

SPARTAN SHIELD



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108TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE
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April 1, 2015

SKYSTRIKERS RETURN HOME

FAMILIES REUNITED 10

FIRST STEPS INTO THEATER

PANTHER BATTALION DEPLOYED 14

BRAVO 2-44 ADA FIRES INTO THE FUTURE

LEADING THE WAY IN
INDIRECT FIRE PROTECTION CAPABILITY 26





SPARTAN SHIELD

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Commander's Column

This newsletter begins our second volume of the "SPARTAN SHIELD" since we started publishing this time last year. Contained within, you'll find articles highlighting the continued excellence embodied in our units, their leaders, and our Soldiers.

We started 2015 with the return of the brigade headquarters and 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment from deployments in the Middle East. It was a great homecoming on February 15th as our two units were warmly greeted by our Families and friends. Command Sgt. Maj. Foley and I could not be more proud of our Soldiers for their tremendous efforts defending critical assets for U.S. Central Command and building lasting relationships with our coalition partners. They have made a difference in our global stance in terms of air and missile defense in the region and partnership building with our allies.

Over the last three months, the brigade's units have continued to

build on their legacies. 2-44 ADA spent the majority of the last quarter converting the unit from a pure Avenger battalion to a Counter-Rockets, Artillery and Mortar / Avenger Battalion. They are the most knowledgeable and battle tested C-RAM unit in our Army, having just successfully completed their own deployment last October.

During the first quarter of 2015, the STRIKE FEAR Battalion conducted New Equipment Training (NET) and Fielding (NEF) of the latest C-RAM capabilities. Their conversion activities culminated in a very successful Certification and Validation Exercise (CVE) they conducted at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in March. The battalion will spend this next quarter focused on training 1-265 ADA, a National Guard unit from Florida to field and operate the C-RAM capability for a pending deployment.

The A/3 (JLENS) GUARDIANS achieved their Initial Operating Capability (IOC) and are actively training to attain full capability. They underwent a successful



Soldiers with the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade arrived at Pope Army Airfield on Fort Bragg February 15, 2015 following a Central Command deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis, 108th ADA Public Affairs / Released)

certification exercise to operate the surveillance aerostat and have begun to integrate their amazing radar capability into the National Capital Region air defense network.

Finally, the NO FEAR Battalion deployed in late January after an incredible train-up and certification. The Panther Battalion crews really showed their skills and the payoff for their efforts were the first time GOs during a unit's certifications during transition. Congratulations to 1-7 ADA for a successful relief in place with 3-4 ADA. We wish you godspeed on a great mission ahead.

The next quarter will be no less busy for the brigade. SKYSTRIKERS will receive their equipment back from Letterkenny Army Depot where it has been undergoing major reset. They will reset their crews for long-term training that establishes new crews for the battalion's next mission.

2-44 ADA will have HHB and Alpha Batteries conduct NET/NEF to prepare them for a second CVE this fall. Both battalions will conduct a joint Stinger/Avenger Live Fire exercise at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina the first week of June. This will test our Global Response Force readiness forcible entry operations using both airborne and air assault capabilities inherent in these unique battalions.

1-7 ADA will continue its mission forward-deployed while the rear detachment maintains continuity and pushes forward new personnel to augment the forward units.

This quarter's training highlights a couple of major Army program activities. The first two: Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness month are programs that reinforce our training in the prevention and elimination of sexual assault / harassment and domestic violence from our ranks. The brigade will conduct a series of training events and activities throughout April and May that we invite our Families to support and participate in these events. The events are listed in our SHARP section of this newsletter. There are additional community events at Fort Bragg, Fort Campbell, and at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland.

Toward the end of the quarter, we begin to ramp up for a great summer season. Along with spring showers and summer temperatures, our Soldiers and their Families are spending more time outdoors. The week of 18-20 May, prior to the Memorial Day weekend, the brigade will host a series of Summer Safety training that includes the "Save a Life" Trainer. This training reinforces our Soldiers' safety awareness, prepares them with tools and tips to protect themselves and our Families, and enables them to make sound decision while having fun this spring and summer. Again, our Families are encouraged to participate during our safety training in May.

Lastly, as the next quarter concludes there will be significant leadership transitions that occur across the brigade. 2-44 ADA and 3-4 ADA will have both their battalion commanders and command sergeants major change. Within each battalion, battery commanders and first sergeants will rotate as our current leaders depart for other assignments and we welcome new leaders in our formations. I encourage our Soldiers and Families to attend these changes of command and responsibility ceremonies to bid farewell and welcome our unit leaders.

Thanks for all your support over the past 21 months. Every unit in the brigade has deployed and executed a highly successful mission. The Spartans continue to demonstrate the unique capabilities inherent to our formations that show what a premier brigade we truly are.

Vr,

COL O'Neill

Spartan 6



Command Sergeant Major's Channel:

I'd like to officially welcome home all the Soldiers from the 108th ADA Brigade Staff and the 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Congratulations to you all on a very successful deployment as you have served to protect critical assets and service members from ballistic missile and air breathing threats. Now that you're home, it's time to take care of and spend time with your Families. Some of our Soldiers have already taken well-deserved leave and others will in the coming weeks. Enjoy your time off with Families and friends, to reunite and strengthen relationships. I hope everyone has a great time and returns safely as the brigade resets and focuses on the next set of operations and training events planned over the next few months.

As the brigade staff and 3-4 ADA redeployed, 1-7 ADA led by Lt. Col. Mike Solis and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Albright deployed to the Central Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) where they conducted a highly successful Relief in Place (RIP) with 3-4 ADA. The Panther Battalion arrived in theater extremely motivated and ready to assume the mission in near record time. I attribute this to strong leadership that kept all Soldiers focused and engaged which really started months before the unit departed Fort Bragg. We look forward to hearing all the unit and individual Soldiers' accomplishments during your deployment.

When the brigade commander and I returned from the deployment, we had the pleasure of reengaging with our subordinate units located in Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland. This is the first time in nearly a year that we've both visited 2-44 ADA, as the rest of the battalion redeployed from Afghanistan in late October 2014. It was great to see the entire battalion together for the first time since June 2013, when Bravo Battery, 2-44 ADA deployed and was followed by Charlie Battery in December 2013. Strike Fear's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Alpha Battery were next, deploying in January and February 2014. Bravo Battery spent the last six months going through New Equipment

Training (NET) for their Indirect Fire Protection Capability (IFPC) mission and successfully completed a Certification Validation Exercise (CVE) at Fort Sill, Oklahoma this month.

Congratulations to Bravo Battery on your safe, successful training and culminating live fire exercise. In June, Alpha Battery, 2-44 ADA will start their NET with a target completion date of November this year.

We visited our newest Spartan unit, Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, a Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) unit, at Aberdeen Proving Ground when we assumed responsibility for the GUARDIANS last September. I'd like to officially welcome Capt. Tarik Jones to the brigade as he assumed command of the only JLENS battery in the Army on January 15, 2015. Captain Jones and 1st Sgt. Hillburn have done a terrific job with setting conditions for the infrastructure and inflation of the first aerostat and continue to be on track for inflation of the second aerostat in early July. Additionally, they continue to conduct sustainment training for their battle-rostered crews in order to assume their mission in support of the National Capitol Region. Soon, 1st Sgt. Hillburn will be depart for Fort Bliss, Texas and attend the United States Sergeants Major Academy, Class 66. Last fall, I selected 1st Sgt. William Taylor from Charlie Battery, 3-4 ADA to replace 1st Sgt. Hillburn as first sergeant of A/3 JLENS in early June 2015.

Following block leave, we will rapidly undergo significant senior leader change. We bid farewell to 1st Sgt. Brian Huggins and 1st Sgt. William Taylor who will move to Shaw Air Force Base and APG respectively. 1st Sgt. Justin Taylor will take a new assignment with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade, assigned to XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg. We welcome 1st Sgt. Kareem Reid, Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Wells, and 1st Sgt. James Gill who will assume responsibility of HHB 3-4 ADA, Bravo Battery, 3-4 ADA and Charlie Battery, 3-4 ADA respectively, at the end of March.



Finally, we bid farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Heather Smith as she relinquishes responsibility of 3-4 ADA to Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Bruhn on April 1, 2015 and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Brown as he relinquishes responsibility of 2-44 ADA to Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Gray on April 2, 2015. Command Sgt. Maj. Smith served as command sergeant major for two years and will move on to be the operations sergeant major for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Strategic Command located in Huntsville, Alabama. Command Sgt. Maj. Brown served as battalion command sergeant Major for two and a half years and will assume responsibility of the 69th ADA Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. Thank you both for your fantastic leadership and commitment that you have given to your battalions and we wish you the best in your follow-on assignments. We welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Bruhn and Command Sgt. Maj. Gray as they're no strangers to our brigade. Command Sgt. Maj. Bruhn has served as the brigade operations sergeant major with the main element at Fort Bragg for the past seven months. Command Sgt. Maj. Gray served as a first sergeant in the brigade a few years ago and recently served as the ADA enlisted branch sergeant major at Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Welcome back the 108th ADA Brigade.

In closing, please take care of each other and your Families during your time off. I challenge everyone – Soldiers, leaders, Family members – to make the right decisions. Spring is here and it's starting to warm up, so take extra precautions during outdoor activities, such as grilling, boating, and swimming. We need every Soldier to return safely after spring break and block leave. Each and every Soldier in the Spartan Brigade is critically valuable. Stay safe and I hope to see all the troopers as I circulate the brigade footprint in the coming months.

“Deeds Above Words!” “Spartans!”

CSM Foley

Spartan 09



WARRIOR ETHOS

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST
I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT
I WILL NEVER QUIT
I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE



U.S. ARMY

Deputy Commander's Note:



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

Army H.E.A.L.T.H. to stay Spartan Strong

Would you like to have a free professional dietician and fitness coach that is always available to give you personalized food and exercise advice? If you said yes then the Army's Healthy Eating Activity Lifestyle Training Headquarters (H.E.A.L.T.H.) is perfect for you.

Army H.E.A.L.T.H. provides a comprehensive exercise plan that includes cardio, strength training and stretching exercises designed to help you achieve the goals you want. This fitness plan is combined with a meal strategy and tracking tools to help you get the most from your workouts and visualize progress along the way.

To get started, go to <http://armyhealth.pbrc.edu> and click on Register. Once you complete registration, click on Jumpstart Survey. This survey will tailor the program to meet your unique situation and goals. Once you complete the survey, your Day One begins the very next morning with a registered dietician-approved meal plan and professional workout routine that you can either print or reference on your smart phone while you're at the gym or the track.

Are you looking to take your Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) scores to the next level? The Army H.E.A.L.T.H program integrates APFT requirements into the strategy and will help you plan workouts to make your next score your best yet. The My H.E.A.L.T.H. dashboard

<http://armyhealth.pbrc.edu>



acts as your command center and lets you track progress to stay on the right path. If you have any questions along the way use the Ask an Expert feature for personalized feedback from a dietician or exercise professional.

The Army H.E.A.L.T.H. program is an integrated component of the Performance Triad, which combines strenuous activity with healthy nutrition and sleep to optimize personal performance. To see how you can get the most out of your potential go to the performance TRIAD website at <http://armymedicine.mil/Pages/performance-triad.aspx> to learn more about how important sleep, activity, and nutrition is to how you feel, think, and perform.

The 108th ADA Spartan Brigade is only as strong as the Soldiers and Families that make it the best brigade in the branch. The tools accessible at no cost through the Army H.E.A.L.T.H. program and the broader Performance Triad are great resources to have in our arsenal, and great enablers to keep us Spartan Strong!





108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

Deeds Above Words! Spartans!

Soldiers from 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade return to Fort Bragg after 12-month deployment



The Fayetteville Observer
fayobserver.com

by Amanda Dolasinski, staff writer
February 16, 2015

Soldiers and Family Members with the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade gathered at Pope Army Airfield to welcome home 264 Soldiers on February 15, 2015 at Fort Bragg.

Over the past year, birthdays, anniversaries and holidays have been on hold in the Ostby home.

The Christmas tree is still displayed, waiting for Spc. Justin Ostby to celebrate as a family. It just wasn't Christmas without him, said his wife, Amanda Ostby.

"We've got a lot of catching up to do," Amanda Ostby said. "We'll get to it."

And now the celebrating can begin.



Soldiers and Family Members with the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade gathered at Pope Army Airfield to welcome home 264 Soldiers on February 15, 2015 at Fort Bragg. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis, 108th ADA Public Affairs / Released)

About 260 soldiers from the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade returned to Fort Bragg late Sunday from a 12-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The soldiers were in Jordan, Qatar and other areas within Central Command.

The brigade is responsible for operating missile systems to defend U.S. forces and their assets from aerial threats.

A television in the back of the passenger shed at Green Ramp played video messages from the soldiers to their families as they waited.

Amanda Ostby arrived at the passenger shed with her 1-year-old son, Jaxen, a few hours before the flight was due. They were waiting for Spc. Justin Ostby, a crew member with 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

The past year was difficult, but Amanda Ostby said she constantly uploaded photos of the couple's son online so her husband could see him growing. The couple was fortunate, Amanda Ostby said, because Jaxen was born about a week before her husband deployed last February.

"He was there for the birth," she said. "I was jogging up hills, anything I could to get him out. Like, 'Come, on! You have to meet your dad!'"

Finally, just after 11 p.m., Col. Edward J. O'Neill led soldiers from the brigade as they walked into the passenger shed. He gave brief remarks before releasing the soldiers to their families.

"I'm really proud of my soldiers," O'Neill said. "We had a great mission over the past 12 months."

The brigade spent time training with foreign military, he said. It conducted its first combined live-fire Patriot missile with a partnership country during the deployment, he said.

He said it is important for the brigade to train and work with partner countries.

"We have critical assets within the Central Command area of responsibility - airbases, seaports, operation areas," he said. "We're required to be defending to deter adversaries from firing tactical bal-

listic missiles."

Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, commander of the 18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, attended the ceremony.

Soldiers uncased the colors for the battalion and the brigade. Once the ceremony ended, soldiers were released and darted throughout the passenger shed.

"I'm happy. This is pure happiness," said Sgt. Robert Harrison, a Patriot missile operator for the brigade.

He scooped up his 2-year-old daughter, Ginayah Harrison, and kissed his wife, Zsulahicka.

"I'm happy to be back," he said. "I've missed being with them everyday."

Brooklynn Tuttle, 5, said she missed her daddy and couldn't wait to give him a hug. She was waiting with her mother, Courtney Tuttle, for Sgt. Dan Tuttle.

Brooklynn held a pink poster, scribbled with flowers and hearts that read, 'I love you' that she made in school.

Like the other eager families waiting Sunday night, milestones had been put on hold for the past year. Courtney Tuttle explained the family would celebrate Dan Tuttle's return with their daughter's birthday party.

"She wanted to wait 'til daddy came home to have her birthday party," she said.

Staff writer Amanda Dolasinski can be reached at dolasinskia@fayobserver.com or 486-3528.





3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Skystrikers!

Skystrikers return home

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment returned to Fort Bragg and frigid temperatures in North Carolina on February 15, 2015. To the majority of Soldiers, the cold weather was a shock as they stumbled off the airplane late at night and quickly assembled into a formation to march into the personnel terminal. Awaiting them were cheers and smiles from friends and families that had waited for what seemed like an eternity. After a brief welcome home speech, the Soldiers quickly warmed up by the welcome home signs and were released to find their loved ones with welcoming handshakes, hugs and kisses swiftly changing the chills to warm embraces. The battalion returned home from its 12-month deployment to the Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR).

The arduous journey home commenced in the dawn’s early light as the Soldiers conducted final preparations and said final goodbyes to friendships forged over the course of a year with other personnel deployed to their location. The long trek home included a multitude of stops including multiple locations within CENTCOM, refueling in Germany and the flight terminating at Pope Army Airfield. With timing of the relief in place and transfers of authority by both the battalion and the 108th ADA Brigade with 1-7 ADA and 11th ADA Brigade respectively, the Skystrikers were able to fly home after linking up the Spartan team in Qatar before beginning the journey home to the United States.



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

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



Soldiers with the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade arrived at Pope Army Airfield on Fort Bragg February 15, 2015 following a Central Command deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis, 108th ADA Public Affairs / Released)



The final two weeks of the Skystriker mission in Southwest Asia was comprised of intense training for incoming 1-7 ADA crews, changeovers among staff sections, and the transfer of property and equipment to 1-7 ADA leaders as the Panther Battalion prepared to assume the mission all in effort to set our sister battalion 1-7 ADA up for success during their deployment. With the arrival of 1-7 ADA's advance party and main body in late January 2015, both battalions had much to accomplish and little time to execute, resulting in a torrid battle rhythm to transition the mission to the Panther Battalion. Initially, battalion commanders and command sergeants major travelled to Jordan to observe operations and evaluations of 1-7 ADA crews ensuring that 1-7 ADA was postured for success there before setting their sights on the mission in other host nations. Soldiers developed extremely tight bonds with their host nation partners, affording them the opportunity to conduct training together in various events. Soldiers were also able to improve their marksmanship or, for some, to fire the M9 pistol for the first time. The relief-in-place and transfer of authority with 1-7

ADA went extremely well, concluding with a ceremony on 11 February 2015.

The Skystriker Battalion conducted an intense and arduous 12-month, split-based operational deployment to the CENTCOM AOR, with some of the battalion deployed to Jordan. They labored to establish a more enduring site, physically building the site and establishing contracts to ensure the site was equipped with all the required life support functions to fully man a mission-critical, 24-hour-a-day operation. The remainder of the battalion deployed to another host nation in which they established tremendous partnerships and conducted a combined host nation and 3-4 ADAR Patriot missile live fire. They also led the way in sports, winning all major events in their respective location, from football in the Turkey Bowl to dominating the basketball court and all other events. The Skystrickers again set the tone for all in Air Defense Artillery to follow. All deployed Soldiers are now enjoying some well deserved leave with their families and friends and will look to conduct reset operations and begin to prepare for the battalion's next deployment.



A Soldier with the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade reunites with his Family members on February 15, 2015 at Fort Bragg. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jonathon M. Lewis, 108th ADA Public Affairs / Released)





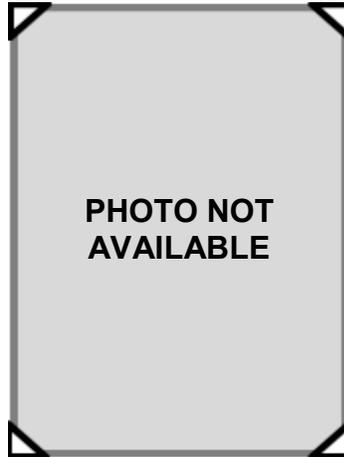
1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment *No Fear!*

1-7 ADA Panther Battalion conducts deployment operations

by 2nd Lt. Jared Mullins
February 19, 2015

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, Southwest Asia – The families of hundreds of Soldiers arrived at Green Ramp in the early morning of January 22, 2015 to bid farewell to their loved ones. Their Soldiers were deploying to the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR) on a one-year tour to provide air and missile defense coverage of critical assets in the region. A month later, with the relief-in-place with the Skystrikers of 3-4 ADA complete, the Panthers of 1-7 ADA Battalion are now on the job, proving the hard work over the last six months has paid off.

Upon arrival, the most pressing task for the Panther Battalion was to validate crew proficiency of their newly deployed Soldiers through the crew certification verification (CCV) program. CCVs are led by the outgoing battalion who certify that the incoming battalion’s crews stand ready to fight tonight in the defense of their assigned asset. The battalion became the first in history to have multiple first time CCV “GOs”, ending with seven total crews completing the certification validation on their first attempt. The battalion’s air and missile



Lt. Col. Mike Solis
Commander
1-7 ADA

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



The Delta Demons take a picture with the Valentine’s Day cards they received from the students of Kennesaw Elementary to send back as a thank you for their support. Each unit has been a recipient of the continued support from back home, and the No Fear Battalion would like to thank everyone back home for the continued support of our



defense crews would not have been able to achieve this feat without the Ghost Riders of Echo Company providing critical sustainment support. They play a pivotal role in mission success and continue to keep the units operational and able to defend their assets.

The completion of CCVs signaled the battalion's readiness to assume mission. This mission assumption was finalized at the February 11, 2015 transfer of authority ceremony. The Spartan Brigade command team presided over the ceremony, an event that saw all Fort Bragg-based 108th ADA Brigade elements represented in one place in theater. This ceremony was a symbolic end to the Spartan and Skystriker mission, and a passing of the torch to the Panther Battalion, who will continue the brigade's proud reputation for excellence in theater.



On the evening of 17 Feb 2015 (Fat Tuesday), the Bravo Bandits participated in the Mardi Gras 5K. The 5K and festival provided a good time for all the Soldiers on base.

Following the transfer of authority, Panther Soldiers will continue to train and hone their skills focusing on their warfighting core mission, the sustainment and maintenance of Patriot equipment, developing leaders, and building resiliency. Evaluators will frequently conduct surprise certifications as this provides the most realistic training possible and emphasizes the importance of Soldiers maintaining situational awareness at all times, ensuring our crews are ready to fight tonight and win.

The battalion will continue to maintain its equipment to the highest standards and improve facilities in the AOR while providing for individual development through a structured leader development program and opportunity for self-study and learning.

The dedicated Soldiers of the Panther Battalion have been extremely busy with training and certifying. However, there is also time for the Soldiers to enjoy themselves and be resilient. Soldiers have already participated in a multitude of events to include: a Mardi Gras 5k run, a color run, corn hole tournaments, Bingo, and intramural basketball. Many Soldiers are also enjoying the 24-hour gym, the pool, and the newly opened USO.



1st Lt. Lynch congratulating Staff Sgt. Stanfield after his reenlistment. Staff Sgt. Stanfield is just one of many Soldiers who have already reenlisted during the battalion's deployment.





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

First steps into theater

by 1st Lt. Victor Turchany, HHB 1-7 ADA
February 26, 2015

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, Southwest Asia - Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment recently marked their assumption of mission responsibility on February 11, 2015. These Soldiers earned the right to wear the shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service (SSI-FWS), commonly referred to as a 'combat patch' with a ceremony held on February 22, 2015.

The 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment has been deployed here for a little more than a month in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Their mission is to enhance the security of bases in multiple forward locations by protecting Coalition forces from aerial threats. 1-7 ADA operates the Patriot Missile System, which is capable of tracking, engaging and destroying enemy aircraft and missiles. The battalion's journey to this deployment was met with many challenges. It had to reorganize from a standard Patriot battalion, deployed in one area to a split-based battalion covering numerous assets in different countries. The battalion's Soldiers are passionate about their mission and to see their training live and in-person is a "once in a lifetime" experience.

The first steps into the theater set the standard for the rest of the deployment. The Soldiers of 1-7 ADA conducted a transfer-of-authority ceremony at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia on February 11, 2015, hosted by Col. Edward O'Neill, commander, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.



Lt. Col. Costello and Command Sgt. Maj. Smith, command team of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade furl their battalion colors in preparation to case them. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Marie Brown)



Lt. Col. Solis and Command Sgt. Maj. Albright, command team of the 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade return to their positions after uncasing the battalion colors during the transfer of authority ceremony.



Lt. Col. Patrick Costello and Command Sgt. Maj. Heather Smith of 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment completed mission requirements, transferring authority to Lt. Col. Mike Solis and Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Albright of 1-7 ADA. The ceremony signified the successful transfer of command and control of air and missile defense forces in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The Soldiers of 1-7 ADA and 3-4 ADA stood proudly in formation, demonstrating their dedication to duty and carrying on one of the Army's greatest traditions.

When Soldiers walk past each other in garrison, they first look for rank insignia and then their eyes often gravitate towards the right shoulder sleeve in search of a combat patch. The importance of the combat patch is like no other, showing time spent in a hostile environment serving our country. Unlike the Air Force who stopped wearing their combat patches in the 1950's, the Army proudly wears them like a badge of honor. The combat patch signifies the Soldier's active participation in, or support of, combat operations against hostile forces. With these actions, they may have been exposed to enemy action or fire, either directly or indirectly. Lt. Col. Solis, Command Sgt. Maj. Albright, Maj. Geib and Sgt. Maj. Bullock of the 1-7 ADA command team presented the Soldiers with the combat patch. The ceremony was a fantastic experience for the first-time deployers, now donning the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade patch on both sleeves. The ceremony commemorates months of hard work and sacrifices the Soldiers of 1-7 ADA have put

towards the mission. After the ceremony, the leaders and Soldiers enjoyed a barbeque and dessert, celebrating the new patch bearers and the experiences that lay before them.

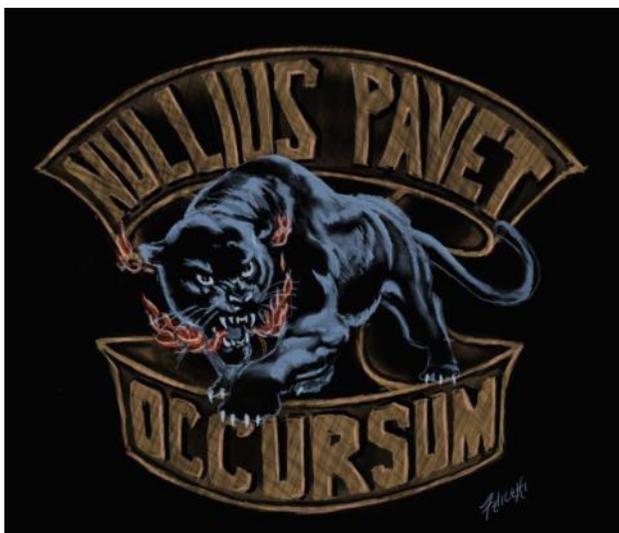
As the deployment goes forward, the 1-7 ADA Soldiers will be tested, trained, and defend host nation assets with "NO FEAR!"



Maj. Geib and Brimstone Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade salute the colors at the beginning of the patching ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Jamie Boytor)



Sgt. Maj. Bullock and Spc. Bailey, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, shake hands during the patching ceremony. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Jamie)





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

Panther Soldiers reenlist

by 1st Lt. Kevin Macklin
February 19, 2015

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION, Jordan – Leadership, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage - these are the Army Values and also excellent reasons for Soldiers and Noncommissioned officers to reenlist in the United States Army. Between February 10-18, 2015, Alpha Battery had the great honor and privilege of reenlisting five Soldiers: Staff Sgt. Joshua Stanfield, Sgt. David Wright, Spc. William Harris, Spc. John Walrath, and Spc. Ryan Williamson.

Taking the Oath of Reenlistment gives Soldiers peace of mind. It gives them the opportunity to continue their career of service for the United States. Reenlisting also helps Soldiers provide for and take care of their Families. On the other hand, it is just as important to the Army for Soldiers to reenlist. Reenlistment helps with manning during a time of force reduction and allows units to successfully execute their missions in deployed environments.



Staff Sgt. Stanfield of Somerton, Arizona is currently serving as a platoon sergeant for Alpha Battery. He is responsible for the overall welfare and training readiness of 14 Soldiers. Sgt. Wright, from Vestavia Hills, Alabama, is the Launcher Platoon hot crew Noncommissioned officer in charge. By reenlisting, he is setting the example for his Soldiers and ensuring his platoon is capable of conducting missile reload procedures. Spc. Williamson of Springfield, Oregon and Spc. Walrath of Idaho Falls, Idaho both serve as the third crew members for their respective Engagement Control Station crews. They play a critical role in the unit's mission as they provide real time data to higher echelons and their contributions ensure the crew operates as a synchronized team. Finally, Spc. Harris of Brodnax, Virginia is attached to Alpha Battery from Echo Company. He serves as a wheeled vehicle mechanic, but also helps with the unit's generators. His maintenance expertise makes it possible for Alpha Battery to successfully execute its mission.

Clearly, these Soldiers' reenlistment improves the unit's overall proficiency and mission readiness. The Army must retain the finest Soldiers to make sure the mission is executed properly. The Noncommissioned officers who reenlisted are the leaders of today and preparing those reenlisted oldiers to be the leaders of tomorrow. Patriot units are one of the most sought-after assets in the Army today, which makes reenlistment so important for air defense artillery. The oath these Soldiers took has value. It is admirable that they took it voluntarily and that they are willing to defend and protect it. This individual effort contributes to the whole that makes Alpha Battery a team.





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

1-7 ADA Rear Detachment focuses on the Families

by Capt. Chelsey Yingling
February 20, 2015

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment focus on more than transitioning and basic Soldier tasks. With over 400 service members deployed to the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility, they conduct monthly Family-focused training sessions in order to ensure Families are being taken care of.

On February 6, 2015, the Guardians hosted over 125 Soldiers and Family members at the battalion headquarters building on Fort Bragg. Training for the Families included themes of Operational Security (OPSEC), Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP), Suicide Prevention and nutrition. The idea behind these family days is to shape training that Soldiers receive in a more Family-friendly light.

The OPSEC training was specifically geared toward social media practices. Staff Sgt. Kevin Jones introduced concepts of how to use social media for information sharing but also shared how social media can be exploited by criminals to gather personal information on users. Major Kent Coffey, the 20th Engineer Brigade chaplain, spoke to

Soldiers and Family on suicide prevention techniques and how to seek help if you are a spouse. He spoke of common indicators that Family members could spot at home, that perhaps leadership at work might miss. The Army Wellness Center introduced healthy eating habits to the audience and debunked common myths on dieting. A member of the Aberdeen Police Department closed out the training day with a unique perspective



A member of the Aberdeen Police Department delivers a highway safety and DUI/DWI message to family and Soldiers at the HHD/1-7 Family Training Day.

(U.S. Army photo by CPT Yingling, Chelsey/ Released)



on DUI prevention and safety awareness. The HHD leadership and Soldiers created a children's room that allowed Family members to drop kids off so they could participate in the training. The children were kept occupied by making Valentine's Day cards to send forward to the troops.

The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment also hosts monthly Family Readiness Group training events specifically focused on deployment stressors. On February 12, 2015, the 108th ADA Brigade Military and Family Life Consultant (MFLC) hosted training at the 1-7 ADA headquarters, with modules titled "Maintaining a Healthy Marriage During Deployment" and "Coping with Deployment."

The next Family-focused training day will be held on March 6, 2015 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center on Pope Army Air Field. Topics to be covered include traffic safety, diversity awareness/cultural sensitivity, and a session from the Family Advocacy Program on screen-free parenting. Activities will be provided on-site for children.



1st Lt. Karmi Rivera, the Movement Control Officer with 1-7 Air Defense Artillery Rear Detachment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, assists children in making Valentine's Day cards for deployed troops during the HHD 1-7 ADA Family Training Day. Over 125 Soldiers and Families attended the event. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tracie McCoy / Released)





2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Strike Fear!

2-44 ADA hosts annual St. Barbara's Day Ball

By 1st Lt. Lee-Ann Craig
February 10, 2015

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – The 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment hosted their annual Saint Barbara's Day Ball Celebration on January 30, 2015 at Bruce Convention Center, Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

For the first time in nearly two years, all batteries that comprise the 2-44th ADA battalion are home on American soil to take part in the unit's annual Saint Barbara's Day Ball. 2-44 ADA's Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Batteries as well as members of its Headquarters Battery and Echo Company recently redeployed from Afghanistan where they played a vital role in protecting Soldiers and equipment from indirect fire attacks. The ball serves as a venue to reunite members of the unit, for a relaxing night of dinner and dancing and to induct new members into the honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Saint Barbara is regarded as the patron saint of artillery because of all of her miracles associated with fire and divine light. During the ceremony, the battalion inducted 11 members into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara which recognizes those Soldiers who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed an outstanding degree of competence and service to the United States Army air defense artillery branch. The battalion also inducted spouses into the Honorable Order of Molly Pitcher which recognizes



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

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



2-44 ADA Color Guard posts the colors to open the St. Barbara's Day Ball on Fort Campbell on January 30, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Leejay Lockhart / Released)



those spouses who have voluntarily contributed in a significant way to the improvement of the air defense artillery community.

The evening was alive with esprit de corps. “My wife and I had a great time at the ball. I loved the atmosphere and comradery of the unit. I felt as though it brought us all closer together as a whole, which in turn helps us accomplish our mission. It solidifies my trust in the soldiers to my left and my

right.” said Spc. Gregory Clark, an air defense battle management system operator assigned to Bravo Battery.

Sgt. Andrew Johnson, an air defense battle management system operator assigned to Charlie Battery concludes, “The Saint Barbara’s Day Ball was an experience of a lifetime. The passion for the air defense artillery never felt more alive.”



2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery command team poses for a photo with their wives and guest speaker at the St. Barbara’s Day Ball on Fort Campbell on January 30, 2015. (from left to right) Command Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Brown, Robin Brown, Command Sgt. Maj. James M. Ross, Patty Shaffer, Lt. Col. Timothy R. Shaffer. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Leejay Lockhart / Released)



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Brown visits with Soldiers at the St. Barbara’s Day Ball on Fort Campbell on January 30, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Leejay Lockhart / Released)



11 officers and Noncommissioned officers are inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara at the St. Barbara’s Day Ball on Fort Campbell on January 30, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Leejay Lockhart / Released)





2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Strike Fear!

Reapers complete conversion exercise

by, 1st. Lt. Michael Kilby
March 17, 2015

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – “INCOMING! INCOMING! INCOMING!” Those words blare out of a warning tower repeatedly for 15 seconds straight. Suddenly a loud buzzing noise pierces the air and a thin red line appears in the Oklahoma night sky. A bright flash of light is seen amidst the thin red line as the rounds, fired from a Land-based Phalanx Weapons System (LPWS), impact and intercept the mortar, throwing the enemy indirect fire off course. This was a common sight at Fort Sill in late February and early March as the “Reapers” of Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, executed their Conversion Validation Exercise (CVE).

From February 20, 2015 to March 3, 2015, the Reapers executed their CVE at Thompson Hill Range Complex on Fort Sill, Oklahoma to validate their transition from an Avenger short-range air defense battery to an indirect fires protection capabilities (IFPC) battery, the first such transition completed by any unit of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

The exercise was the culminating event in a transition which began in October, 2014 and consisted of individual training on multiple pieces of new equipment and various systems, as well as platoon collective training where all the systems were combined on a network.

Bravo Battery arrived at Fort Sill and immediately

began final preparations for their five-day rotation conducting Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) operations. The Soldiers used their technical skills and tactical proficiency to identify, detect, warn, and intercept live indirect threats, to prevent them from damaging defended assets. Each platoon consists of three sections which execute specific tasks supporting the overall mission to provide indirect fire protection. The Engagement Operations Cell (EOC) serves as the command and control of the system. From the EOC, Soldiers utilize forward-looking infrared (FLIR) cameras mounted on the LPWS to identify indirect fire threats, clear airspace, and intercept the threat with hundreds of 20 mm self-detonating rounds. The sensor sections emplace, monitor, operate and maintain two Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radars (LCMRs) and one Sentinel radar. The LPWS section monitors and maintains the highly technical



Soldiers with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade prepare the Land-based Phalanx Weapons System for movement on Fort Sill, Oklahoma during their conversion validation exercise on February 20, 2015. The weapon system fires a self-detonating 20mm round to intercept indirect fire threats. (U.S. Army photo by 1st. Lt. Michael Kilby, Bravo Battery, 2-44 ADA)





Soldiers with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade emplace a tent on Fort Sill, Oklahoma during their conversion validation exercise on February 20, 2015. This tent houses the Engagement Operations Cell, which serves as the command and control for the entire system. (U.S. Army photo by 1st. Lt. Michael Kilby, Bravo Battery, 2-44 ADA)

LPWS and ensure it is operable and ready to intercept threats.

Each platoon deployed their highly technical and fine-tuned systems while battling the elements — freezing rain, snow and 30-mph winds. Regardless of the adversity they faced, the Soldiers remained strong and motivated in their resolve to establish and operate the system to protect the lives and equipment of all Soldiers and civilians within their footprint. “The Soldiers performed above and beyond any level of expectation that had been set prior to this exercise. Over half of the Soldiers are new to the system, but still accomplished the mission,” said 1st. Lt. Logan Lukomski, 1st Platoon leader.

The exercise began when the unit moved the LPWS and all equipment from the Fort Sill cantonment area to the range complex. Once set-up was complete, each platoon executed three days of continuous operations, conducting battle management and engagement operations while destroying over 30 enemy indirect fire threats. On the final day, each platoon conducted a controlled march-order of all equipment, ensuring it was prepared to move to the next defended asset.

The wildly successfully exercise was the result of months of diligent, hard work from the officers, Noncommissioned officers and Soldiers of Bravo Battery. “It was great to finally get out of the class-

room and into the field. The Soldiers were glad to finally put their new skills to the test and they performed spectacularly. “We have a special group in Bravo and this exercise was just further proof,” said 1st Lt. Joshua Myers, 2nd Platoon leader. The exercise was completed with unmatched excellence and zero safety accidents or injuries.

This exercise marked the first time that any unit of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade completed an IFPC conversion. The battery’s technical proficiency, dedication to mission success and preparation was obvious as they attacked the challenge of setting up the equipment in a field environment and in extremely adverse weather. “The Soldiers of this battery continue to impress me. From deployment, to new equipment training and through this exercise, Bravo Battery has performed at the highest level. They have embraced the Warrior Ethos and successfully led the battalion and brigade through their first IFPC Conversion,” said Bravo Battery’s commander, Capt. Keith Kozal. With the completion of the exercise, Bravo Battery is now ready to deploy to execute their mission in any location around the globe.



A Land-based Phalanx Weapons System engages an indirect fire target on Fort Sill, Oklahoma during an indirect fires protection capability unit conversion validation exercise on February 20, 2015. The weapon system fires a self-detonating 20mm round to intercept indirect fire threats. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Corey Robertson, 31st ADA BDE PAO / Released)





2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Strike Fear!

Bravo 2-44 ADA leads the way for C-RAM

by 1st Lt. Michael Kilby
October 15, 2014

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment leads the way in the short-range air defense community as the Strike Fear Battalion transitions from an Avenger/Stinger battalion to an indirect fire protection capabilities (IFPC) battalion. The transition is a six-month process that will culminate with a conversion-validation exercise (CVE) to certify the battery's ability to conduct all IFPC operations.

Bravo Battery began new equipment training (NET) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky on October 1, 2014. The training, which is sourced and led by contracted instructors from Northrop-Grumman and Raytheon, begins with classroom-based instruction on the many systems and equipment that comprise the complete Counter-Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar (C-RAM) system of systems.

The military occupational specialty (MOS)-specific training is primarily focused on the traditional short-range air defense MOSs 14S (air and missile defense crewmember) and 14G (air defense battle management system operator). The 14S training is focused on the Land-based Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS), a variant of the Navy's Close-In Weapon System (CIWS). The 14G training focuses on Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD) command,

control, and intelligence (C2I) for the C-RAM system, as well as training on various other battle management systems. In addition to the traditional air defense MOSs, the Strike Fear Battalion will be training and integrating new Soldiers from the field artillery branch. These Soldiers, who earned the MOS 13R (field artillery firefinder radar operator), will be trained on the newest version of the Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radar (LCMR), the AN/TPQ-50. Also, in order to maximize cross-training and readiness, the 13R will also train and learn many of the operations and maintenance of the LPWS with the 14S Soldiers.



Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade learn the operations of the Forward Area Air Defense Command, Control, and Intelligence (FAAD/C2I). The system is the command and control node for the entire C-RAM System of Systems. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Michael Kilby / Released)





Sgt. Michael Kawa, an air and missile defense crewmember with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and a native of Joliet, Illinois undergoes training on the AMDPCS Video System (AVS). The system records the data and captures the operations of the C-RAM system for future analysis. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Michael Kilby /

Augmenting and cross-training the 14G MOS skill set are Soldiers from the Signal Corps, 25U (signal support systems specialists). “It is a great challenge and new learning experience for those of us who do not have the extensive air defense background as our 14G brothers and sisters,” said Spc. Sergio Beltran, a 25U who has served with the Strike Fear Family since 2012.

The training is not entirely new for all the Bravo Battery Soldiers, many of whom have been with the unit for an extended period of time. Bravo Battery returned from a deployment to Afghanistan in March 2013. While there they completed and accomplished the first C-RAM mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Prior to that deployment, the battery underwent extensive training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on many of the same systems that the unit has now been fielded. However, the training is unique and different in many ways due to extensive technological advances in the system and networking components.

“It is interesting and challenging to go through the training that is in many ways similar to our pre-deployment training, but is also integrating the new advances and how they change and adjust our tactics from how we fought in Afghanistan,” said Sgt. Robert Van Buren, who served as a FAAD operator and personally issued the fire command multiple times while in Afghanistan.

Overall, the training is a great opportunity for the Soldiers and leaders of Bravo Battery to learn and advance their knowledge of one of the Army’s newest weapon systems. “Bravo Battery continues to amaze me. Their professionalism and ability to accomplish any mission speaks volumes for the Soldiers, Noncommissioned officers, and officers of this unit. They continue to set and exceed the standard,” said Capt. Keith Kozal, Bravo Battery’s commander. Once again, Bravo Battery is leading the way. Always!



Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade deploy a new WARN3 tower on Fort Campbell, KY. The tower is designed to send warnings of incoming indirect fire to Soldiers in range. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Michael Kilby / Released)





2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Strike Fear!

Bravo 2-44 ADA fires into the future

by 1st Lt. Michael Kilby
January 30, 2015

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment is at the forefront of the air defense community as they complete their platoon collective new equipment training (NET) exercise. Bravo Soldiers began training on the newly adopted indirect fire protection capability (IFPC) last fall. Bravo Battery is the first battery in the battalion to undergo the fielding of this new equipment and transform into an IFPC battery. Previously referred to as Counter, Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) in earlier configurations, IFPC is the way ahead for short-range air defense. This exercise was the cumulative event preparing the battery for the upcoming conversion validation exercise (CVE) being held at Fort Sill in late February.

From January 13-30, 2015, the Soldiers of Bravo Battery executed platoon collective training at the Kinnard Mission Training Complex (KMTC). Training focused on overall proficiency, the march-order and emplacement of IFPC platoon equipment and operational battle drills on the multiple systems that comprise an IFPC battery. When executed correctly, the drills enable a platoon to provide both early warning and indirect fire intercept capabilities to supported unit commanders and defended assets.

The training was planned and resourced by Program Management (PM) Office C-RAM, which coordinated for the training space as well as multiple field support representatives (FSRs) who

provided subject-matter-expert assistance as the Soldiers executed the drills they had learned in individual training

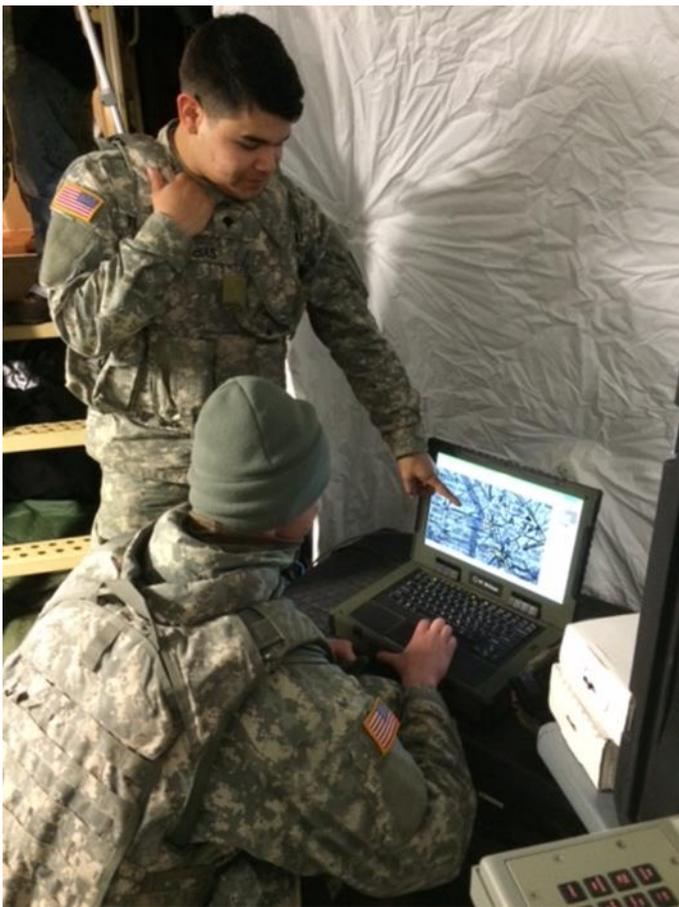


Pvt. Shakira Hassel of Memphis, Tennessee and Spc. Dylan Greer of Jasper, Texas, both air and missile defense crewmembers with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade work together during an emplacement drill for the Land-based Phalanx Weapons System. The highly technical and complicated drill takes multiple hours to execute and requires a variety of tools and test equipment to complete. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Gabriel Bull / Released)

the previous fall. All of the training is part of a six-month transition process as Bravo Battery transforms from a SHORAD Avenger battery to an IFPC battery. The individual training consisted of MOS-specific training on multiple systems, including the Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD) system, the Lightweight Counter-Mortar Radar (LCMR) and the Land-based Phalanx Weapon system (LPWS).

The training began in the early morning hours of Jan. 13, by moving necessary equipment to the KMTC to complete emplacement and establish system connectivity over a robust network that





Spc. Joel Tobias, a lightweight counter-mortar radar (LCMR) operator with Bravo Battery, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and a native of Arleta, California works with a fellow Soldier on a MILTOPE computer at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The computer serves as a monitoring system for the radar, which is designed to detect incoming indirect fire threats such as rockets, artillery, and mortars. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Gabriel Bull /

ties all the systems together. Once emplaced, the platoons rehearsed and perfected the crew and battle drills both on the LPWS and within the Engagement Operations Center (EOC), the command and control (C2) center of the system. Finally, the platoons executed drills that would allow the IFPC platoon to move with the supported maneuver commander across the battlefield. The Soldiers' proficiency and motivation contributed to both platoons conducting all the complex and technical drills to standard.

"Every Soldier in the battery has risen to the challenge of converting from an Avenger to an IFPC battery in just a short amount of time. They never cease to amaze me with how quickly they acquire new information and knowledge, and the level of

motivation they exhibit every day," said 1st Lt. Joshua Myers, 2nd Platoon leader.

The training at the KMTC was the first of its kind to be conducted on Fort Campbell and paves the way forward for 2-44 ADA's Alpha Battery, who will be conducting the same individual and collective training this summer.

Capt. Keith Kozal, Bravo Battery's commander concludes, "It was great to finally get the Soldiers out of the classroom and on their equipment. Putting all of the pieces together multiple times will prove beneficial as we head to Fort Sill. These are the best Soldiers in air defense and they prove it time and time again."



Soldiers load inert rounds into the Land-based Phalanx Weapons System at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The inert rounds allow the system to go through all the normal cycling procedures in order to verify that all systems are operational. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Gabriel Bull / Released)





Judge Advocate's Advice: Buying a New Car? Read This First!

With tax season quickly coming to an end and some extra savings in the bank from deployment, many Soldiers in the brigade will consider purchasing a new/newer vehicle. Before you purchase, sell, or trade your current vehicle, review this list of things to do to ensure you keep as much of that hard-earned cash as possible!

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

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

Leave yourself time for the process: If possible, give yourself several days if not several weeks for the vehicle buying process. At minimum, always plan on two trips to a dealer before signing and don't get talked into signing a contract at the end of the day. *Don't let the dealer take you to a back room while he or she "talks to his/her manager."* Stay on the sales floor in view of the sales people. This avoids making a hasty purchase because you don't want your time spent negotiating to be wasted. Feel free to walk out anytime!

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

Research the reasonable price: Use tools like Consumer Reports or Kelly Blue Book (www.kbb.com). Call some dealers and ask their lowest price for a similar vehicle. Also,





check the classified ads or websites like www.autotrader.com. *Don't let a dealer pressure you into a higher price class than you can afford.* Decide the price in advance and stick to it.

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

Shop for money before you shop for the vehicle: If you plan to finance, check your credit union or local bank quotes to find the lowest rate. Getting a pre-approved loan will give you added confidence in negotiating a good price.

If you finance, avoid using the dealer as the lender: Before you sign any credit contract, ask for a written copy of Truth In Lending Act disclosures and take it home to review. Although not always followed, federal law requires you receive a copy of these disclosures before you sign. Next, go to a second lender, like a bank or credit union, and obtain a similar disclosure about the terms for a loan to buy the vehicle. *Then compare the APR and payment numbers to see which is the better deal. An APR of 15% is NOT good deal!*

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

Be sure all numbers and promises are accurate and in writing: Any promise not in writing is extremely difficult to enforce. *You can write in ink on the contract, but make sure that the changes are legible and acknowledged by both parties.*

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

There is a lot to consider when making such a sizable purchase, but your hard-earned money is worth the effort. Please plan carefully and if there are any questions, always reach out to





Surgeon's Message:

Good Night, Sleep Tight

by Maj. Michelle Clark, Brigade Surgeon

Many, if not most, of you have heard of The Performance Triad, the Army's new approach to Soldier and family health. Physical, mental, and emotional health are essential for Soldier and unit readiness. The Performance Triad is a comprehensive plan to promote a healthy lifestyle, improving Soldier, family, and unit resilience and readiness. The three components of the Performance Triad are: 1- Get quality sleep, 2-Engage in activity, and 3- Improve nutrition.

Of the three, the most important may be to get quality sleep. In theory, it seems getting adequate sleep every night would be the easiest part of The Performance Triad to do, but it is often challenging in practice. The average person needs around 30 to 90 minutes of sleep more per night than they are getting. Quality sleep is key to doing well in the other parts of The Performance Triad, because adults and children who don't get enough sleep tend to eat more and exercise less.

So how much sleep do you need? Most people have heard adults need 8 hours of sleep; that amount works for some individuals. However, the amount of sleep required to function well the next day varies from person to person. It depends on age, genetics, and heredity. (See the attached chart.) Some adults can do well on 6 hours of sleep, but there are others who need 9 hours of sleep or more to be at their best.

The best way to evaluate your sleep needs is to think about how you do during the day. Are you energetic and attentive throughout the day? Are you alert while driving? If so, the sleep you're getting is probably good. If you normally feel groggy and sleepy and/or need caffeine to get you through the day, then perhaps you need to work on this aspect of The Performance Triad.

There's a lot that goes into getting an optimal night's sleep. It's important to practice good sleep hygiene before your head hits the pillow. There are 10 steps that can help you and your family get a better night's sleep:

1. **Create a quiet, dark, and comfortable sleeping environment.**
2. **Remove distractions from the bedroom.** When parents of pediatric patients come to see me because their children don't sleep well, my first piece of advice is to get electronics out of the room. Don't use the TV to "help" you fall asleep, because it actually stimulates the mind and makes it harder to get a good night's rest.
3. **Stop caffeine at least 6 hours prior to bedtime.**
4. **Don't drink alcohol before bed.**
5. **Get your exercise in early.** Exercising too close to bedtime might disturb your sleep. It's best to get it in at least 3 hours before you go to bed.
6. **Don't go to bed hungry.**



7. **Maintain a consistent, regular routine that starts with a fixed wake-up time.** Pick a time to get up, get out of bed, and get exposure to light each day. Maintain that during the week and on the weekends, then adjust your bedtime so you can get adequate hours of sleep.
8. **Get out of bed if you can't sleep.** Don't try to force sleep. If you wake up in the middle of the night, give yourself 20 minutes to get back to sleep. If you can't sleep after 20 minutes, get up for a little while then try again.
9. **Nap wisely.** Napping is good once in a while to make up for poor or reduced sleep. However, naps can lead to a poor night's sleep if done too often, if they are longer than an hour, or taken later in the day (after 3 PM).
10. **Move the bedroom clock to where you cannot see it.** If you tend to be a clock watcher during the night and it is causing anxiety that you're not getting enough sleep, cover the clock face or turn it around so you can't see it.

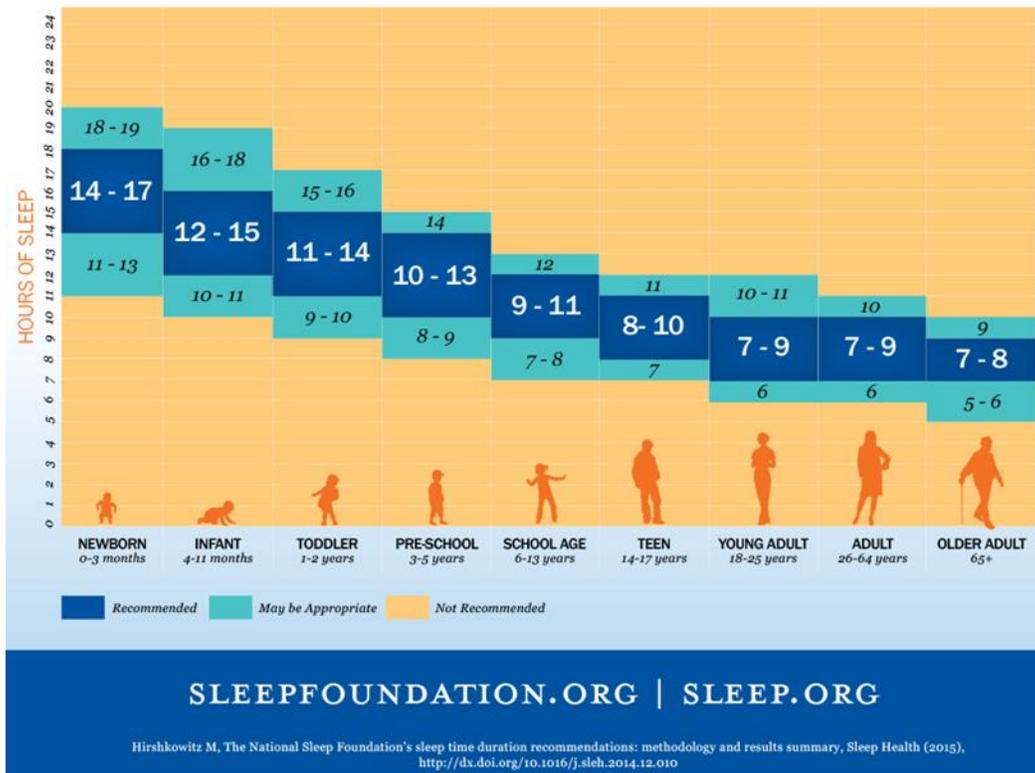
When to see a doctor: if you have excessive depression/anxiety/mood problems keeping you from sleep, if you snore or have long pauses in your breathing during sleep (called sleep apnea), if you fall asleep in the middle of the day without meaning to, if you sleepwalk, or if you have other health concerns that you think could be impacting your ability to get a good night's sleep.

For more information, see <http://cine.mil/performance->

armymedicine.com/Pages/triad.aspx.



SLEEP DURATION RECOMMENDATIONS



Chaplain's Pew:



The “Word for the Newsletter” is “Gray Hair!”

One of the first things my youngest said to me when I got back from deployment was, “Daddy, look how gray your hair is getting!” Hmm... 12-year-olds really know how to make a Dad feel welcomed home don't they?

Also, this past week, I have enjoyed having my parents down for a visit. I have caught myself many times staring at them both and noticing the aged faces and yes the gray hair. Now in their mid 70's, my mom and dad get more precious to me and I appreciate them more and more with each visit.

The scriptures have several references to gray hair: Proverbs 16:31 tells us: Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness. (NIV) and Isaiah 46:4 says, “Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

Yes indeed getting gray isn't as bad as you might think or fear! For if we are wise and trust the Lord, we gain wisdom along with that touch of gray and best of all, God doesn't age or change or gray. Even in our old age, HE will sustain and rescue us! Amen!



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

Upcoming Chaplain Activities:

Full line of Passover/Lent/Easter Services – see unit Chaplain Boards for more info.

Strong Bonds Dates:

3-4 BN:

24-26 April – Family

26-28 June - Family

HHB BDE:

15-17 May – Family,

19 June (1/2 day) Couples

BDE Wide (Bragg):

28-30 May (Singles 3 day)

(see your unit chaplain for more information)



Retention Rundown:



Reenlistment Update

The Reenlistment window for all Soldiers currently opens 15 months from their ETS date and closes 90 day from their ETS date. Reenlistment options vary based on term of service, rank, time on station and most importantly, and strength of MOS.

All Soldiers desiring information on specific reenlistment options, bonuses, reserve component eligibility and special programs should contact their unit retention NCO or Career Counselor.

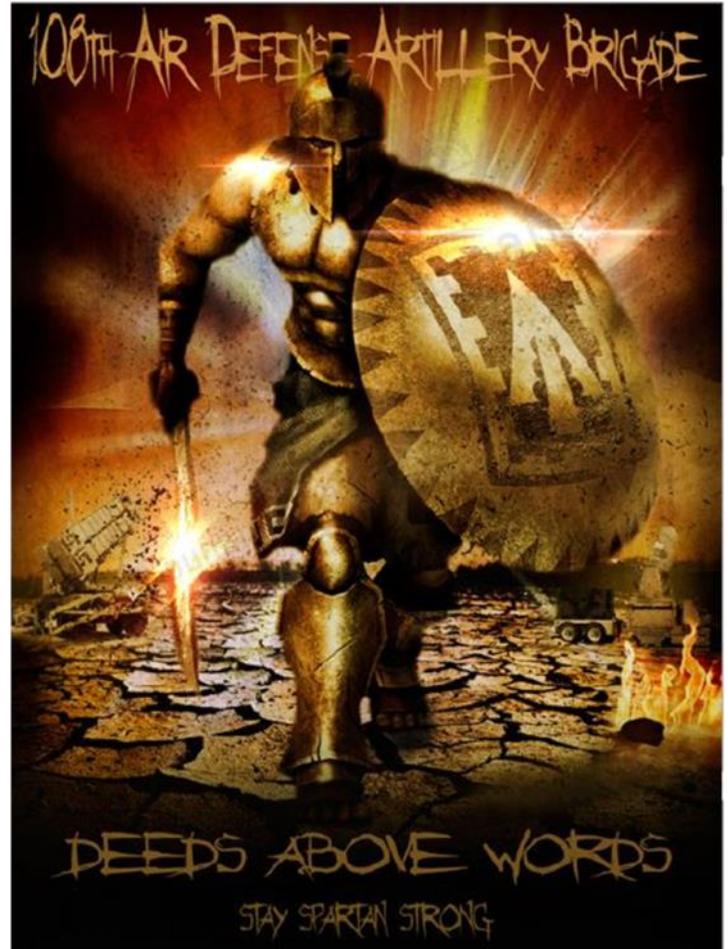
Deeds Above Words, ARMY STRONG

MSG Machita R. Beauregard

Senior Career Counselor

e-mail: machita.r.beauregard.mil@mail.mil

DSN:908-5665





Update:

108th ADA BDE SHARP Office Observes Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

SAAM History

In the late 1980s, the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCASA) began polling various state sexual assault coalitions to choose a week specifically set aside for Sexual assault Awareness. April was chosen, and during the 1990s, sexual violence awareness events were held frequently in April. Additionally, during the year 2000-2001, sexual assault coalitions were polled by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) to select a color and symbol that would be most favorable among advocates. The color teal was the most preferred color, and the ribbon became an established symbol among many state coalitions. They would later be combined and used collectively by sexual assault coalitions across the US to recognize a common cause. On April 1, 2010 President Obama proclaimed April as the official national Sexual Assault Awareness Month to encourage national unity, collaboration, and feedback across the nation while building momentum to inhibit sexual violence.

108th ADA SHARP Mission

The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade SHARP Office remains committed to the elimination of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault from our military and neighboring communities. In efforts to achieve this goal, 108th ADA BDE SHARP SARCs and VAs are supporting the 108th ADA BDE and XVIII ABN CORPS SAAM events that will take place across Fort Bragg during the month of April. The 108th BDE events calendar will be posted on the brigade Sharepoint.

108th ADA SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH 2015 CALENDAR

Educational Miniseries, April 8th, 22nd and 29th at 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Walk A Mile in Her Shoes/ Family Physical Training, April 10th at 6:30-7:30 a.m.

SHARP Physical Training, April 15th at 6:30-8:00 a.m.

Survivor Council, April 15th at 3-4 p.m.

Denim Friday, April 17th, all day

SHARP Stand-up (Please invite family members), April 20th at 1-4 p.m.

Operation 1 is 2 Many, (24hr walk/run/bike), April 22nd at 6:30 a.m. to April 23rd at 6:30 a.m.

Potluck & Poster, Skit Presentation, April 30th at 3-4 p.m.

108th ADA BDE Sexual Assault Review Board, April 30th at 4-5 p.m.

These activities for service members and their Families. All are encouraged to participate in this national campaign to raise awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent it.



Equal Opportunity Corner:

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



When Holocaust Memorial Day was established in 2001, a lot of thought went into how we could remember that defining episode in history and following genocides, whilst protecting the unique nature of the Holocaust and not allowing the day to become a platform for the agendas of others. During the month of April, The U.S Army reflects upon this national day of commemoration, which took place Jan. 27.

Thousands of people from all walks of life come together to remember and pay tribute to those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis and in subsequent genocides. Events took place up and down the country, many will gather together on Fort Bragg Installation on April 28, 2015, hosted by 82nd Airborne Division at the Fort Bragg Officers Club,

to show our respects as well. This day stands apart from Yom Hashoah -- a day of deeply personal and introspective mourning for the Jewish people, who lost 6 million of their own in the Holocaust. Holocaust Memorial Day is for everyone, whatever their faith or background.

No national observance is more important than another, but the Holocaust Remembrance has a significant impact to a large number of personnel across the entire world. It should not be remembered as a day to mourn, but as a day to remind the world of the struggles we overcame throughout history, and to more importantly ensure that an event like this one will never take place again.





108th ADA Brigade SAFETY GRAM *Motorcycle Safety*



With motorcycle use on the rise and the weather becoming warmer, Leaders must make every effort to reduce the number of motorcycle accidents and keep our Soldiers safe. The Brigade Safety Office reminds all riders to follow the five basic rules for motorcyclist before hopping on their motorcycle and hitting the road.

1. Get Trained and Licensed –

- ✓ Must have a valid drivers license endorsement for motorcycle
- ✓ Basic Rider Course (BRC) –**Required before operating on or off-post.**
- ✓ Experienced Rider Course (ERC)-**Required within 12 months of completing BRC** (ERC consists of Military Sportbike Rider Course (MSRC) or BRCII)
- ✓ Motorcycle Refresher Training (MRT)- **Required if deployed longer than 180 days**
- ✓ Sustainment Training- **Required every three years must be MSRC or BRCII**

2. Wear Protective Gear – Always wear proper protective riding gear.



DOT Helmet with face shield or shatter proof goggles

Clothing Long Sleeves/pants/full fingered gloves.

Foot wear; Sturdy over the ankle boots



Garment visibility Bright colored or reflective material

3. Ride Unimpaired - Never mix alcohol or other drugs while riding.

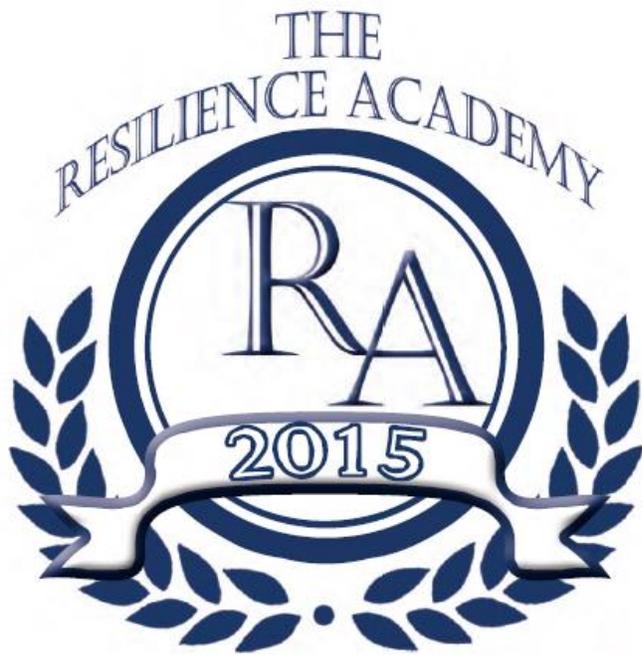
4. Ride Within Your Limits - Stay within your personal skill limits, never ride faster or farther than your abilities can handle.

5. Be a Lifelong Learner - Participate and encourage all riders to attend all Brigade mentorship sponsored events 'the more you know, the better it gets.'



We Can **"BE SAFE"** If,
"Standards Are Fully Enforced".
Brigade Safety Office (910) 908-5745





Class Schedule

January 20, 21, 27, 28

April 21, 22, 28, 29

July 21, 22, 28, 29

October 20, 21, 27, 28

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**all dates within each month
must be completed to receive full credit*

**Learn skills to overcome obstacles and
how to bounce back from life's challenges**

What is Resilience? See description on other side.

All Resilience Academy classes will be held in the Family Readiness Group Center.

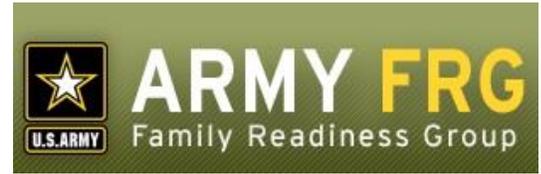
Call (910) 396-5521 or visit www.fortbraggmwr.com to register.

Must register 14 days prior to class.

Limited FREE childcare available.



Family Readiness Zone: Recognizing Volunteers



Without statutory volunteers, the Army's Family Readiness Groups (FRG) could not function properly. Volunteers have contributed much time, dedication, and enthusiasm to our organizations and local communities. Year in and year out, volunteers faithfully commit themselves to perform and go beyond the call of duty. This award recognizes their long-term commitment to programs and communities. Recognizing volunteers is an important aspect to maintaining a group of enthusiastic and committed volunteers who support the FRG. Creating an environment in which FRG volunteers are well recognized and feel supported by the FRG and company leadership can also be a motivating factor for family members to be inclined to volunteer in the future.

The 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade will show our appreciation to all of our volunteers on April 29, 2015, starting at 11:30 a.m. at the 108th ADA Dining Facility. Recommending officials are asked to have the DA Form 1256, Incentive Award Nomination & Approval Forms of their statutory volunteers completed and forward no later than March 25, 2015, to the Brigade Family Readiness Support Assistance leon.l.walden.civ@mail.mil ; you will find DD 1256 at this link: <http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/acsMWR/da1256.pdf?7fb01a>

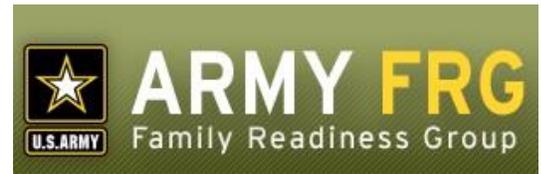
Volunteers like to be appreciated for what they do for the FRG. When recognizing a volunteer, it is important to point out something of importance such as the job/task performed, quality of performance, accomplishment, or desirable character trait or ability. It is a wonderful boost to a volunteer's self-esteem. Recognition is easy to give so give it often. Therefore, let's take this opportunity, and advantage of this annual volunteer recognition to say thank-you for their dedicated time on behalf of the soldiers in the 108th ADA Brigade.

Leon L. Walden, Jr.

US Army FRSA



Family Readiness Zone: Family Readiness Liaisons



Department of the Army requires that all battalion-sized units appoint a Family Readiness Liaison (FRL) to sustain operational rhythm for Family Readiness Groups. The primary mission for the FRL is to serve as the communication link between the Families, Family Readiness Group leaders, and the commander in support of the quality of life, for the retention of Family readiness. The FRL must be able to do the following duties:

1. Advise the commander
2. Assist the commander in maintaining an active and effective FRG
3. Plan and conduct unit readiness orientations
4. Assist the FRG in establishing and maintaining functional communication
5. Serve as command liaison with military and civilian agencies
6. Certify unit volunteer records

FRL Qualifications:

1. E6 appointed on orders
2. 12 months retainable status
3. Knowledgeable of the installation's Family Readiness Plan (FRP) & the unit's FRP
4. Possess effective communication, interpersonal and leadership skills
5. No additional duties

FRL Training:

1. Attend ACS orientation within the first 30 days of being appointed as FRL (2 hrs.)
2. Attend ACS orientation at least quarterly for current updates to Family Programs and resources (2 hrs.)
3. Attend Army Community Service standardized training within 90 days of appointment (40 hrs.)
4. Complete Operation Point of Contact (OPOC) training (4 hrs.)

The next ACS training session (item 3) is scheduled for May 26 – 29, from 0900—1200 hrs. @ FRG Center. Registration is required. Please call 910-432-3742 to register or you can register online at:

<http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/register-for-a-class/>

For more on the roles of key players in the Soldier-Family readiness team, visit



<http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/frgroles.php>. To see more of what's available from ACS, visit
<http://www.fortbraggmwr.com/acs/>.



SPARTAN SHIELD



**3D BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 4TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY REGIMENT
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA
30 MARCH 2015
"BY DARING DEEDS"**



Another leader's service with the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade draws to a close. The 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment Skystrikers and the Spartan Brigade bid a fond farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Heather J. Smith as she departs for Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command / Army Strategic Command. Deeds Above Words!

