023. The Echo CMD team and JMs certified 40 personnel to conduct SMJP operations out of a high-performance aircraft by exiting those personnel out of the 34' tower at the United States Army Advanced Airborne School (USAAAS). Additionally, 1-346 ADA out of Fort Stewart, requested Echo to train with our equipment in April to certify their leaders prior to certifying NG ADA units before assuming mission. 18th FAB requested Echo to provide a platoon and sensor section during their Dragon Steel exercise in April. 1st Platoon was attached to 18th FAB with the training objective to integrate with

FA sensors and shooters and share a tactical picture using the Rajant radio.

Echo provided 4 MANPADS teams in April to support 1BCT's IRF activation to Sudan and rapidly activated and certified the required personnel on Avenger and Stinger MANPADS operations within 72 hours of notification. The Executioners conducted two additional Table VIII gunneries in May and June due to the redeployment of 3rd Platoon from JRTC qualifying all 24 crews and 4 crews from C/2-44 ADAR.

Closing out the quarter, Echo conducted range density with their assigned M17, M4, M249, M2, MK19 and M2 weapon systems qualifying all available personnel on their assigned weapon. Echo simultaneously supported the United States Military Academy during their Cadet training and branch week with personnel and equipment. Echo Battery Soldiers showed off the Avenger Weapon System as well as the Stinger Troop Proficiency Trainer to teach Cadets what they bring to the fight. Soldiers from Echo Battery were also selected to travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and conduct a Stinger LFX and shoot one missile from MANPADS configuration.

Echo, being the only Airborne Air Defense Battery, conducted 15 airborne operations and 4 heavy drop operations. 10 of those airborne operations were conducted with the SMJP, highlighting the unique way we get to the drop zone and provide initial coverage to our supporting units. Echo ended the year with 7 personnel progressed using the SMJP and able to jump at 1000' AGL. Additionally, Echo grew their Jumpmaster force from 3 personnel to 8 within a 9-month period. The Executioners were able to reduce the heavy drop recovery time by over 60 minutes throughout the year. Key to the success was cross training 94Ts and 14Ps on how to reattach the Avenger turret to the chassis while on the 28' platform and conducting additional recovery classes at the Heavy Drop Rigging Site. Echo conducted Airborne operations out of numerous aircraft this year to include C-130 Hercules, C-130-J30 Super Hercules, C-17 Globemaster III, UH-60 Blackhawk, CH-47 Chinook and CASA C-41A Aviocar and received training and certification to use the MC-6 Parachute.

Fox Company

In the ever-changing landscape of military operations, Fox Company has proven its mettle, both on deployment and in garrison. Fox Company is proud to share the remarkable achievements that have defined its journey, from the frontlines to home base. From unwavering dedication in the field to fostering comradery and growth within our ranks, Fox Company's accomplishments serve as a testament to its commitment to excellence.

Throughout the deployment, Fox Company stood as a critical pillar of support, ensuring that both Patriot and conventional equipment remained in optimal condition. By conducting regular maintenance checks, troubleshooting issues and performing repairs on-site, Fox Company ensured the operational readiness of the entire unit. In the face of adversity, Fox Company demonstrated exceptional adaptability and resourcefulness. From the harsh desert climates to remote and austere environments, Fox Company's mechanics and technicians worked tirelessly to ensure that equipment breakdowns did not hinder mission progress.

The dynamic nature of deployment often required Fox Company to think outside the box. Fox Company embraced innovation, developing creative solutions to unexpected challenges. These solutions not only kept our equipment operational but also showcased the company's ingenuity and dedication. A true highlight of the year was Fox Company's successful collaboration with allied forces. By sharing expertise, best practices and resources, Fox Company not only strengthened international partnerships but also gained valuable insights that will continue to shape the unit's operations moving forward.

Upon redeployment, Fox Company's focus shifted from the field to the well-being of its team members. The unit implemented comprehensive reintegration programs to ensure a smooth transition, providing mental health resources, career counseling and opportunities for personal growth. Fox Company sought to give back to the Fayetteville area during their reintegration period. Through volunteering initiatives, outreach events and collaboration with local organizations, Fox Company demonstrated its commitment to giving back and fostering positive relationships through building mutual trust with the Fayetteville civilian population.

One of Fox Company's main efforts upon returning to Fort Liberty was to give professional development to its Soldiers. Fox Company achieved this effort through the execution of workshops, training sessions and certifications that kept their technicians up to date with the latest advancements in equipment maintenance and repair. Fox Company also created its recognition program to honor the hard work and sacrifices of its Soldiers. This not only boosted morale, but it also reinforced the strong bonds of camaraderie that define our Company.

From the challenging environments of our deployment to the welcoming arms of our home base, Fox Company has achieved remarkable feats over the past year. Through dedication, innovation and a steadfast commitment to excellence, Fox Company

has proven themselves on both the global stage and within their local communities. As it moves forward, Fox Company remains resolute in its mission to uphold the highest standards of maintenance, service and camaraderie.

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

In December 2022, HHB supported the 3-4 ADAR Remote Launch Site (RL3) mission. As the operation ended, U.S. and Kuwaiti Soldiers were recognized and took part in a Unit Patch Exchange Ceremony. This helped to build host nation relations in support of future operations. At the same time, HHB worked towards redeployment operations. The battery prepped over 50 vehicles in three weeks, going through the process of washing them, getting cleared by U.S. Customs, transporting them to Ali al Saleme Air Force Base and ensuring their shipment to either Letter Kenny Army Depot or Fort Liberty, NC.

In April 2023, HHB Hooligans conducted their first Air Assault Obstacle Course to build morale and strong teams. The Hooligans were unphased by the obstacles and took them head on! In the same month, HHB came together to clear out multiple CONNEX containers in preparation for turn in. The bulk of this endeavor was completed within the first day thanks to the battery's combined effort. As April ended, all Hooligan Non-Commissioned Officers attended an in-depth PMI class instructed by SFC Washington and SGT Woodard. This helped to prepare safeties for the upcoming M4 range, allowing them to best support our Soldiers through the new qualification course.

The month of May 2023 saw a lot of Army training for the Hooligans. HHB executed the first battery M4 range since returning from deployment, implementing the use of CCO and ACOG optics to support realistic training conditions. The HHB Hooligans conducted an ACFT in order to maintain Army standards. During the same week, Hooligans took part in annual Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear defense (CBRN) training, an event that brought tears of joy to everyone's faces. The training reminded all Hooligans of the importance of trusting ones' gear and ensuring its serviceability.

In June 2023, the Hooligan Communications Relay Group (CRG) section took part in a joint communications exercise (COMMEX) with our sister battalion, 1-7 ADA. The event took the Hooligans out into the field to validate communications links with the CRG and Antenna Mast Group (AMG) vehicles. The exercise served to refresh CRG operators on operating their equipment and executing their mission, as well as setting conditions for future COMMEX operations.

In July, the Hooligan Battery successfully qualified two crews on the MK19 weapon system. Soldiers also supported other units by providing their weapon systems while others were undergoing troubleshooting for the equipment.

To end the fiscal year on a high note, August 2023 expanded on the previous CBRN training. Hooligan personnel were taught to use the M26 Decontamination System to clean off their vehicles in the event of CBRN exposure. The last highlight of the month was exceptional Combat Life Saving (CLS) training taught by the Hooligan medics. This training established crucial lifesaving skills that any Soldier may use at a moment's notice to save a life.

As HHB Hooligans move into the new fiscal year, it has begun to receive mission essential vehicles from Letter Kenny Army Depot. With the arrival of its equipment, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery begins a cycle of critical training to best support 3-4 ADAR, WHATEVER IT TAKES!

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

Air Defenders from Eight Indo-Pacific Nations Gather for Experiment

FORD ISLAND NAVAL STATION, Hawai'i – The Pacific Integrated Air & Missile Defense Center (PIC) hosted the Multilateral Table Top Experiment (MTTX) from 12–16 December here. The groundbreaking event held in conjunction with the 94th Army and Air Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) brought together air and missile defense operators and subject matter experts from eight Asia-Pacific nations including participation from the Royal Australian Air Force, the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and observation from the Royal Singapore Air Force.

The event established a rich environment for open collaboration, exchange of perspectives and concerns and the sharing of regional air surveillance and missile defense visions all-the-while building connections among allies and partners.

MG Brian Gibson, the 94th AAMDC commanding general and keynote speaker, provided opening comments highlighting the importance of integrated air and missile defense in safeguarding a free and open Indo-Pacific. The constantly evolving threats in the region illustrate the need for all nations to work together in order to be successful. Australian Army MG Chris Smith, the Deputy Commanding General of Strategy and Plans for U.S. Army Pacific, echoed those remarks and highlighted the importance of joining together as one team by integrating defensive systems, sharing IAMD knowledge and learning from

each other's missile defense lessons in order to reap the benefits of collaboration.

Subject matter expert exchanges were provided by the combatant commander and multiple components as well. US Indo-Pacific Command explained IAMD Vision 2028, US Pacific Fleet shared its maritime IAMD capabilities and techniques, US Pacific Air Forces covered the homeland defense of Guam and Hawaii and finally the Missile Defense Agency and the Joint Ballistic Missile Defense Training and Education Center stressed the importance of integration and interoperability among allies and partners in the region. The exchanges united like-minded allies and partners to stand ready to deter conflict, or fight and win if deterrence fails.

The culminating tabletop wargaming event provided the eight participating nations the opportunity to develop and build a defense design for fictional islands against an array of ballistic and cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The proprietary IAMD software simulated enemy attacks on the team's defense design and provided valuable lessons learned about information sharing and the synergy gained from a common defense strategy. The playback of the enemy attacks and the effects of their defense design was made available for each defense operator to take home to their respective nations. Throughout the event, visits occurred on board the Sea-Based X-Band Radar (SBX-1) and the 613th Air and Space Operations Center.

Multilateral Air Defense Flag and General Officers Gather at Annual IAMD Summit

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawai'i — The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command hosted the Annual Multilateral Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Summit at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Hawaii from December 5–9, 2022. During the five-day event, flag and general officers from six nations discussed regional challenges, experimental technologies and the integration of command and control systems with regional missile defense forces.

This summit is about sparking dialog between flag and general officers and furthering missile defense cooperation," said the 94th AAMDC commanding general, MG Brian Gibson, during the summit's opening remarks. "Identifying new opportunities for our nations to train together will continue to strengthen our partnerships in the future."

IAMD professionals across the Indo-Pacific Theater met to collaborate on Integrated Air and Missile Defense topics in an open discussion forum.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III's recent trip to the region demonstrated the U.S. commitment



Left to right: The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command hosted the Annual Multilateral Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Summit at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Hawaii from December 5-9, 2022. During the five-day event, flag and general officers from six nations discussed regional challenges, experimental technologies and the integration of command and control systems with regional missile defense forces.

to a free and open Indo-Pacific. He reiterated the importance of building relationships with regional allies and leveraging collaboration in developing a mutually beneficial integrated defense posture. “The Indo-Pacific is the key to an open, secure and prosperous world,” Austin said.

The central theme throughout the seminar was enhancing IAMD with like-minded partners to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific as the threats throughout the region continue to grow in capability and capacity. “We live in a dangerous neighborhood,” Gibson said. “But those challenges are opportunities that give us the chance to think differently – how do we execute passive defense? What other techniques can we develop to enhance what we already use, while also integrating the new capabilities our nations are fielding? How do we create more dilemmas for potential adversaries?”

The summit was followed by a Multilateral Tabletop Exercise at the action officer level hosted by the Pacific Integrated Air & Missile Defense Center.

94th AAMDC Tour DPAA Research Facility on Hickam Field

Accounting Agency where scientists identify the remains of missing service members from prior conflicts ranging back to World War I at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, Feb. 9.

“It is important that we tell the mission of the DPAA as it reaffirms America’s commitment to its service members that we never leave a fallen service member behind,” said MSG Anthony Worsley, DPAA senior enlisted command leader.

The DPAA’s mission is to recover American service members who went missing or were kept as prisoners of war overseas in past conflicts. The laboratory is on the third floor of the building where guests can visit the research being conducted.

“The tour that DPAA provided our young Soldiers helps them broaden their view on our military. They see the level of respect our nation places on service members, their families and toward time-

honored traditions,” said SGM Juan Chavez, 94th AAMDC Communications Sergeant. “They also gain an understanding of interagency and multinational cooperation that can be applied to many aspects of military service.”

More than 81,000 U.S. service members are still missing from World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, the Cold War and the Gulf Wars. The majority of those missing are in the Indo-Pacific region with over 41,000 believed to be lost at sea.

“I encourage leaders to coordinate a tour with DPAA for their Soldiers,” said Chavez. “The experience enhances professional development and is a humbling reminder of the importance of our service to our great nation.”

Teams are often recruited from active duty military units in Hawaii such as SFC Ezequiel Nunez, 94th AAMDC’s Exercises Planner, who participated in an archeological dig in the jungles of Vietnam prior to the coronavirus pandemic outbreak. Over 45 days, Nunez assisted research experts dig for 12 hours a day until they completed the dig site or found the fallen service member.

“We had an onsite dig site which meant we lived a short hiking distance from our dig site in very austere environments with no basic comforts,”

Said Nunez. “We didn’t care because we all had one thing in mind, complete the dig site or find our fallen comrade.”

Scientific Recovery Scientist Dr. Sydney Garcia provided a guided tour of the facility and identified the difference in skeletal remains whether they belonged to a human and which gender the remains had. Outside of the laboratory a small museum displays various items recovered from the aircraft wreckage to combat equipment found in remote locations across the Pacific by volunteers such as SFC Nunez.

The United States stands behind its commitment in bringing home its fallen men and women who sacrificed

everything while answering the nation's call to arms. The DPAA was activated in 2015 and is the largest forensic anthropological skeletal lab in the world.

Army Air Defenders Inspire Future Leaders through Hawaii's Youth Impact Program

Hhhhhhh...Stomp...Stomp...UuAey is the sound of the participants of Hawaii's Youth Impact Program Haka chanting a Polynesian tradition.

"Our inner cities have a lack of trust for institutions," said Ricky Ellison, founder of the Youth Impact Program.

"Children between 9 to 14 need to be surrounded by the service members, student-athletes and community leaders in coordination with the local community, academia and the military so they are not foreign and instill trust in those institutions so they positively change their lives."

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command and 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment recently collaborated with Hawaii's Youth Impact Program, held at the University of Hawaii campus from June 12-23. This two-week program aims to cultivate leadership, discipline and mentorship skills among aspiring youth through various activities, including STEM and football. The Army's contributions to the program focus on mentorship and guidance, providing invaluable insights and support to the participants. By emphasizing personal and professional development, the program offers a supportive environment where participants can explore their potential and shape their future endeavors.

"It is important for service members to get involved with the community and give back to our youth. Motivate them to accomplish the goals and dreams they might have," said SFC Ronal Sharma, a 94th AAMDC volunteer. "It doesn't matter what they choose to do, whether it's football, college, or the military."

An integral part of the Army's involvement in the Youth Impact Program is the emphasis on leadership and guidance. Through their collaboration with experienced military personnel who serve as mentors, participants have a unique opportunity to learn from individuals with a wealth of knowledge and experience. These mentors provide valuable insights, advice and support, guiding the youth in their personal and professional journeys.

"This is my opportunity to shine even if it's just the tiniest light and to know that there's something in the participants' life," said SFC Dominique Lee, a 5th BCD volunteer. "I want to provide them with an opportunity that brings them into a safe area, even if

it's only for two weeks, so I can say that I care, I'm proud of you and I believe in you because some kids don't even have that."

The mentorship aspect of the program helps participants develop strong role models, gain a deeper understanding of military service and build lasting relationships that can positively influence their future endeavors.

"As a senior leader with many lower enlisted that came out here to volunteer, this is an opportunity for them to grow as not only a person but as a leader," said Lee. "Once they become a leader, they will have soldiers with problems and I hope they learn patience."

Junior enlisted and newly promoted noncommissioned officers faced bringing order to elementary participants with whom they need rapport or authority. Communication and intrapersonal skills are different on the battlefield versus in a classroom.

"There was a learning curve for me in this program," said SGT ZaBarr Jones, a 94th AAMDC volunteer. "I don't have kids, nor have I had to deal with kids either much in my life, so trying to find a way to communicate effectively to them was a challenge. That's something I believe some of the other volunteers could agree on. However, we figured it out and learned valuable skills for the future."

On June 21, YIP participants traveled to the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii at Fort DeRussy and were introduced to military history and equipment used on the island over the past 100 years.

The youth toured the museum, where they learned about coastal artillery and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' role in developing the southern portion of Oahu.

Participants in the program are exposed to various military experiences, fostering the development of a strong work ethic and a sense of responsibility. The youth learn the importance of dedication, perseverance and teamwork by engaging in challenging activities and tasks. This program serves as a platform for participants to harness their potential and explore their capabilities in a supportive environment. The experiences gained through the program instill a sense of discipline and accountability that can benefit them in various aspects of their lives.

"We come from all walks of life and all over the nation in the military. We are all different somehow, but because we wear this uniform, we work together as a team," said 1SG Walter Barrett, a 5th BCD volunteer. "All of you are from a different part of this island and

you are doing something similar like us, working as a team.”

The program offers participants multiple educational resources, empowering them with essential skills for future endeavors. Workshops on leadership, communication skills and critical thinking are provided within a collegiate environment, enhancing the participants’ knowledge and equipping them with the necessary tools to navigate future challenges. The program sets the stage for lifelong learning and personal development by fostering a thirst for knowledge and intellectual growth.

The impact of the military’s collaboration with educational institutions extends far beyond the duration of the program. Participants not only gain valuable skills and knowledge, but they also develop a sense of purpose and community engagement. Many program participants choose to pursue successful careers in the military or seek higher education due to the experiences and lessons learned during their time there. These participants become ambassadors of positive change, inspiring others and actively giving back to their communities.

“We had multiple participants go to college and even join the military,” said Darrien Mitchell, a motivational leader, military veteran and social worker.

The partnership between the U.S. Army, the University of Hawaii and Hawaii’s Youth Impact Program exemplifies the community’s commitment to inspire and develop future leaders.

Through mentorship, diverse experiences and educational opportunities, the program empowers youth, fosters personal growth and cultivates a sense of responsibility. The long-term impact of this collaboration extends beyond the program’s duration, with participants becoming catalysts for positive change within their communities. The dedication and contributions of the 94th AAMDC, 5th BCD and the University of Hawaii serve as a testament to their commitment to shaping the next generation of leaders.

Guard Provides Short-Range Air Defense at Exercise Balikatan

SAN NARCISO, Philippines – “We are the eyes in the sky,” said SPC Breanna Olivieri, a Mississippi Army National Guard air defense battle management systems operator who participated in Exercise Balikatan 23. “They call us Eagle Eye. We pick up drones, unmanned aerial surveillance, cruise missiles and any aerial threats.”

Olivieri and the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment — one of two National Guard units taking part in this year’s exercise — traveled to a remote seaside location near San Narciso to provide short-range air defense with radar systems and Avenger Air Defense Systems at Balikatan 23 from April 18 to 26.

Approximately 5,400 Armed Forces of the Philippines and 12,200 U.S. military from the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard and special operations forces, along with Australian Defence Force personnel, took part in the exercise to hone tactical proficiency and strengthen Indo-Pacific military coordination.

“The mission is great, just going to the Philippines. All my Soldiers have been able to do things that they would have never gotten to do had they not joined the National Guard,” said CPT Brister Bishop, the commander of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

“We are training with the Philippine Armed Forces. Their navy, marines, army and air force have all come out here to review our equipment and discuss partner capabilities,” Bishop said. “We’ve been fascinated in learning what the host nation uses for air defense and discovering a lot of the [system] language is common.”

During the demonstrations, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Antoine Brown, an Avenger Air Defense System team chief with the 204th, was thrilled to discover their Philippine counterparts were just as enthusiastic about learning as the Guard members were about teaching.

“They were asking questions that master gunners are supposed to ask, so we let them get in the turret and spin it around. They want to learn and they’re eager to know how the system works,” said Brown. “I’ll bet you if we took them for about two weeks, we could have a team up and running.” Brown added that in addition to the hands-on portion of the exchange, their counterparts’ interest also spoke to the overarching importance of regional security.

“To see them asking those questions shows how collaborative they want to be and shows they know the importance of the U.S. being here,” said Brown, adding that it demonstrated how the exercise contributed to strengthening partner capability in the Indo-Pacific.

The 204th’s participation in the 38th iteration of the annual bilateral exercise culminated with a live fire April 25. Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and senior Philippine and Australian armed forces members witnessed the event. The Guard members used their Avenger Air Defense Systems, armed with Stinger missiles and .50-caliber machine guns, to shoot down simulated drones.

In addition, the 204th provided aerial monitoring equipment such as Sentinel radars and Forward Area Air Defense operational systems that provided a common air picture for active-duty Army and Marine Corps units coordinating for integrated air and missile defense. This information was shared with their higher active-duty command element in Tokyo and back to the United States.

“This event enhanced the interoperability of the Philippines and U.S. forces in conducting combined joint operations utilizing both countries’ army, navy and air force assets in conducting maritime security and territorial defense,” said Philippine army MG Marvin Licudine, Balikatan 2023 exercise director.

While the exercise was the largest in Balikatan history, Soldiers credited interpersonal relationships forged as the greatest force multiplier.

“The second benefit (in addition to working with international partners) was getting to work with other members of the Joint Force, the Marines and our active-duty counterparts,” said Bishop.

He added that these interactions made for a highly valuable annual training period that could not be replicated elsewhere.

The success of Balikatan 23 underscored the enduring partnership between the Philippines and the United States while reaffirming the National Guard’s pivotal role as a globally engaged operational force and a trusted partner within the Indo-Pacific region.

Northern Edge Patriot Live Fire Exercise in Palau

U.S. Army air defenders from 1-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, deployed from Japan to the Republic of Palau to conduct a Patriot live-fire exercise at Roman Tmetuchl International Airport as part of Northern Edge Exercise 23-2, July 17, 2023. Alpha Battery, 1-1 ADA Battalion successfully engaged a cruise missile surrogate target with a MIM-104 Patriot surface-to-air missile designed to intercept long-range air threats such as missiles and aircraft. For a second year, the 38th ADA Brigade out of Japan deployed a Patriot Battery to Palau in order to exercise its combat capabilities. Leadership from the brigade worked closely with the Palau government to ensure the exercise was conducted safely by notifying locals through the U.S. Embassy and clearing the impact area of bystanders before engagement.

The Patriot live-fire in Palau is part of a more extensive brigade exercise called “Talon Lighting,” which consist of a series of deployments throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

such as a 1-1 ADA Battalion Patriot launcher to Tinian; a Sentinel X-Band Radar and two Avenger air defense systems from Echo Battery, 6-52 Air Defense

Artillery Battalion equipped with Stinger missiles to Yap and to Rota, where E-3 Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Battery deployed a THAAD Remote Launch Kit to test their remote firing capabilities. The Talon Lighting exercise falls underneath the greater Pacific Air Force-led Northern Edge 23-2. Northern Edge 23-2 is a multilateral exercise that enhances interoperability and cooperation and tests defensive readiness in the Indo-Pacific region.

E-3 was able to test the operational THAAD Remote Launch Kit (RLK) again this year in Rota to further defend the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and enhance combat power in the INDOPACOM AOR. Special thanks to the Rota Mayor’s office for welcoming Task Force Talon to their island once again with open arms

38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

October 16th, 2023 was the fifth anniversary of the 38th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade’s reactivation – five years since the Pacific Guardian Brigade began guarding the Indo-Pacific Command’s (INDOPACOM) Area of Responsibility (AoR) and helping to protect our Japanese allies; five years of building joint cooperation and interoperability with every branch of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (JSDF), Ground (JGSDF), Air (JASDF) and Maritime (JMSDF), the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Australian Defence Force, the Republic of Palau; finally, four years since the brigade assumed responsibility for the defense of Guam and the Mariana Islands.

The last five years have been busy, but with eight MIM-104 Patriot live-fires this year alone, including the first ever Patriot live-fire in the Philippines and numerous exercises across the INDOPACOM theater, the brigade shows its commitment to integrated missile defense and deterrence.

The importance of air defense in the INDOPACOM region has increased in recent years, as the United States places a greater emphasis on the region, with the goal of ensuring it remains a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, one where all nations can prosper. One critical aspect of achieving this goal is to conduct combined and joint military exercises with allies and partners in the region to improve interoperability and readiness. Specifically, air defense plays a critical role in these exercises as they are of the utmost importance in ensuring security of the region – ADA plays a vital role in protecting friendly forces and civilian populations from enemy air attacks and it’s key to be well-versed

in the use of equipment such as the Patriot missile defense system, which can detect, track and destroy incoming missiles or aircraft. The ability of ADA units to work together quickly and effectively under pressure is critical in a region with the diverse military capabilities of potential adversaries – skills that our units have demonstrated in exercise after exercise, whether joint or bilaterally focused. Our Soldiers rise to the challenge, By Valor and Power!

1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment

1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery (1-1 ADA), the Snake Eyes Battalion, has protected our Japanese allies from Kadena Airbase in Okinawa since 2006 and joined 38th ADA Brigade after its reactivation five years ago; however, this was one of their busiest years yet as they participated in many exercises across the INDOPACOM theater.

During Balikatan 23, May 2023, Charlie Battery, 1-1 ADA strengthened bonds with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as they successfully executed the first coastal air defense live-fire and the first MIM-404 Patriot live-fire in the country. The live fire served as the culmination of the knowledge exchanged with both the AFP and the Royal Australian Artillery during the exercise and the worldwide media coverage of the event enhanced overall INDOPACOM deterrence and strategic messaging. Charlie Battery successfully engaged two cruise missile surrogate targets with two patriot interceptors and no damage to equipment or personnel.

Alpha Battery, 1-1 ADA, successfully deployed to Palau in June and July, conducting two combined live-fire exercises (LFX). During both Talon Lightning 23 and Tenacious Archer 23, Alpha Battery successfully fired six patriot interceptors at cruise missile surrogate targets. The battery's participation in both LFXs showcased the Snake Eyes ability to quickly deploy anywhere in the INDOPACOM Area of Responsibility (AoR) and provide Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) coverage to both critical assets and partners.

In September, Delta Battery, 1-1 ADA, participated in the annual Orient Shield 23 (OS23) Warfighting Exercise at Camp Higashi-Chitose in the Hokkaido region of northern Japan. Our Soldiers worked with the JGSDF to conduct integrated, multi-layered air defense consisting of Japanese-developed 'medium-range' and 'close-range' surface-to-air missile systems "Chu-SAM" and "Kin-SAM" alongside the battery's U.S. MIM-104 Patriot missile system. The battery refined joint and bilateral tactics, techniques and procedures to conduct ground-based air defense fires in support of the bilateral ground operations coordination center and bilateral ground tactical coordination center.

Upon completion of OS23, Delta Battery conducted a follow-on exercise, Resolute Dragon 23 (RD23). RD23 provided the opportunity to further refine tactics, techniques and procedures with our joint partners and validate our ability to preserve Allied combat power in a Large Scale Combat Operation training environment.

1-1 ADA was awarded both the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) and the Supply Excellence Award. This marks the third year in a row they earned the AAME and it was the first time the Snake Eyes Battalion was recognized for both awards in a single fiscal year, reflecting both their professionalism and attention to detail.

The battalion strengthened relationships with both our joint and bi-lateral partners, on and off Okinawa. Whether it's working closely with the 18th Wing during typhoon operations, forging ahead with our Marine counterparts at contingency Patriot sites, or conducting bilateral training with both the 15th Anti-aircraft Artillery Regiment, JGSDF and South West Air Defense Missile Group, JASDF; the Snake Eyes continue to foster lasting relationships that will pay dividends if and when the time comes to defend our allies and critical assets.

10th Missile Defense Battery

On a small, secluded area in Northern Japan, the Shariki Communications Site (SCS) is home of the 10th Missile Defense Battery (10th MDB), which is responsible for detecting and tracking enemy threats. 10th MDB conducts a critical 24/7 mission in support of the INDOPACOM AOR and homeland defense. With support from the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and mission partners, 10th MDB has been able to incorporate technical advancements that have set the Battery up for continued success.

The Battery's RADA Operators (14E) truly set themselves apart by completing their Table VIII Certifications with 6 of 8 crews receiving Distinguished ratings! All Operators displayed full knowledge of the Army Navy / Transportable Radar Surveillance and Control Module 2 system, fostering a culture of excellence that is expected at the 10th MDB.

The arrival of the battery's first Prime Power Production Specialists allowed the battery to create its own Prime Power Platoon, focused on power generation and distribution in support of operations, exercises or emergency disaster relief assistance.

Many improvements were made to SCS to enhance operations and Soldier safety, including installation of a Hardened Transportable Terminal - Modified, to support communication and detection even when enduring

interference produced by high-altitude electromagnetic pulses; new snow shelter, fuel infrastructure roofing and physical security infrastructure; and new facilities for the RADA and Prime Power Platoons, as well as facility upgrades to prime power facilities.

10th MDB's unique location provides the unit with numerous opportunities to build a close relationship with the nearby JSDF and local population. Along with conducting a vital mission, Soldiers assigned to Sharik participate in fulfilling cultural exchange programs with students of nearby schools. Soldiers also take part in annual events, such as rice planting and harvesting where they learn traditional and modern methods used by local farmers, as well as the multiple regional festivals held annually throughout the year. Once in a lifetime experiences like these are what help make 10th MDB such a rewarding unit to be a part of and they go a long way in strengthening the partnership with our Japanese hosts.

14th Missile Defense Battery

The 14th Missile Defense Battery (14th MDB) stationed at the Kyogamisaki Communications Site (KCS) had a busy year – while providing constant, year-round long-range detection and tracking of aerial threats to protect mainland Japan, the battery also participated in over 35 Host Nation events with JASDF, JMSDF, JGSDF, Kyotango Government Counsel, U.S. Consulate General of Osaka and many other coalition partners, to hosting our annual joint/bilateral exercises on site with our allies, 14th MDB bolstered and strengthened their bonds with the local community, coalition partners and our host country Japan.

Exercise Keen Sword (KS) is one of the biggest events hosted by the 14th MDB at KCS in collaboration with our bilateral partners in the JSDF. KS is part of an ongoing series that originated in 1986, providing a realistic training environment that allows the U.S. military and JSDF service members to respond to a wide range of situations. Events like bilateral ship maneuvers, aircraft flights and amphibious landings, humanitarian assistance training such as disaster relief and medical care and evacuation procedures are practiced and refined.

KS23 was conducted in the airspace and sea surrounding Japan, JSDF installations and KCS in November 2022. This nine-day long exercise is centered around improving ours and the 7th Infantry Regiment JGSDF's ability to deter and defend KCS from any threat. The exercise started with an exchange of activities with our counterparts to enhance mutual understanding. These included a series of functional training exercises that included first aid response and response to small unmanned aerial systems,

chemical biological radiological and nuclear threats and improvised explosive devices, as well as a comprehensive set of realistic scenarios that ended up improving communications through language barriers and the collective ability to plan and operate in a field environment.

14th MDB hosted MG Brian W. Gibson, Commanding General of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command as well as Gen. Koji Yamazaki, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff Office (JSO); Lt. Gen. Taizo Horii, Commander of JGSDF Middle Army; Lt. Gen Masayoshi Arai, Commander of JGSDF 3rd Division; MG Kazushi Ueno, Deputy Director of JSO Operation Department; and MG Yasuko Onouchi, Commander of JASDF Central Aircraft Control Warning Wing & Iruma Base and their staff, in November 2022 to give an extensive site tour and briefing on our critical Homeland Defense mission, increasing interoperability with our partners. In December, the command team also visited U.S. Consulate General Osaka to meet with the Consul General Richard Mei, Jr. to discuss how the United States and Japan have complimentary Air Defense capabilities against air and missile threats, to firmly maintain a Free and Open Indo-Pacific with a shared commitment to the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

The 14th MDB also took part in “66th Anniversary of JASDF Kyogamisaki Sub-base” held by 35th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron, JASDF at Kyogamisaki Sub-base, which hadn't been hosted for the last 11 years. Air defense equipment that is actively used day and night for national defense such as MIM-104 Patriot, Short-Range Air Defense JASDF assets on a similar aerial missile defense mission and JGSDF HMMWVs were displayed for visitors to see up close under clear weather. The U.S. Army Japan Band and JMSDF Maizuru Band performed together to support the event, while 14th MDB demonstrated the wear and use of military equipment, allowing visitors to try on combat vests and helmets in order to experience the actual weight and for a photo session with our Soldiers.

Task Force Talon

Task Force Talon (TF Talon) has been providing ballistic missile defense to the island of Guam for over 10 years with the U.S. Army's first forward deployed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery. The task force is composed of the E-3 THAAD Battery (E-3), a Security Force (SECFOR) company from the Guam National Guard, the 10th Missile Defense Battery, the 14th Missile Defense Battery, a signal detachment and a headquarters detachment. This year, TF Talon relocated from Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) to Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, a much larger site allowing THAAD to deploy its full combat capabilities.

TF Talon was approved to become a provisional task force, allowing LTC Jonathan Stafford to take command of TF Talon from MAJ Kyle Hermanson during a ceremony held on Andersen AFB on August 7, 2023. TF Talon also saw the approval for the growth of the battalion staff to support not only the current task force units, but future units coming to the island as part of the Guam Defense System.

2023 brought the sixth SECFOR rotation from the Guam National Guard, as Team Sindalu took over the security mission for Site Excalibur. Unlike prior SECFOR rotations which featured singular units, this SECFOR rotation was a team composed of volunteers from across the Guam National Guard – from infantrymen and wheel vehicle mechanics to dental hygienists and medical services officers, these Soldiers came together to successfully execute the important security mission in support of the Defense of Guam.

One of the strongest typhoons ever recorded near the Marianas Islands, Typhoon Mawar, struck Guam on May 24, 2023, causing wide-spread damage to the island and the complete destruction of TF Talon’s motor pool facility. Over half of TF Talon Soldiers were displaced from their homes, while those who were not displaced faced a month or more of no electricity or water. Despite the widespread damage and impact to the unit, TF Talon personnel were still able to clear trees and debris from the roads to move the bunkered THAAD equipment on Andersen AFB, back to Site Excalibur to resume the defense of Guam mission.

While still handling recovery from Typhoon Mawar, TF Talon successfully executed the Talon Lightning exercise in July 2023. During this exercise E-3 and a SECFOR security team deployed a remote launcher package to the Marianas Island of Rota. E-3 personnel were able to establish a remote launch site there, expanding the ballistic missile defense coverage of the Marianas Islands.

Over the year TF Talon executed over 50 VIP site visits to Site Excalibur, including important Department of Defense leadership such as the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Undersecretary of the Army and the INDOPACOM Commander, as well as numerous members of Congress and their staff. These key leaders got a better understanding of the importance of TF Talon’s Defense of Guam mission and the role they play in the Indo-Pacific theater.

Typhoon Mawar caused major damage to public schools on Guam, many needing help to safely open in time for the new school year. Despite handling repairs and clean-up of their own, SECFOR provided volunteer manpower to clear debris, clean sidewalks, re-paint classrooms and hallways and more for five of

the island’s public schools – Truman Elementary, PC Lujan Elementary, Oceanview Middle, Inarajan Middle and Southern High – focusing their support where fewer volunteers were available. Thanks to these efforts, the schools were able to open for the new school year on time and the school Principals hosted the Soldiers for a luncheon at each school to thank them.

Thanks to the task force’s unique partnership with the Guam National Guard, TeamSindalu’s SECFOR company was able to sponsor a large variety of community service events that improved the lives of Guam citizens. They restored and repainted a basketball court and a skate park for two towns; adopted a bus stop which was restored and improved for the children; restored roadsides and removed over 50 bags of trash; collected large donations for Guam Animals In Need, clothes for children who are victims of domestic abuse, school supplies for Guam’s Department of Education and toy donations for needy children; and much more. Their volunteer efforts have left a true positive impact on the community of Guam.

35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

In keeping with its tradition of excellence, 35th ADA BDE maintains a fit and ready posture in order to “Fight Tonight” on the Korean peninsula. The brigade conducted the first-ever deployments of Patriot batteries to Incheon Army Airfield and Gangneung Airbase, strengthening the ability of U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) forces to operate together.

Combined Task Force (CTF) Defender maintained 24/7 operations at the THAAD site (FOS Carroll), working hand-in-hand with our ROK partners to ensure the safety and stability of the peninsula.

In order to maintain readiness and uphold the ability to “Fight Tonight”, 35th ADA BDE mandates that subordinate units within the brigade maintain threshold readiness standards and complete battalion and brigade Operational Readiness Evaluations (ORE). The increased certification frequency, high OPTEMPO and fast personnel turnover rate creates a unique challenge for Air Defenders in Korea and necessitates proactive Commander focus on battle roster management.

6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment,

The 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Air and Missile Defense Battalion is headquartered at Suwon Air Base in the Korean Theater of Operations. The Iron Horse Battalion consists of four Patriot firing batteries, one Avenger battery, one maintenance company and one headquarters battery. The Headquarters Battery, Bravo Battery and Foxtrot Company are stationed at Suwon Air Base, Delta Battery

at Osan Air Base and Alpha Battery, Charlie Battery and Echo Battery at Camp Humphreys. 6-52 ADA's Mission is to On Order neutralize North Korean air and missile threats against assigned defended assets in order to enable Non-Combatant Evacuation (NEO), sortie generation and force generation. The battalion also supports adjacent unit missions by providing Counter Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS) support to Combined Task Force Defender and by providing Short Range Air and Missile Defense for 210th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB).

Patriot AMD

The Iron Horse Battalion defends some of the most critical infrastructure on the Korean Peninsula against air and missile threats. The Iron Horse Battalion planned and executed Operation Iron Eagle, a protection plan for President of the United States of America, Joseph R. Biden, while visiting the Republic of Korea. The 6-52 ADA team increased their posture and successfully provided deterrence. This effort demonstrated the unit's readiness to defend Korean assets in theater at a moment's notice.

One of the biggest muscle movements for the Iron Horse Battalion during the year was Operation Iron Stance, a mobility exercise involving all subordinate units in the battalion. There were 11 separate tactical convoys totaling 12,656 miles driven during the operation. Bravo Battery also occupied a new Patriot site at Incheon Army Airfield and held a key leader engagement with MG Lee, ROK AAC Commander. One of 6-52 ADA's ongoing responsibilities is to maintain the ability to posture and reposition AMD forces in response to an ever changing and evolving threat. The battalion exercised extensive MDMP and planned, resourced and executed this major training event while maintaining a real world mission.

SHORAD AMD

The Iron Horse Battalion executes a one of a kind SHORAD mission in the Air Defense Branch by providing short-range air defense and Counter UAS capabilities in Korea. Like the Patriot batteries, the sole SHORAD battery, E/6-52 ADA, must be Table VIII certified twice a year to maintain threshold readiness due to the high turnover rate of Soldiers in Korea. While Patriot batteries are largely dedicated to their defended assets for certifications due to mission constraints, E/6-52 ADA is free to conduct its certifications on off-post training areas. In FY 22, E/6-52 ADA hosted ROK ADA Soldiers during their Table VIII Gunnery at a Korean training area named "Nightmare Range." This exercise allowed the 6-52 ADA to qualify its Avenger crews while also building relationships with our ROK ADA counterparts.

6-52 ADA's SHORAD element is a high-demand capability in the Indo-Pacific Theater. Second Infantry Division (ROK/US Combined Division) requests SHORAD support for Rotational Armored Brigade Combat Team (R-ABCT) validation exercises every 10 months. The unit executed the "Warrior Elite Strike" exercises in March of 2022 with E/6-52 ADA integrated into the air assault and breach operations with 1-1 ABCT. E/6-52 ADA was chosen to participate in Subject Matter Expert (SME) Exchange to train Partner Nations in Man-Portable Air Defense (MANPAD), Avenger and overall SHORAD operations. These operations directly improve the lethality of 6-52 ADA and support wartime missions.

Staff Training (Mission Command Tables)

A major training focus for the Iron Horse Battalion during FY22 was the execution of Mission Command Training Tables for the 6-52 ADA staff. The battalion conducted this training through three major exercises. The first exercise, Objective Forge, trained basic Mission Command Training Tables and the Military Decision-Making Process. The second, Objective Iron, built upon the basic foundation of Mission Command in a simulated wartime environment. These Mission Command training events helped refine Mission Command SOPs for the battalion and provided a smooth transition into Korea's bi-annual Ulchi Freedom Shield Exercise (UFSE).

NEO Training

Due to its physical proximity to 35th ADA BDE and 8th Army headquarters, 6-52 ADA is the go-to battalion to support training and exercises at the brigade and theater level. 6-52 ADA participated in the Courageous Channel Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) event on Osan AB, where Families and NEO wardens from the Iron Horse Battalion conducted training and updated binders and records for all Non-Combatant Evacuees (NCEs). The face-to-face meetings in the exercise helped establish rapport between wardens and NCEs and account for all Iron Horse Families and ensure accurate record keeping. Later the battalion supported the theater-wide Freedom Passage exercise, where 6-52 ADA Soldiers role-played as NCEs going through the entire evacuation process from the host nation to numerous designated NEO nodes in Korea and the U.S. while exercising NEO tracking at the battalion level. These two exercises helped ensure Iron Horse Families would be safe and accounted for in the event of a wartime scenario in the Korean theater.

ROK Alliance

The location of the Iron Horse Battalion headquarters on a Korean air base in Suwon offers an excellent opportunity to foster professional relationships between

the U.S. and ROK military. The 6-52 ADA S2 regularly meets with the ROK 10th Fighter Wing Protection Cell on Suwon Air Base to clarify perimeter defense during both contingency training and armistice operations. 6-52 ADA also relied heavily on support from the Korean National Police (KNP) for all convoy operations outside of military installations, providing escorts and road guards. 6-52 ADA also participated in multiple U.S.-ROK events by providing volunteers and Avenger and Patriot static displays, such as the 2022 Weapons Expo and the Hwaseong Fortress Cultural Parade.

Conclusion

6-52 ADA has an enduring and challenging mission to be ready to “Fight Tonight” in response to aggression at any time. No other unit embodies the 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment’s motto, “Always Prepared”, more than the 6th Battalion. The battalion lives this motto every day and makes it the focal point of every bit of training, maintenance and planning in the battalion.

35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

Combined Task Force Defender (CTF-Defender) and the Republic of Korea Army’s (ROKA) 201st Airborne Brigade man Forward Operating Site (FOS) Carroll to provide upper-tier missile defense coverage of southern Korea. CTF-Defender’s mission is two-fold; defend geopolitical assets within the ROK while also maintaining an integrated base defense. CTF-Defender executes both missions by operating the only upper-tier missile systems in the ROK while also working with the ROKA 201st Airborne to provide a layered defense against ground threats and small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS). To conduct this second mission, CTF-Defender has tactical control (TACON) of a U.S. infantry security force (SECFOR) and a counter-sUAS team. The execution of this mission set requires rigorous air and missile defense, combined-arms and Soldier training that makes CTF-Defender the most-ready unit in ADA, as Korea’s overall “fight tonight” mission of deterrence and rapid response.

Delta Battery, 2nd ADA Regiment, executes CTF-Defender’s upper-tier air and missile defense mission. As the sole upper tier Army system in Korea, they vigorously train their crews to and beyond a TABLE VIII gunnery standard. One of the most important on-site tasks is the operational readiness exercise, which evaluates alert and recall, up-order (UPORD), alert state assumption, air battle management, reporting procedures and maintenance. The battery conducts no-notice, battery-directed alert state assumptions to test the crew’s ability to condition the system to a directed alert state. These tasks are a critical readiness component of CTF-Defender’s combined arms training

during Lightning Yeonhap, Lightning Strike and Dragon Stance.

Lightning Yeonhap is CTF-Defender’s quarterly combined-arms exercise, which brings together all of Defender’s units for integrated base defense training (“yeonhap” means “united”). Its specific purpose is to “train, refine and validate the Task Force’s ability to integrate mission enablers, build combined command post cohesiveness in preparation for the signature brigade training event, Dragon Stance.” In simpler terms, the exercise ensures CTF-Defender is capable of responding to perimeter breaches, sUAS flyovers, incoming missile threats and other tactical-level actions prior to the brigade-wide air defense exercise. This exercise is unique among ADA units because of its integrated nature and the direct participation of ROKA paratroopers. The U.S. SECFOR company works in conjunction with our bilateral partners to protect the perimeter from outside breaches and conduct twenty-four-hour security of critical assets. The ROKA Soldiers are essential to this mission as they are the only site personnel who can legally detain Korean civilians attempting to intrude to conduct their own surveillance.

Breaches can also take the form of small UAS (sUAS) activity, which can pose a greater threat than ground penetration, as sUAS can quickly gather reconnaissance over a wide area and may contain loitering-munitions, effectively functioning as flying IEDs. The capability to detect, track, jam and recover intelligence from an unknown sUAS thus becomes vital to base protection, especially for the launchers and radars. The Scalable Network Node (SNN) takes a major role in the exercise as well by maintaining communication security throughout all drills and troubleshooting networking problems, to include outages. Some simple but vital drills are responding to medical incidents, fire drills, missing Soldier reports, mass casualty procedures and even moving the sections to the bunkers and sending up full accountability in response to TBM detection. The task force then applies the training lessons learned in this exercise to brigade training.

Lightning Strike is CTF-Defender’s quarterly counter-sUAS (C-sUAS) exercise which integrates D-2 ADA’s assigned 14Gs and U.S. SECFOR quick response force (QRF) operators to respond to the ever-developing sUAS threat. The exercise further expands on the integrated base training established in Lightning Yeonhap and focuses on the purpose of training and evaluating C-sUAS operations. Lightning Strike seeks to provide realistic training by utilizing support from outside organizations to include the Global Operations Support and Threat (GOST) branch and Integrated Fires Rapid Capabilities Office (IF/RCO).

The data gathered from these quarterly exercises have helped shape CTF-Defender's C-sUAS gunnery table certification process, placing the Task Force at the forefront of C-sUAS in the Korean Theater of Operations. Furthermore, CTF-Defender is able to capture critical data points used to shape the future of Air Defense through the incorporation of differing weapon systems against the various sUAS platforms.

Lastly, Dragon Stance is a 35th ADA BDE internal exercise that encompasses all battalions within the brigade for peninsula-wide readiness training. For CTF-Defender this whole-of-force approach to readiness encompasses D-2 ADA, all staff sections and the TACON units. During this exercise, the task force evaluates D-2 ADA's AMD operations by executing preparation for movement and emplacement (PM&E) drills and conducting air battles in accordance with TABLE VIII standards. All staff sections, the CPN, medics and the TACON units simultaneously react to injects and cross-train in execution of support operations. Cross-training injects include scenarios such as D-2 ADA responding to TBMs while all other sections conduct the corresponding reaction drill. The TACON units in particular conduct the combined-arms drills they refine during Lightning Yeonhap in order to defend D-2 ADA from any potential penetration threats as D-2 ADA defends strategic assets in the peninsula from missile threats.

CTF-Defender carries out a very different kind of mission among air defenders. Not only does the task force operate the only upper-tier missile defense battery in Korea, but it also sustains and protects it through combined-arms. By partnering with U.S. units and the ROKA 201st Airborne Brigade, CTF-Defender executes a force protection capability and mission not found anywhere else in the ADA branch. By melding strategic, operational and tactical training together,

CTF-Defender sustains a readiness posture that allows it to act as deterrence against the North Korean Strategic Rocket Force while rapidly responding to any base defense threats. Appropriately, CTF-Defender's battalion motto is "Lightning Shield!"

MDTF or Divisional Assets

4th Battalion, 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment 1st Armored Division Artillery

On November 11, 2023, the 4th Battalion 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (4-60th ADAR) officially became a part of the 1st Armored Division during a patching ceremony chaired by the Deputy Commanding General of Operations, BRIG Richard "Dinger" Bell (UK). This event signifies the reintegration of Divisional Air Defense (DIVAD) back into the maneuver divisions.

During the first half of FY 24, the "Fighting Aces" conducted a series of foundational training warrior tasks and battle drill events that built the framework for the future skills and system during this formative period. Aces's Week saw leaders throughout 4-60th ADAR participate a series of physical, mental and team building exercises. This event enables the organization to conduct multiple Mission Essential Tasks (METs) during a consolidated training event. Also, during this period, the 4-60th ADAR was selected to lead the Army's Stryker-based platform Directed Energy (DE) Maneuver Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) Stryker's testing effort. This effort saw the BN conduct multiple tests at Yuma Proving grounds, AZ, primarily targeting several group 1-3 Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and 60mm mortar engagements.

July 2023 was a historical period for the Fighting Aces that saw the successful change of command from LTC Alex Corby to LTC Ronald Yuhasz. Simultaneously during this month, the 4-60th began fielding the first tranche of 12x M-SHORAD Stryker's as the battalion began its first of three iterations of New Equipment Training and New Equipment Fielding led by Able Battery 4th BN 60 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (commanded by CPT Stherline Joseph and 1SG Tyler Anderson) This month-long training introduces the battery into all aspects of the vehicles, from property accountability, maintenance operations, driver's training, system overview and weapon installation and operation. This momentous event reinforced the renewed importance of DIVAD and SHORAD across the Army. M-SHORAD Stryker's will provide a pivotal role in protecting friendly maneuver forces and enable those forces freedom of maneuver to complete their missions, preventing the enemy from surveilling, targeting, interdicting, or attacking the 1st Armored Division from the air.

Immediately following the first iteration of NET/NEF began the second tranche of NET/NEF of Baker Battery 4th BN 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (led by CPT Leopoldo Negrete and 1SG Isabel Martin) and subsequently by Checkmate Battery 4th BN 60th Air Defense Artillery Regiment (led by CPT Nathaniel Agront and 1SG Aaron Smith). Upon completing NET/NEF (5 OCT 2023), the 4-60th ADAR has all its 36x M-SHORAD Stryker's and nine sentinels with associated shelters.

As the Fighting Aces close out FY 23, we reflect on this storied organization's historic accomplishments and look toward the future. With FY 24, the future is bright for this organization. This organization will set the standard for all future DIVAD organizations to come. It has already begun coordination and training efforts with its assigned Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCTs), warfighter exercises with Division and

multiple planning exercises. The BN will embark on multiple National Training Center (NTC) exercises in the first part of FY 24 (four NTC rotations), multiple gunnery certifications validating and improving upon the draft gunnery tables.

30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

After nearly 20 years of divestiture of short-range air defense capabilities, the 2nd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery, 2-6th ADA, found itself on the forefront of the Army's SHORAD resurgence. What brought about this resurgence is evident on the world stage – conflicts in Europe (Ukraine and the Russian Federation) and the Caucasus (Armenia and Azerbaijan), Violent Extremist Organizations (ISIS), Iran, North Korea and China. These conflicts exposed gaps of our indigenous capabilities to combat against these rapidly evolving proliferated threats.

To fill these gaps, 2-6th ADA was tasked by the Army Chief of Staff in 2017 to create and conduct the MANPADS (Man-Portable Air Defense System) functional course to meet the demands of the Army. What started out as strictly a residential course offering 3-5 courses a year servicing FORSCOM Units evolved into something bigger than envisioned. In FY22, 2-6th ADA for the first time ever sent instructors to a combat theater (Iraq) to train forward deployed Soldiers, conducted training for U.S. Army Special Forces, expanded residential courses and offered mobile training teams (MTT). In FY23 this mission further expanded to incorporate training for not only U.S. Army Special Forces but also MARSOC and SEALs. As word of mouth spread across the Army Branches and Joint Services about how invaluable the training the demand signal from more organizations continues to expand with requests for additional courses both residential and MTTs, rapidly closing the capability and capacity gap.

2-6th ADA stands at the forefront of global frontline defense and continues to provide niche capabilities to make Units more lethal and a credible deterrent. As of today, 2-6th ADA instructors are currently dispatched all over the world to meet these demands as threats across the globe are showing signs of abating.

3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

In early 2023, the 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 3-6 ADA, conducted ten weeks of Patriot training for Ukrainian Soldiers and Airmen to support strategic requirements in the European Command (EUCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). With less than 30 days of notification to execution, 3-6 ADA, in conjunction with Fort Sill and other

supporting agencies, quickly set conditions, developed lessons, sourced interpreters and identified classrooms and equipment dedicated specifically for this unique mission. The Ukrainian students that arrived hit the ground running, as training started within 48 hours of their arrival.

The students were motivated and quickly went to work getting their hands on the Patriot system. Early in the process, many were identified as Air Defense subject-matter experts with previous experience on the S-300, a far more operator-intensive weapon system. Their expertise was quickly leveraged in the training as students were informally familiar with operating various Air Defense weapon systems, Air and Missile Defense principles and tenets and an understanding of their adversary.

This experience pushed the schoolhouse to provide the students with a more in-depth understanding of the system's employment and capabilities. 3-6 ADA and Fort Sill assembled various specialists from an array of Air Defense agencies and units to ensure the Ukrainian students received training beyond the standard US Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and Master Gunner skill set. Their ability to quickly understand concepts gave the schoolhouse flexibility to address more advanced learning objectives. Additionally, the students' ability to grasp individual responsibilities expedited the school's ability to rapidly shift to collective concepts and higher-level applications. Additionally, 3-6 ADA provided more comprehensive maintenance training in anticipation of minimal sustainment support downrange.

The students' combat experience would also pay dividends in shaping and refining the training they received. Learning objectives and scenarios were shaped throughout the course to ensure students received relevant and realistic training, simulating potential threats and scenarios they could face in the EUCOM AOR. While 3-6 ADA typically does not train or certify Patriot crews, ensuring the Ukrainian students could employ the system as a team immediately upon their return to the EUCOM was vital. This requirement mandated that the 3-6 ADA team design a collective event not unlike gunnery for US Soldiers. The training culminated with a collective exercise in conjunction with the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), confirming students had a comprehensive understanding of how to employ the system.

While the ADA schoolhouse was not anticipating the need to train Ukrainian Soldiers in FY23, the instructors and supervisors of 3-6 ADA were able to adjust and synchronize equipment and classrooms across the enterprise. A combination of Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations (TADSS) and tactical equipment ensured minimal impact on US and

other foreign-partner force courses while still making effective use of the Ukrainian students' demanding training and limited time at Fort Sill.

While 3-6 ADA's training was an unanticipated requirement, several foundational takeaways were identified. Firstly, the principles and tenets of air defense permeate beyond the US Army, as was evident with the Ukrainian students and their knowledge base. While the specific terms may have differed, what was clear was that the fundamentals of air defense set conditions for the 3-6 ADA NCOs and trainers to guide the Ukrainian students rather than dictate, allowing for a more natural education and revelation of Patriot concepts. Secondly, the training affirmed the current training standards and methods of instruction found in the existing international course and highlighted the capabilities of US instruction when given the appropriate resources.

By May of 2023, open sources confirmed that the Ukrainian military had shot down a Russian missile with the Patriot system. This engagement alone validated the hard work and dedication of 3-6 ADA. The training conducted at Fort Sill served as the model of Army units and leaders who are agile and can coach, teach, mentor and educate under any conditions.

Army National Guard

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command

The 263rd AAMDC Major Subordinate Commands (MSC) continuous high operational tempo allows Air Defenders and Field Artillery soldiers to be poised and ready to provide command and control at a moment's notice. The 263rd AAMDC MSC experienced numerous deployments, mobilizations and leadership changes in 2023. Their continued vigilance in keeping the skies safe at home and abroad was no different than in previous years.

As 2022 ended, the 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade (ADA BDE) remained deployed in the European theater. In December 2022, the 678th ADA BDE Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officers (ADAFCO) deployed forward to the eastern flank of Europe to deter Russian aggression and to strengthen ongoing relationships with our Allies and partners. As the ADAFCOs moved forward, the remaining members of the 678th ADA BDE conducted a field training exercise which included combat lifesaver refresher training, a sixty-eight-mile convoy and tactical simulations. During the lifesaver training, soldiers were afforded hands-on opportunities with the combat application tourniquet and litter. For the convoy, soldiers traveled to and from Baumholder, Germany. Upon return, the soldiers participated in simulated attacks and ambush training events associated with travel through wooded terrain.

As 2023 began, the first of many 263rd AAMDC MSC command changes commenced. The first command change was in MG Kenneth Kamper's command. MG Kamper who was the commanding general of the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill hosted a Retreat Ceremony for BG Thomas Moore, who was the outgoing deputy commander, Army National Guard, Air Defense Artillery. MG Kamper also hosted a "Welcome Ceremony" for BG Richard A. Wholey Jr., deputy commander of the 263rd AAMDC, as the incoming deputy commanding general, Army National Guard, Air Defense Artillery. This ceremony was hosted at Snow Hall's Kerwin Auditorium on Jan. 12, 2023. Also in January 2023, the 678th ADA BDE soldiers began end-of-mission tasks, which included inventory, cleaning and packing equipment for the upcoming shipment back to South Carolina. Additionally, the 678th ADA BDE participated in the transfer of authority of the 11th and 13th Missile Defense Batteries from the 678th ADA DE to the 52nd ADA BDE on January 30, 2023.

Towards the end of February, the 678th ADA BDE officially transferred authority of the mission command element to the 174th ADA BDE from Ohio (February 24, 2023). During this rotation, the 174th assumed authority over the 5-4 and 5-7 Air Defense Artillery Battalions. These battalions are the U.S. Army's portion of NATO's air shielding mission, which defends the Eastern flank. This rotation was the third and final Mission Command Element (MCE) for the 678th ADA BDE since the commencement of the first MCE mission in 2018. As February ended, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery Regiment soldiers based out of Manning, South Carolina conducted Table VI qualifications at McCrady Training Center, South Carolina. Each crew must complete this qualification with their Paladin M109 155 mm Artillery System before they participate in an upcoming training exercise.

On March 18, 2023, in Columbia, South Carolina the 678th ADA BDE was recognized during a return ceremony. These soldiers returned home after a twelve-month deployment in support of the European Deterrence Initiative, which integrated air defense as a strategic command element.

In May, more than 200 Airmen and Soldiers representing the National Guard from all 50 states, three U.S. territories and the District of Columbia ran the 46th annual Lincoln Marathon. SSG Gary Roberson was later named to the National Guard Marathon Team representing South Carolina. Also in May, the 678th ADA BDE conducted a ceremony where LC David Ridgeway was promoted to colonel and assumed command of the 678th ADA BDE on May 11, 2023.

In June, the 263rd AAMDC sent a command element to INDOPACOM to participate in Pacific Sentry 23, which

is a comprehensive Allied and U.S. missile defense effort. Pacific Sentry projects power capabilities and reduces casualties in the event of a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. Throughout the exercise, the 263rd AAMDC command element helped demonstrate those power capabilities. The exercise also served as a deterrent and sent a signal of continued commitment to the defense and status quo of Taiwan.

In July, MG Frank M. Rice, commanding general, 263rd AAMDC, South Carolina Army National Guard congratulated soldiers of Alpha Battery for winning the 2023 Annual Top Gun Competition. The annual Top Gun competition at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center, Arizona, has field artillery units conduct artillery live fire that simulates large-scale combat operations in an austere environment. The purpose is to prepare soldiers of all ranks to train as they fight and to always be ready in the event the need of maneuverable field artillery is needed. Also in July, the 2-263rd ADA Battalion was welcomed home to Anderson, South Carolina after a year-long deployment in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command's (NORAD) mission of providing homeland defense within the National Capital Region (NCR).

On August 19, 2023, another change of command for the MSC was hosted by the 1-178th FA BN at McCrady Training Center, Eastover, SC. The event included the traditional passing of the colors between the outgoing commander LC Saddler Taylor and the incoming commander LC Brunson DePass.

On September 26, 2023, members of the Continental U.S. NORAD Region and the 263rd AAMDC validated homeland defense capabilities utilizing the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System during a live-fire test at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Gathering these experts from multiple organizations and functional areas provided them with additional personnel and an opportunity to validate the system and test ranges to upgrade air defense capabilities. LG Steven Nordhaus, commander CONR-1AF (Air Force Northern and Air Forces Space), was quoted as saying, "In response, our highly proficient air and missile defense team has undergone a comprehensive augmentation, fortified our air domain awareness and significantly shortened threat identification times. This new capability equips decision-makers with extended windows to activate [various] defensive response options."

On October 7, 2023, the 678th ADA BDE, 263rd AAMDC conducted a deployment departure ceremony. The 678th ADA BDE will deploy to the NCR as Task Force Bulldog. The 678th ADA BDE will be the Integrated Air Defense System Task Force command and control for the NCR of the Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS) homeland defense mission. As an element of the

North American Aerospace Defense Command the Joint Air Defense Operations Center, the NCR-IADS task force operates and trains throughout the NCR to protect the NCR against all aerial threats. This deployment is the 678 ADA BDE's fourth rotation in support of Operation Noble Eagle in the last nine years. The 263rd AAMDC MSC conducted several leadership changes as the fiscal year ended. The 1-178th FA BN conducted a change of command ceremony on October 21, 2023, in Eastover, South Carolina. CPT Mitchell Snyder assumed command of the headquarters and headquarters battery. The 2-263rd ADA BN also conducted a change of command ceremony. LC Brian Dimond relinquished command to LC Micah Shipe on October 14, 2023, in Anderson, South Carolina. Finally, Alpha Battery, 2-263rd ADA BN, conducted a change of command ceremony. CPT Tyon Smalls relinquished command to 1LT Christopher Campbell on October 14, 2023, in Seneca, South Carolina.

With the current global tensions and the strains placed upon the air defense community, the 263rd AAMDC MSC is continually training, poised and ready to provide command and control at a moment's notice. With a long-standing tradition of providing strong leadership and continued strength derived from changes of command, the 263rd AAMDC will continue to lead from the front regardless of whether that threat is at home or abroad.

100th Missile Defense Brigade: defending America for 20 years

Who would the nation call upon if attacked by long-range ballistic missiles armed with nuclear warheads? For 20 years, the Colorado National Guard's 100th Missile Defense Brigade has been prepared to defend against such a threat.

Training for this mission requires planning and coordination from not only the 100th, but also the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Fort Greely, Alaska and Detachment 1, 100th MDB at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

As the higher headquarters, the 100th MDB planned and executed operation Guardian Strike to train and evaluate readiness at Fort Greely, July 30-Aug. 2, 2023.

"There's a couple things that are looked at during an exercise like this," CSM Jeremy Christensen, 100th MDB command sergeant major, said. "Soldier proficiency, what we do out there and then vulnerabilities and assessments for command."

A large part of the mission revolves around protecting the Missile Defense Complex from threats like elite military or terrorist groups and, more recently, threats from drone attacks. Company A, 49th MDB, along

with an augmentation force of military police from the Mississippi National Guard maintained security at the MDC 24/7, 365.

As part of the exercise, drone operators simulated enemy drone attacks and surveillance, giving the MPs a chance to put their Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems defense systems to the test under real world conditions.

Additionally, 100th MDB training team Soldiers simulated a foreign special operations team disrupting the MDC. After three days of the exercise, MPs were put to the ultimate test. Drone attacks and special forces combined their effort, attacking the MDC for several hours, including after sunset. These events provided a capstone for Guardian Strike.

“They responded well to a complex threat, even at night,” CPT Garrett Boldry, an Active Component force protection officer assigned to the 100th MDB overseeing the security aspect of the evaluation said. “The MDC is well protected for all the worst-case scenarios we could throw at it.”

All of this ties directly back to the missile defense the 100th MDB controls from Schriever Space Force Base and its headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The 100th MDB interfaces directly with U.S. Northern Command, which has ultimate responsibility for homeland defense. Since so many echelons are involved, this training is critical to validate that all of the units operate well together.

“Multi-echelon training is a key enabler to building competencies and readiness for all units,” said LTC Benjamin Brown, operations officer in charge, 100th MDB. “When a unit utilizes multi-echelon training, the quality of the information provided at all levels increases and builds the efficiency of the exercise for

not only the individual soldier, but the team, squad, platoon, company or battery and the battalion as a whole.”

“We have a huge charge here,” LTC Jorge Lorenzana, commander, 49th MDBN said. “We defend 350 million Americans and we proved that we can do it and we can do it well. We should be very proud.”

October 16th marks the unit’s 20th anniversary of Ground-based Missile Defense (GMD) in Colorado and is a reminder of all the hard work and development of Soldiers over the years.

164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

It has been a noteworthy year for the 164th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade (BDE), Florida Army National Guard, as Soldiers have remained resolute in their commitment to cohesiveness, rigorous training, discipline, and physical fitness at all levels. Over the past year, they have demonstrated their versatility and dedication by supporting crucial deployments both domestically and abroad, committing to advanced training and readiness, and playing a significant role in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts.

Recently, the significance of National Guard ADA units in Europe has been revitalized in response to the growing concern over Russian aggression. Since 2019, the 164th ADA BDE has supported multiple rotations to Europe, and currently has Soldiers with A Battery, 3-265th Air Defense Artillery Battalion (ADA) deployed throughout this region.

In January 2023, Soldiers participated in pre-mobilization annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC), Fla. Their training included a live fire exercise (LFX), Visual Aircraft Recognition (VACR) testing, crew drills, cover and concealment



Left to right: Military police Soldiers with Alpha Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, prepare for a training exercise to demonstrate their ability to defend the Ground-based Midcourse Defense/Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska during October, 2022. Alpha Company Soldiers defend the complex 24/7/365, including during blizzard-like conditions and with temperatures that can reach as low as negative 60 degrees Fahrenheit. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by SSG Taylor Lakey-Tamacori); The Missile Defense Agency, in conjunction with the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, periodically conducts live fire intercepts to upgrade existing Ground-based Interceptor missiles to keep ahead of evolving threats. This continual process, called “spiral development,” has proved very successful in recent intercepts under real world conditions. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 100th Missile Defense Brigade PAO); MG John Andonie, Deputy Director, Army National Guard, visited the Missile Defense Element of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade last May to see operations firsthand, led by LTC Benjamin Brown, during a training simulation. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by SSG Taylor Lakey-Tamacori); MAJ Skye Robinson, explains the process of spiral development of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system to MG Gainey at the 100th MDB Missile Defense Element at Schriever Space Force Base, September 21st, 2023. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by CPT Aaron Gatzke)

tactics, and Stinger maneuver drills. Immediately following the successful completion of their training, over 70 Soldiers with A/3-265th ADA BN deployed to Central Europe to provide Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) capabilities as part of Operation Assure Deter and Reinforce. While deployed, Soldiers have supported numerous joint exercises to strengthen relationships and commitments with US NATO allies.

Simultaneously, Task Force Atlas deployed in January for its eighth rotation to the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense Systems (NCR-IADs) mission in support of Operation Noble Eagle (ONE). Their mission at the JADOC (Joint Air Defense Operations Center) is to provide Command and Control (C2) of systems responsible for defending the Washington D.C. airspace from hostile aerial threats by combining air-to-air and ground-to-air missile defense assets.

In February, Soldiers from each battalion competed for the title of Brigade Best Warrior at their headquarters in Orlando, Fla. Events included a military board, the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), Land Navigation, Warrior Tasks, weapons knowledge, and a 12-mile ruck march. Two Soldiers from 1-265th ADA BN won the competition and represented the brigade at the Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) State competition.

As a true testament to their diverse capabilities, a subordinate unit to the 164th ADA BDE is the relentless 3rd Battalion (BN), 116th Field Artillery (FA) Regiment. In March, Soldiers with the 3-116th FA BN integrated their M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) into airspace clearing operations during a joint training exercise with the 3rd Air Support Operations Group (ASOG) at Avon Park, Fla. in March. Integrating the HIMARS rocket launcher system into the exercise allowed Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) and Air Force Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) members to conduct realistic training, giving FA Soldiers experience in joint operations and the opportunity to conduct Table VI qualification on the HIMARS. This training exercise was a collaboration with the 3rd Air Support Operations Group (ASOG) from Fort Hood, Texas, for the purpose of conducting airspace clearing operations with the Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) and Air Force Tactical Air Control Party (TACP).

Concurrently, in March, Soldiers deployed overseas participated in one of many Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) training exercises with the assistance of civilian contractors in Lithuania, to enhance the defense of the forward operating site (FOS) and ADA capabilities across Europe. During the training Air Defense Battle Management System Operators (14G) learned the components and operation of the Dronebuster system, which included disabling live

drones while Avenger Crewmembers (14S) executed tracking and engagements of live drones.

In addition to supporting joint exercises and enhancing training opportunities for active-duty Military Police in Lithuania, Soldiers with A/3-265th ADA maintained readiness. In late March, they participated in Maneuver Stinger Team Operations to refine their skills using man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS). The training event consisted of three battle drills: convert to MANPADS, air threat engagement tactics, and hangfire/misfire/dud operations, honing necessary skills should they be attached to a maneuver force.

Meanwhile, to replicate realistic tactical operations of serving as MANPADS teams attached to maneuver forces, Soldiers deployed with 2/A/3-265th ADA participated in a Maneuver Stinger Team Ruck March. This event consisted of Avenger crewmembers completing a ruck march with full ruck sack and a MANPADS to simulate an air defender's capability of providing portable air defense during tactical operations.

April proved to be a productive month filled with valuable training opportunities as the brigade conducted Annual Training (AT) at CBJTC. For two weeks the brigade undertook diverse and advanced training including live fire exercises, individual weapons qualifications, communications training, and avenger crew drills. Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 265th ADA engaged in a battalion-wide Communication Exercise (COMMEX), 14S (Avenger Crewmember) table training, 14G (Air Defense Battle Management System Operator) certifications, Tactical Operation Center (TOC) operations, Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) exercises, field maintenance, and M3P range operations. Their capstone events included a three-day Field Training Exercise (FTX) and Top Gun competition. The FTX simulated a LSCO in Florida with the Avenger Weapon System and MANPADS used to live track and engage multiple Unmanned Aerial Systems. The battalion also held its first Top Gun competition in over three years with B/1-265 ADA taking home top honors.

In Europe, Soldiers were also honing their skills as 1st Platoon, A/3-265th ADA conducted a Multinational Avenger Cross Training Night Fire in Latvia. This exercise applied stinger team tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) in a low-visibility real world scenario.

A few weeks later, Soldiers participated in British NATO JTAC Training, a cross training event created by 1/A/3-265th ADA and British pilots in Latvia. This event was a true test of precision, competence and collaboration as Avenger teams were able to track and engage high-flying, fast-moving Typhoon Eurofighters

with simulation missiles. This event was followed by a second similar training event alongside NATO Allied Armed Forces, resulting in a shared understanding and overall enhancement of air defense capabilities throughout Europe.

In May, two Soldiers with 2/A/3-265th competed in Baltic Warrior 23, in Latvia. Baltic Warrior is the largest military endurance race in the Baltic Theater. The event tests the participants' physical and mental resilience and includes a 22 km ruck march with a backpack weighing a minimum of 15 kg, 2 km of walking with a canoe weighing approximately 35 kg, and 11 km of rafting on the Gauja River.

Cohesively, the 164th ADA BDE is a lethal force, and the 715th Military Police (MP) Company is part of it. In June, military police officers with the 715th MP Company participated in a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Johnson, Louisiana. The rotation allowed Soldiers to build greater cohesiveness and readiness as they trained on large-scale combat operations.

Overseas in June, A/3-265th ADA joined American, Latvian, and Lithuanian armed forces for Exercise Baltic Zenith in Jurmalciems, Latvia. The short-range air defense exercise consisted of NATO armed forces specializing in short-range anti-aircraft systems conducting joint training to ensure readiness while enhancing air defense capabilities and interoperability across Europe.

In August, A/3-265th ADA participated in a FOS Mass Casualty Drill in Lithuania. The drill consisted of a drone

sighting that caused casualties and a joint opportunity for air defenders to train alongside MPs when reacting to Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) threats. During the drill, Soldiers exercised their proficiency on the Dronebuster, air defense tactics and combat lifesaver skills to react to the simulated threat.

Later that month, Soldiers with 2/A/3-265th ADA represented the ADA as they successfully participated in a Spur Ride. This Cavalry tradition tests the ability to operate as part of a team under high levels of stress and fatigue under day and night conditions. The events included the Army Combat Fitness Test, call for artillery fire, vehicle recovery, tactical combat casualty care, and tactical communication operations. Soldiers serving with Cavalry units are inducted into the Order of the Spur after completing a Spur Ride and earn their silver spurs.

Stateside, the dedicated Soldiers of the 164th ADA Brigade once again sprang into action, swiftly responding to Hurricane Idalia relief efforts in Florida. Engaging in convoy operations, adeptly managing logistics and personnel, and preparing to distribute supplies, they reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to the welfare of Florida's citizens.

As the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade concludes another remarkable year, their unwavering dedication to national defense, international collaboration, and humanitarian efforts remains a testament to their resilience and commitment. With a proud history and a promising future, the Storm Brigade stands ever ready to defend the skies and answer the call of duty wherever and whenever the need arises.



Left to right: SGT Christopher Bazan and SPC Jack Ovando, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, supporting 4th Infantry Division, conduct air threat engagement tactics with man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS) during an exercise at Adazi, Latvia, on April 29th, 2023. The 4th Infantry Division and their partner units mission in Europe is to engage in multinational training and exercises across the continent in order to build readiness, increase our operability and reinforce our steadfast and loyal commitment to our Allies and partners which make up an integral part of the Ivy Team. (Photo by SSG Cesar Rivas, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade); SPC Jack Ovando, an Avenger gunner with 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment Florida National Guard supporting 4th Infantry Division, prepares to enter an AN/TWQ-1 Avenger turret during training exercise Baltic Zenith near Jurmalciems, Latvia, on June 13, 2023. Baltic Zenith is a short range air defense exercise composed of American, Latvian, and Lithuanian armed forces that specialize in short range anti-aircraft systems and ensures the 4th Infantry Division and their partner units complete their mission to engage in multinational training and exercises across the continent in order to build readiness, increase our operability and reinforce our steadfast and loyal commitment to our Allies and partners which make up an integral part of the Ivy Team. (U.S. Army photo by SSG Cesar Rivas, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade); Soldiers with C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment utilize the Blue Halo Virtual Stinger Trainer (VST) to track and engage simulated air threats with a virtual reality Man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS) during Annual Training (AT) at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC), Fla. The VST provides the Stinger Team leader and gunner operational and tactical training within a 360° immersive, realistic battlefield environment, including Visual Aircraft Recognition (VACR). The battalion's commitment to honing skills, utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, is a notable aspect of their activities. (Photo by CPT Valeria M. Pete); SSG Edward Greene, SSG Gregory Morris and SGT Derrick Randall, Avenger crewmembers assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Florida National Guard supporting 4th Infantry Division, prepares to load the AN/TWQ-1 Avenger M3P .50 caliber machine gun during training exercise Baltic Zenith near Jurmalciems, Latvia, on June 13, 2023. Baltic Zenith is a short range air defense exercise composed of American, Latvian, and Lithuanian armed forces that specialize in short range anti-aircraft systems and ensures the 4th Infantry Division and their partner units complete their mission to engage in multinational training and exercises across the continent in order to build readiness, increase our operability and reinforce our steadfast and loyal commitment to our Allies and partners which make up an integral part of the Ivy Team. (U.S. Army photo by SSG Cesar Rivas, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade).



U.S. Army SPC Samuel Newhouse, assigned to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, performs an inspection of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, during an evaluation exercise at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 5, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by CPT Adan Cazarez)

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