

**INDO-PACIFIC**

94TH ARMY AIR MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND

# DEFENDER

2018-2019



**Ready,  
Responsive,  
Resilient**



*FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE*



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**DEFENDER**



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**2018-2019**

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***FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE***

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# INDO-PACIFIC DEFENDER

94TH ARMY AIR MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND 2018-2019



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### MISSION

*The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command provides Joint and Combined Theater Air and Missile Defense to meet OPLAN requirements through the assurance of Allies and deterrence of opponents within the Asia-Pacific area of operation.*

### COMMANDER'S PRIORITIES

- » Ready
- » Responsive
- » Resilient

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### What's your story?

A mission of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command's Public Affairs Office is to tell the stories of all our units, Soldiers, Civilians, and Families assigned to the 94th AAMDC across the entire Asia-Pacific Theater. We continually seek stories that may be of interest to all of our readers, new voices and fresh perspectives. Contributions are welcome.

Story ideas, written articles, photos for consideration, question, may be sent to [usarmy.jbphh.94-aamdc.mbx.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbphh.94-aamdc.mbx.pao@mail.mil)

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## Aloha Sea Dragons!

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command headquarters is located at Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. The 94th AAMDC, known as the Sea Dragons, is one of several theater-enabling commands within the Pacific Rim. The 94th AAMDC's mission is to provide Joint and Combined Theater Air and Missile Defense in order to meet Operation Plan requirements through the assurance of allies and deterrence within the Asia-Pacific Area of Responsibilities. The 94th AAMDC Commander serves as the Deputy Area Air Defense Commander (DAADC), the Senior Air Defense Commander (SADC), and the Theater Army Air and Missile Defense Coordinator (TAAMDC) for joint and combined operations.

As the DAADC, the 94th AAMDC Commanding General is the primary advisor for the Pacific Air Force (PACAF) and the 7th Air Force in support of the Area Air Defense Plan (AADP) and facilitates coordination, communication, and operations with all Integrated Air Missile Defense (IAMD) forces within the Pacific Region. In his role as the SADC, he provides mission command to all forward deployed Army AMD forces and supports the United States Army Pacific (USARPAC) Commander by providing IAMD oversight. When acting as the TAAMDC, the 94th AAMDC Commander coordinates AAMD in support of the USARPAC Commander and the land component.

The Sea Dragons continue sharpening their IAMD capabilities throughout the Pacific region by participating in bilateral and multilateral training exercises, as well as joint training exercises and exchanges including; Key Resolve 18, Rim of the Pacific 18, Keen Edge 18, Pacific Sentry 18-3, Valiant Shield 18 and Black Dart 18. The command also hosted the India Subject Master Expert Exchange, Taiwan Executive Steering Group and Philippine General Officer level delegation at the Joint and Multi-National levels. These exercises and exchanges helped the 94th AAMDC training and maintenance readiness. Key Resolve 18 provided the 94th AAMDC commander and the team a realistic opportunity to train in IAMD tactics, techniques and procedures with joint, combined and bilateral partners as the Theater DAADC in supporting regional Area Air Defense Commander (AADC) and Combatant Commander. The 94th AAMDC supported USARPAC future development of Multi Domain Task Force Pilot Program that was executed June through August 2018 during Rim of the Pacific exercise (RIMPAC).

This summer, Brig. Gen. Michael Morrissey assumed command of the 94th AAMDC from Brig. Gen. Sean

A. Gainey in a change of command ceremony held July 26, 2018, and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray assumed responsibility of the 94th AAMDC from Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, June 26, 2018, both at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Notably, the 94th AAMDC re-activated the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Headquarters, "The Guardian Brigade" in Japan. The unit was re-activated after 37 years of being inactive and stationed at the Sagami General Depot, October 31, 2018. This milestone highlights the strategic importance of IAMD in the Pacific region. The unit mission is to provide joint and combined air missile defense in support of both INDOPACOM priorities and the collective defense of Japan.

In addition to participating in multiple region-wide exercises, the 94th AAMDC assumed Training Readiness Authority for the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade assigned to 8th Army in the Republic of Korea. This leverages Integrated Air and Missile Defense expertise in ensuring training readiness for the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

Additionally, the 94th AAMDC assumed Administrative Control (ADCON) of the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) on October 2018. 5th BCD plays a critical role in the 613th Air Operations Center working alongside 94th AAMDC and PACAF to integrate fire support, intelligence sharing, and airspace management.

The 94th AAMDC also maintains mission command elements at Osan Air Base, Korea and Yokota Air Base, Japan. These small elements facilitate planning and execution of joint and combined Air and Missile Defense operations with the 7th Air Force, 8th Army, United States Forces Korea / Combined Forces Command (USFK/CFC), and the Republic of Korea Air and Missile Defense forces; United States Forces Japan and Japanese Air Defense Security Forces (JASDF) Air Defense Command (ADC), 18th Air Wing, JASDF 5th Air Defense Missile Group (ADMG) and the Naha Direction Center respectively.

Today, forward stationed missile defense units in the Pacific theater participate in regional and theater-level exercises and build partnership capacity with allies and partners in order to remain the 'First Line of Defense' against an ever-increasing ballistic missile threat. The Sea Dragons are proud to be part of the premier Army Air and Missile Defense Command capable of quickly transitioning to war while remaining the "First Line of Defense!"

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**Unit Webpage:** [www.army.mil/94thAAMDC](http://www.army.mil/94thAAMDC)

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**Unit Facebook:** /94thaamdc

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**Unit Flickr:** /94thaamdc

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**Unit Nickname:** Sea Dragons

## Anyoung Haseyo Dragon Brigade!

The 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Dragon Brigade, continues to remain vigilant and Ready in Defense, maintaining a ready posture in an uncertain theater. This past year, the brigade was able to leverage major training exercises to refine and validate new tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) for post modernization to Post Deployment Build 8.0, THAAD integration, and employment of SHORAD and Counter UAS (C-UAS) systems to enhance our readiness posture.

While tensions were still high in the theater early in the year, 35th ADA BDE participated in Key Resolve, the Korean peninsula-wide exercise. This major exercise was the Brigade's first opportunity to integrate new TTPs employed by the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) weapon system into the scenario. It also served as a driving force to refine the peninsula's Critical Asset List and provide an opportunity to reshape the Defended Asset List.

The Combined and Joint Air Force-centric exercise, Vigilant Ace, served as an opportunity to exercise the joint kill chain, but also enabled the rehearsal of some new tactical scenarios. During this exercise, the Dragon Brigade exercised the loss of a battalion Information Coordination Central (ICC), requiring a battery to assume the role of Master Battery. This paved the way for a new understanding of what actions would take place in the event of a real-world communications loss between units.

35th ADA BDE organized support from 30th ADA Brigade to provide a Patriot Master Gunner (PMG) Mobile Training Team (MTT) to conduct a PMG course in Korea. The Brigade recognized that PMGs are essential in the Korean theater, and there is a lack of qualified noncommissioned officers available. This effort supported our need for qualified PMG experts while maintaining our Soldiers' pres-



ence in Korea in a posture to "Fight Tonight." The PMG MTT also hosted several Soldiers from across the globe.

The Dragon Brigade maintains proficiency through bi-weekly training events called Dragon Warrior Wednesdays. These events have allowed the practice of readiness events such as alert state assumptions and air battle management across eight fire units.

Last year, the Dragon Brigade became the first operational PDB 8.0 unit, providing new capabilities with our Patriot weapon system. It provided us an excellent opportunity to focus on revising and updating our TTPs to support an evolving Operation Plan, reflect modern system capabilities, and account for our adversary's threat capabilities.

With our upgraded weapon systems and the assistance of Missile Defense Agency, the 35th ADA BDE was the first to successfully validate Automatic Engagement Coordination between THAAD and Patriot in an operational environment. This achievement builds confidence in the systems' abilities to deconflict engagements, conserve missiles, and automatically coordinate engagements between our upper and lower tier systems.

Equipment maintenance, upgrades,

and fault prevention were also a priority for 35th ADA BDE this year. Several major enhancements were completed on Avenger and Patriot systems as well as new equipment fielded that improved the ability to operate in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear environments. The entire fleet of Avenger systems upgraded their computer systems. These new systems allowed the units to receive, process, and display messages and track data to better support their engagement operations functions.

In addition, Patriot missiles were given maintenance enhancements improving our ability to monitor their status and ensure they are ready to fire at any time. The Dragon Brigade received the upgraded Joint Expeditionary Collective Protection, Stand Alone Large (JECPSAL). The JECPSAL provides the capability in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Toxic Industrial Materials environment for command and control.

As the Dragon Brigade continues to settle Combined Task Force (CTF) Defender into its new location, they strive to make quality-of-life improvements to Carroll Forward Operating Site (FOS) for the betterment of their Soldiers. Improvements to the site include on-site telemed remote medical support, dining facility and kitchen upgrades, fire safety/suppression projects, and other morale boosting enhancements such as gym equipment, showers, latrines, and media connectivity.

The 35th ADA BDE under the command of Colonel Richard Wright and Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfredo Suarez remains Ready in Defense, for whatever challenges the future holds. The lessons learned this past year will continue to place the Dragon Brigade in a posture that is ready to Fight Tonight, Fight Together, and Fight Strong!

**Unit Webpage:** [www.8tharmy.korea.army.mil/35ada](http://www.8tharmy.korea.army.mil/35ada)

**Unit Facebook:** /35thAirDefenseArtillery

**Unit Nickname:** Dragon Brigade

## Anyoung Haseyo Guardians!

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, is headquartered at Camp Carroll in the Korean Theater of Operations. The Guardians Battalion has Patriot fire units forward stationed at Kunsan Air Base, and Camp Carroll, and an Avenger Battery(-), also at Camp Carroll. The Guardians' mission is to provide air and missile defense of critical assets and protect the U.S.-ROK alliance.

Throughout 2018, Soldiers of the Guardians Battalion continued to strengthen the alliance between the ROK and the U.S. while maintaining their Fight Tonight readiness. The Guardians Battalion executed numerous advanced gunnery certifications, field training exercises, joint and combined training exercises; validated new air and missile defense locations; educated joint partners and distinguished visitors on Air and Missile Defense operations; and enhanced cultural awareness.

Joint training with Korean partners included Bravo Battery conducting a Stored Combat Load retrieval exercise in which their Soldiers convoyed to their wartime ammunition depot, conducted reload to pick up PAC-2 missile canisters, and returned safely to home station. Delta Battery conducted a relief in place for a ROK Air Force Patriot Battery, providing an Engagement Control Station crew and ensuring air defense coverage while ROK personnel executed internal training. These missions are great opportunities to work side-by-side with allied partners and validate communications capabilities in unique circumstances.

This year, Alpha Battery had most of its Soldiers participate in more than two high-level collective Air Defense Gunnery Table VIII and Table XII gunneries, which involve conducting crew drills in full Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear. In fact, Alpha Battery was the second battery to certify Table XII on the Korean Peninsula. The certification involved challenging Air Battle Management Level 16s, Guided Missile Transporter reload drills in full MOPP gear, and an intensive focus on maintenance and administrative paperwork.

Echo Battery, 6-52 AMD, conducted two Advanced Gunnery ranges that honed the proficiency of Avenger crews on their M3P .50 Caliber Machine Guns, certified Sentinel radar crews from across the peninsula, and validated Avenger "Slew to Que" capabilities with the 210 Fires Brigade ADAM Cell. Crews certified on Tables VII and VIII, which included five aerial engagements using the Captive Flight Trainer to simulate Stinger missile engagements on remote controlled miniature aerial targets. Echo Battery, 6-52 AMD, further validated their interoperability with higher units during the ADX/CPX in August 2018



when 2-1 ADA BN incorporated Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) into the battalion's Common Operation Picture (COP). The overall end state was achieved, establishing an organic local air picture to the Battalion Operations Center (BOC), and enhancing Command and Control of Avenger Platoons.

Both Alpha and Bravo Batteries conducted two major mobilization exercises (MOBEX), including Bravo's eight-hour tactical convoy to Gwangju Air Base, the farthest MOBEX in the Battalion. These events provide excellent training opportunities for drivers, truck commanders, and junior officers to enhance skills in convoy planning and operations, maintenance, and communications.

Finishing the year strong, Echo Company won the Eighth Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME), the U.S. Army Pacific Award for Maintenance Excellence, and is competing at the Department of Defense level. The AAME is a once a year competition for all maintenance units across the Department of Defense and recognizes expertise and professionalism in performing maintenance tasks, which are essential for unit readiness.

Under the command of Lt. Col. Geoffrey J. Cole and Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Wheeler, the Guardians Battalion remains at the forefront for readiness, and is highly capable of operating in a joint environment.

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**Unit Facebook:** / Guardian.Battalion.Stand.or.Die

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**Unit Nickname:** Guardians

## Anyoung Haseyo Ironhorse!

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 Ironhorse Battalion has Patriot fire units forward stationed at Suwon Air Base, Osan Air Base, and United States Army Garrison Humphreys with elements of an Avenger Battery based at Camp Carroll and Suwon Air Base to support CTF-Defender THAAD and 2ID's Counter Fire Task Force missions. The Ironhorse mission is to provide air and missile defense in order to defend against North Korean air and missile threats.

Throughout 2018, Soldiers of the Ironhorse Battalion continued to strengthen the alliance between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the United States (U.S.) while maintaining their Fight Tonight readiness. The Ironhorse Battalion raised the collective bar by executing advanced gunnery certifications, field training exercises, joint and combined training exercises, validating new air and missile defense locations, educating distinguished visitors on Air and Missile Defense operations, and enhancing cultural awareness.

As Table VIII gunnery certifications remain the bench-

mark for achieving combat readiness for Patriot Batteries, units continued to exceed the benchmark by executing Table XII gunnery certifications and enhancing operations across the Korean peninsula. Through dedication and rigorous training, Soldiers demonstrated their expertise on their weapon systems. Multiple batteries completed their Table XII certifications, which has not been accomplished in more than 10 years in the Korean Theater of Operations. The Ironhorse Battalion perseveres through the high Soldier turnover rate, the challenges of operating within the Korean Theater of Operations, and the constant maintenance of gunnery readiness with standalone certifications to ensure the Ironhorse Battalion is Always Prepared and ready to execute their mission at a moment's notice.

Recognizing the importance of integrating with joint and combined partners, the Ironhorse Battalion engaged in several annual exercises to include: Vigilant Ace FY18, Courageous Channel, 94th AAMDC External Evaluation, Brigade Air Defense Exercises and Command Post Exercises, Expert Field Medical Badge course, Air Assault course, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) training, and joint air load training exercises. In July 2018, Echo Battery, 6-52 Air Missile Defense (AMD), participated in the first ever training exercise for the Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) Pilot Program, Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2018. Echo Battery, 6-52 AMD, was part of a proof of concept to establish a task force combining offensive and defensive fires with cyber assets, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms to validate the Chief of Staff of the Army's MDTF initiative.

The Ironhorse Battalion remains at the forefront for educating the joint and combined force on Air and Missile Defense operations. As torchbearers for Post Deployment Build 8.0, the Ironhorse Battalion has gained expert knowledge and experience on upgraded equipment which has enabled Soldiers to illustrate increased capabilities to various media outlets, joint and combined services, and higher echelon units.

Contributing to cultural awareness and immersion, Ironhorse Soldiers routinely participated in cultural events, Korean language groups, and staff rides to various locations on the Korean peninsula. Cultural immersion has cultivated an environment wherein Ironhorse Soldiers selflessly volunteered their time at local orphanages, animal shelters, and community outreach programs which are aimed at enhancing community relationships.

Finally, Lt. Col. Matthew A. Walker assumed command of the Ironhorse in June 2018. Under Lt. Col. Walker's and Command Sgt. Maj. Eugene Harding's leadership, the battalion continues to sustain readiness and remains Always Prepared!

**Unit Facebook:** /652ADABN

**Unit Nickname:** Ironhorse





## Anyoung Haseyo!

Today CTF-Defender is made up of elements from D-2 THAAD Battery, Echo Battery, 6-52 AMD, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, and other units from the U.S. Indo-PACOM region along with one battalion from the 203rd Ranger Brigade, ROK Army. Soldiers of both the U.S. and ROK Armies work together side by side to ensure the defense of the Korean Peninsula.

The THAAD unit, D Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Regiment, is the U.S. Army's newest and most advanced air defense system on the Korean peninsula. In April of 2017, D-2 ADA out of Ft. Bliss, Texas, was deployed to the ROK. Eighteen months later, D-2 ADA is the main unit of CTF-Defender whose assigned mission is to defeat tactical ballistic missiles that threaten critical assets. To demonstrate its ability to "Fight Tonight," D-2 ADA completed its first external gunnery Table VIII certification from 30 October – 2 November 2018. Over the course of four days, D-2 ADA demonstrated key tasks such as alert state assumption, system validation, maintenance proficiency, and air battle management. Ninety-six hours later, the unit made a historical milestone by being the first THAAD battery to become Table VIII certified on foreign soil.

With the establishment of D-2 ADA at Carroll FOS, another unique threat set was presented, the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). Amid the growing UAS threat, Echo Battery, 6-52 AMD, quickly acquired the mission to execute non-kinetic Counter-UAS (C-UAS) measures with multiple C-UAS systems in order to ensure force protection of the THAAD weapon system. Echo Battery developed



and established a training and certification program to ensure the C-UAS mission was met, another testament of the dedicated Soldiers stationed at Carroll FOS conducting a dynamic and complex mission that is not being performed anywhere else in the world.

Completing a milestone in October 2018, D-2 ADA, cut the ribbon for their new command and operations facility, signifying their permanent transition at Camp Carroll. Lt. Col. John D. Wilson IV assumed command of CTF-Defender November 19, 2018, at Camp Carroll, South Korea, to become the combined task force's first commander along with Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Ramirez. Lt. Col. Wilson is also the first National Guard Air Defense officer to come on active duty and take command of a Combined Air Defense Task Force.



## Konnichiwa Hayabusa!

The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade reactivated on October 31, 2018, after 37 years of inactive service. The unit is located at the Sagami General Depot, in the city of Sagami, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan. The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is known as the Guardian Brigade.

The unit history traces back to the Coast Artillery Corps, organized as the 38th Artillery Brigade on Camp Eustis, Virginia, in 1918 for entry into World War I. The 38th ADA BDE participated in multiple battle campaigns in World War II, including Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe and Rhineland.

As the specter of communism fell over the world in the post-war years, the brigade was again called into service. The 38th ADA BDE spent the better part of three decades providing an umbrella of air defense capabilities over the

Korean Peninsula until its inactivation on July 31, 1981.

The reactivation of the Guardian Brigade in the Pacific demonstrates the U.S. commitment to promote “quick reaction capability” and helps strengthen the deterrent power and coping abilities of the U.S.-Japan alliance during this critical period in the region.

Col. Patrick Costello and Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Sartain are serving as the command team for the brigade headquarters providing oversight of the region’s air and missile defense units. The brigade headquarters will oversee operations of the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, as well as the 10th and 14th Missile Defense Batteries on mainland Japan and a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery on Guam.

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**Unit Facebook:** /38thADABrigade

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**Unit Nickname:** Guardian Brigade

## Konnichiwa Snake Eyes!

The 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, also known as the Snake Eyes Battalion, is located at Kadena Air Force Base on the island of Okinawa, Japan. Over the last 12 months, 1-1 ADA was reset with a new Post-Deployment Build 8.0 fleet of Patriot equipment. Additionally, two new tactical sites on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and Kadena Air Base expand the battalion's footprint on the island, and enhances our ability to defend assigned assets. The Snake Eyes Battalion continues to look to the future, anticipating the U.S. INDOPACOM commander's requirements for air and missile defense.

1-1 ADA continues to strengthen combined and joint military relationships in Japan. The battalion maintains bi-lateral partnerships with the Japan Air Self Defense Force's 5th Air Defense Missile Group (5th ADMG) and the Japan Ground Self Defense Force's 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment (15th AAR). Routine training is conducted to enhance air defense interoperability with the 5th ADMG's Patriot fire units and improve integration with the 15th AAR's short range Type 81 Surface to Air Missile or Tan-SAM and the Type 3 Medium Range Surface to Air Missile or Chu-SAM weapons systems. Simultaneously, joint partnerships continue to build with the 18th Wing at Kadena Airbase. Leveraging relationships developed over the last 10 years, the Snake Eyes Battalion is able to conduct monthly joint defensive counter air training with the 18th Wing's F-15 Fighter Squadrons, E-3 Sentry aircraft in the Airborne Air Control Squadron, controllers in 623rd Air Control Squadron and the U.S. Marine Corps' Air Control Squadron. Additional partnerships with rotational U.S. Navy Mobile Construction Battalions (SEABEES) were vital in completing the battalion's new tactical sites. The unit was also aided by efforts from 311th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and Military Sustainment Command-Korea, who provided additional maintenance aid for services and equipment.

In October 2018, the battalion occupied new tactical sites on Honshu at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and Yokota Air Base. Integrating into the Keen Sword 2019 exercise provided the opportunity to both validate the new sites and exercise contingency plans for split-based operations. As the battalion leans forward into an ever-changing operational environment, utilizing large exercises will provide the ability to foster relationships across the Pacific and rapidly respond to the INDOPACOM commander's requirements for air and missile defense.

Snake Eyes Soldiers are physically fit and ready to respond to new missions with little notice. Specialist Emily Moller was recognized as the 94th AAMDC Soldier of the Year, and went on to place second in the USARPAC competition. Specialist Moller is a shining



example of a physically fit Soldier, proficient in her duties, and shows what is possible when Soldiers and units take personal pride and ownership of the Army's number one priority: readiness.

The Snake Eyes Battalion will remain focused on its strategic mission as the 'First Line of Defense', continuing their mission as ambassadors to our Japanese counterparts, and extending the battalion's expeditionary capabilities to new reaches in the Pacific.

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**Unit Facebook:** [/11AirDefenseArtillery](#)

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**Unit Nickname:** Snake Eyes



## Konnichiwa Hayabusa!

The 14th Missile Defense Battery (MDB) is located at Kyogamisaki Japan, and falls under the operational control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (94th AAMDC). The unit's mission to provide long-range detection, tracking, classification and discrimination for the engagement of strategic and theater ballistic missile threats in support of the U.S. Indo Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) area of responsibility and homeland defense. The 14th MDB has continued to increase the lethality of the installation Anti-terrorism and Force Protection base security measures site wide.

The newly assigned Military Police (MP) personnel strengthen the 14th MDB's ability to provide Law Enforcement Site Security Operations. These assigned personnel have allowed for the unit's MPs to support guard force operations aligned with established SOFA agreements. Joint Security Operations (JSO) provides for the defense of, and facilitates force protection (FP) actions for KCS site, base clusters, lines of communications (LOCs), and other designated areas.

The 14th MDB continues to strengthen JSO capability for the Tier 1 facility throughout the Indo Pacific Region. The 14th MDB participated in several joint Table Top Exercises (TTX) with Middle Army (MA) which developed into a large scale Situational Training Exercise (STX) throughout this past year. On October 29 through November 2, 2018, more than 200 personnel from KCS, Japanese Air Self Defense Force (JASDF), and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) conducted a Situational Training Exercise (STX). The 14th MDB completed a successful and productive multilateral STX

with the unit's JASDF and JGSDF host nation military partners to establish base defense measures and reporting procedures. Furthermore, for the first time in the history of KCS, the 14th MDB executed with the host nation 3rd Division and 7th Infantry Regiment JGSDF, a successful full scale Guard and Protect training event in conjunction with Operation Keen Sword for site defense contingency operations focusing on multilateral deployment readiness.

The 14th MDB Soldiers continuously reach out to the local community and military units to build rapport through key leader engagements. The second mission of KCS is to continue cultivating strong and positive relationships with the JASDF, JGSDF, Local Government officials and citizens of Kyotango. Within the past year, the 14th MDB participated in over 50 local festivals and exchange events to include the Sodeshi Community Center English tutoring for children, community beach clean-up, the city of Kyotango Annual Multi-Agency Anti-Terrorism Training, and an Elementary School Halloween event which has been recognized by the Kyotango City International Association in Japan.

There is great momentum behind the joint efforts to maintain readiness and strengthen relationships with the host nation military partners. The 14th MDB continues to build on the significant achievements accomplished by the Battery during 2018. Moving forward into 2019, Hayabusa Battery will strive to build on readiness, resiliency, and responsiveness as they work together with the integration of MPs and move on to more demanding and complex exercises with their Japanese counterparts. Eyes to the Sky!

**Unit Facebook:** /14MDB

**Unit Nickname:** Hayabusa



(USINDOPACOM) missile early warning architecture and greatly enhances the defense of USINDOPACOM assets and the continental United States.

Another key mission of the 10th MDB mission is to establish a positive relationship with the local populace as well as the Japanese military. Soldiers participate in countless community relations events throughout their one year tour in Shariki that go from planting and harvesting rice in the local rice fields, to teaching English to the local school children, to participating in multiple festivals and parades that go through the streets of Goshogawara and Tsugaru. The Battery also has a strong bond with the Japanese Self Defense Forces (JSDF), local dignitaries and politicians. Several training exercises and rehearsals are conducted each year to help maintain training readiness throughout the region and help strengthen the relationship between 10th MDB and their counterparts. Additionally, the 10th MDB Command Team hosted multiple site tours each year to provide an understanding on what our mission is and to show others the environment that they work in.

On July 22, 2018 the Soldiers of 10th MDB participated in the Japanese Air Self Defense Forces (JASDF) Open-Base event, held on Site A of the JASDF compound. Residents from the Aomori Prefecture were encouraged to attend as it was a chance for 10th MDB and JASDF to display their equipment and describe their mission. Samurai Battery helped Japanese residents engage with American Soldiers, and allowed the people to see the working relationship between JASDF and 10th MDB.

As the Samurai Battery continue to develop as ambassadors in the community, the focus remains on the strategic mission as ‘the First Line of Defense.’”

**Unit Facebook:** /10thMDBSharikiCommunicationsSite/

**Unit Nickname:** Samurai

## Konnichiwa Samurai!

The 10th Missile Defense Battery (MDB) is located at the Shariki Communications Site (SCS) in Shariki, Japan and falls under the operational control of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. The Battery was established on September 26, 2006 as the first AN/TPY-2 Radar Installation in Japan and became the first new military installation to open in Japan since the end of World War II.

The 10th MDB mission is to detect and track theater ballistic missiles (TBMs) and disseminate the missile defense data to joint and allied units. Data collected and shared provides early warning and detection of hostile missile launches as part of the U.S. Indo Pacific Command



## Hafa Adai Talon!

The top priority for Task Force Talon (TFT) continues to be holistic “Fight Tonight” readiness and strategic ballistic missile defense (BMD) of the homeland. E-3 THAAD and Task Force Wolf (17th CSSB) security forces continuously validate readiness by multiple means ranging from no-notice crew Operational Readiness Exercises (OREs) to natural disaster response to combined joint theater-level U.S. Indo Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) and U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) exercises. The TFT actively fosters partnership efforts with sister services, active and reserve Army units, DoD agencies, Guam and national civic leaders.

Throughout the year, TFT sustained a high degree of readiness through multiple training and real world events. In the spring, the unit conducted its first-ever typhoon evacuation drill executed in conjunction with their annual gunnery table VIII train-up and certification. The integrated E-3 THAAD and Security Forces (SECFOR) exercise included a full equipment march-order, convoy movement, emplacement, system validation, written test and air battle resulting in the successful gunnery certification of over 40 separate crews. The Air Force supported typhoon exercise served as a proof of concept validating the unit’s Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) that were put into real-world practice as the TFT responded to Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu, later in the year. TFT also executed its first Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) training exercise consisting of convoy operations with personnel and equipment decontamination. E-3 THAAD conducted launcher training and gunnery certification of D-2 battery, our sister Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit in the Republic of Korea. Finally, the TFT NCO of the



Year, SSG Mitchell Ratner, won at the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) level, and placed second at the US Army Pacific (USARPAC) competition.

Key joint training events over the year included joint Leader Professional Developments, C2 exercises and exchanges with US Navy Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense forces. E-3 THAAD crews shared expertise through participation in USINDOPACOM’s Resilient Shield and USEUCOM’s Juniper Cobra and Theater BMD exercises with respective Japanese and Israeli partners. TFT also participated in several 36th Wing base support plan, security and training OREs.

Informing national and international senior leaders about TFT’s strategic mission, future initiatives, and challenges remains an ongoing priority effort. In 2018, TFT hosted over 30 government and military leaders including members of Congress and service leaders including General Mark Milley, Chief of Staff of the Army; General Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau (NGB); Honorable Jordan Gillis, Assistant Secretary of the Army (IE&E) and Lieutenant General Gwendolyn Bingham, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

Task Force Talon Soldiers continue to enjoy the rich cultural heritage of Guam. This year, TFT expanded its partnerships with the Machananao

Elementary School, the University of Guam Army ROTC program, and TFT Soldiers proudly marched in the 2018 Guam Liberation Day Parade honoring the end of Japan’s WWII occupation. In June, the Lieutenant Governor served as guest speaker at the Task Force Talon 5th Anniversary ceremony and re-designation as the Guardian Angels. Extending off-island partnerships, TFT hosted a University of Tampa ROTC cadet during the summer and looks to expand cadet sponsorship in 2019 to include the University of Eastern Washington and Purdue University.

2019 will be a pivotal year for TFT. In February, TFT becomes a multi-component unit as the Guam Army National Guard assumes the SECFOR mission, an effort five-years in the making. Extending THAAD expertise in the BMD community, E-3 THAAD will increase joint exercise participation and expand its role with MDA test events. The start of the year will also see the first of many permanency construction projects begin. Finally, new THAAD system upgrades will increase lethality. Soldiers from TFT stand ready to continue a tradition of excellence. Stands Ready!"

**Unit Webpage:** [www.andersen.af.mil/TaskForceTalon/](http://www.andersen.af.mil/TaskForceTalon/)

**Unit Facebook:** [/TaskForceTalon-94thAAMDC/](https://www.facebook.com/TaskForceTalon-94thAAMDC/)

## Aloha United in Victory!

The 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) serves as the senior liaison unit for Commander, United States Army Pacific (USARPAC), senior US Army Commander operating in the Pacific theater, to the Commander, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), Joint Force Air Component Commander (JFACC) for United States Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM). 5th BCD has the unique responsibility of advocating for the Land Component Commander's equities to be inserted into the Joint Air Tasking Cycle. In order to accomplish this, 5th BCD works closely with the 613th Air Operations Center (AOC) to ensure that target nominations from the land component are incorporated into the Joint Integrated Prioritized Target List (JIPTL) and assets are allocated to strike those targets. On November 1, 1995, the US Air Force and the US Army signed a Memorandum of Agreement codifying the relationship between land and air forces. This relationship currently stands as one of the primary links for air ground operations between the US Army and US Air Force.

5th BCD's twelve Ground Liaison Detachments (GLDs) and four Reconnaissance Liaison Detachments (RLDs) have strong, standing relationships with Air Force Wings and Squadrons west of the Rocky Mountains to include Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska and Yokota, Japan. They provide Subject Matter Expertise on Close Air Support (CAS), Airlift operations, and provide pilots with the ground scheme of maneuver and real time updates during pre-flight briefs in support of the Maneuver Commander's mission. This vital coordination was executed during multiple exercises this past year including, Red Flag 18-1, Nellis AFB, Las Vegas Valley, Ne-



vada; Red Flag Alaska 18-2, Eielson AFB, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska, Violet Storm, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and multiple Green Flag rotations (the USAF exercise that supports NTC Rotations). GLDs and RLDs also provided naval aviators an accurate portrayal of the ground forces posture when 354th RLD deployed aboard the USS Carl Vinson during RIMPAC 18 and again when they deployed on the USS John Stennis in support of their deployment to the CENTCOM AOR. The 5th BCD GLDs enhance the tactical and operational level joint fight by supporting Air Force Wings throughout the theater in planning and execution of real world contingencies and exercises.

5th BCD continues to strengthen its relations with partner nations through air ground integration training with Australia, Thailand, Taiwan, and Japan. In support of exercise Yama Sakura 75, 5th BCD emphasized digital connectivity sustainment training to improve operations with US Army Japan, I Corps, and other external forces. In addition, 5th BCD facilitated the coordination of air, ground, and intelligence activities between components and bilateral forces.

During RIMPAC 2018, 5th BCD reinforced its relationship with the 16th Air-Land Regiment (ALR) of the Australian Defense Forces (ADF) by

conducting a Combined Battlefield Coordination Detachment (CBCD) Familiarization. 5th BCD integrated two Australian service members into its formation to better exchange best practices and techniques during RIMPAC. Upon the completion of RIMPAC, 5th BCD sent a Non Commissioned Officer to Robinson Barracks, Australia to participate in Exercise Pitch Black. This has set the conditions for a very successful performance with 16th ALR during the upcoming Talisman Sabre 19 where we will execute as a CBCD.

5th BCD built rapport with the Royal Thai Army during Cobra Gold 18 by enhancing mission command and establishing relationships built on trust and professionalism.

Overall, 5th BCD improved coordination in all exercises throughout the INDOPACOM AOR. 5th BCD and its GLDs and RLDs continue to maintain and sustain strong regional partnerships and demonstrate operational capability to enable cross-domain integration and multi domain operations in Unified Land Operations (ULO) throughout the Indo-Pacific AOR.

**Unit Facebook:** /5thBattlefieldCoordinationDetachment

**Unit Nickname:** United in Victory

# Aloha Headquarters & Headquarters Battery!

The “Hawk Pride” Battery stands ready to soar. Over the last year, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery has remained ready to support the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command’s staff and subordinate units in all areas of readiness. Readiness remains the top priority for the command and the battery, but our focus is on much more than ensuring we keep our bags packed. We focus on all aspects from Soldier issues to battle focused training. We incorporate new and innovative ways to increase our

readiness while striving to maintain the fundamental skills all Soldiers need to fight and win our nation’s wars.

The Sea Dragon Command and the “Hawk Pride” Battery remain gainfully employed, finding the time to fit all required training expected of a premiere Army unit. While proven challenging, we continue to exceed expectation. The “Hawk Battery” has started its own modern Army combatives program, creating a fight house to not only train Sea Dragons and our Army brothers and sisters, but to train our joint partners as well; which has included Airmen and Sailors. These warriors are ready to fight and win in hand-to-hand combat with any adversary if the situation should arise. This course is offered to all branches of our military and we are currently cross training and implementing elements from our joint partners’ combatives programs. We have expanded our communications architecture and increased our cross training with units on the island. In doing so, we enhance our Warrior Time Training and amplify our

low-density training opportunities. We have also improved our maintenance program, which involves training and licensing new Soldiers on our tactical vehicles. The Battery implemented new driver training programs to meet operational needs and to ensure we keep our motor pools safe and accident free. The Battery’s focus on readiness has driven new ways to conduct Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP), increasing our medical readiness and ensuring we meet or exceed any requirements for all forward locations within the Indo-Pacific Area of Responsibility. We continue to deploy our teams to all areas of the Pacific. We take the opportunity to train with host nations, improve our integrated air and missile defense procedures and foster lasting friendships.

“The Hawk Battery” stands ready and willing to meet all needs. We remain focused and ready to soar. Giving back to our communities and always showing respect for our beautiful host land. We are the pinnacle of Air Defense and the Pacific should rest easy with the Sea Dragons defending.



## 94TH ARMY AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND ★ SEA QUEENS

# Aloha Sea Queens!

The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command’s Sea Queens is an active, informative group comprised of spouses of Service Members and alumni. Mrs. Cindy Morrissey and Mrs. Marissa McCray lead the group and emphasize the importance of communication of events and information exchange. The Sea Queens meet for coffee once a month hosted on a rotational basis by member volunteers. In an effort to experience all that beautiful Oahu has to offer, they have also hosted brunches, sailed at Hickam Marina, and toured the Manoa Chocolate Factory in Kailua.



# Air Defense Soldier Inducted Into Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

» BY ARMY SGT. MALCOLM COHENS-ASHLEY  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

For some, responsibility may not be the first thing on the mind of a child. Some are able to enjoy their youthful years without much worry within their household. Growing up in a single parent household, Staff Sgt. Paul Navarrete was introduced to responsibility early, as he learned the meaning of dedication and hard work. These very qualities have propelled him through his childhood and followed him through his years in U.S. Army. These are the same qualities that have not only set him apart from his peers, but also earned him a life-long membership in the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

He's dedicated, determined, selfless, motivated and he genuinely wants to do right by his peers, said Sgt. 1st class Jason E. Spears, the supervisor of Navarrete and the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Asset Management non-commissioned officer in charge. I couldn't have asked for a better non-commissioned officer stated Spears.

Navarrete's work ethic and dedication to excellence continue to lead him to and through milestones in his life and career.

Navarrete was born and raised in Naples, Florida, a place that he called, "the beach lifestyle." His mother brought him up in a single parent household alongside his sister Linda. Although tasked with more responsibilities than some of his peers, he still found time to play sports such as football, soccer and lacrosse in addition to working to help provide for his family.

"I always looked out for my family and felt like I had to provide in some way regardless of my age," Navarrete stated. "That carried me on throughout the years and into the military."

Like many, growing up he witnessed 9/11 as a civilian, and those



Staff Sgt. Paul Navarrete, a non-commissioned officer assigned to the 94th AAMDC during his induction into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club on February 20, 2019 at Schofield Barracks.

events were part of his inspiration to join the Army.

"Seeing all the Soldiers, post 9/11, gave me a huge respect for the military and I knew that I wanted to be part of that," he remarked. "The "Soldier" is one of the noblest professions in my opinion."

He currently serves in G33, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. He has been in the Army for nine years, originally beginning his career as an Infantryman and later re-classifying to an Air Defense Battle Management Systems Operator for better job opportunities

post-retirement.

Throughout his career he has accomplished everything he has set his mind to and his latest accomplishment is one of his greatest to date. He was recently selected for induction in the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is for U.S. Army non-commissioned officers whose leadership and performance may earn them membership in this prestigious club. It is named after Audie Murphy, who is one of the most decorated U.S. Army Soldiers of World War II. The membership process includes submitting a packet, a physical fitness test and appearing before a board of senior non-commissioned officers prior to selection.

He was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club on February 20, 2019, at Weyland Field, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

"It is the greatest feeling ever, I'm still shocked that I have been given the great opportunity to represent the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) but most importantly the 94th AAMDC as a leader who now has great purpose," he said. "I have been entrusted to sustain on a higher level the empowerment of our non-commissioned officers and the welfare of our Soldiers."

He has blazed a trail of excellence for his leaders, peers and subordinates to follow.

It makes me proud watching him continue to grow as a non-commissioned officer; he's achieving his goals faster than we envisioned said Spears.

Although Navarrete has reached his goal of being inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, he understands that his induction is only the beginning. But with his work ethic and dedication to excellence, there is no doubt that he will continue to lead the way.

"Audie Murphy doesn't stop after induction, it's only the beginning and a lifetime dedication," Navarrete stated.

# THAAD, Patriot, and Avenger/Sentinel Interoperability within 2-1 ADA "Guardian" BN

» BY CPT ADAM S. PATTERSON (AS3),  
ZLT MATTHEW BECKER (E/6-52 PL), WO1 ADAM  
MCGEE (C2 SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR) 2-1 ADA BN

Patriot, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), and Avengers assigned under a single battalion (2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, provide a unique opportunity to exercise integrated air and missile defense (IAMD), creating a significant advantage to the combatant commander. This article will discuss the capabilities of each weapon system, their tactical missions, and the importance of integrating them into one common network. The Guardian Battalion, based out of Camp Carroll, South Korea, is truly embodying the concept of Air and Missile Defense.

The mission of the United States Army Air Defense Artillery branch is to protect the force and selected defended assets from enemy/hostile aerial attack, missile attack, and surveillance. The threats that Air Defense Artillery units prepare for extend from intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), costing millions of dollars, to unmanned aerial systems (UAS), costing as little as one hundred dollars. Developing the capabilities to respond to and meet these threats make the Air Defense Artillery one of the most versatile branches in the United States Army.

Across the force, you will find that a unit's mission consists of THAAD, Patriot or Avenger. As a result, Air Defenders often describe the different components as "three separate worlds." 2-1 ADA is the first battalion in the United States Army that has integrated the three distinct weapon systems, consisting of an organic Patriot battalion, Avenger battery, and a THAAD battery.

THAAD's mission is to "protect the United States, forward deployed forces, friends, and allies against short and medium range ballistic missiles."



An Avenger system crew from E Battery, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th ADA Brigade, fires at a target during a live-fire range.

» U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. TODD L. POULIOT, 35TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE

The radar component of THAAD (AN/TPY-2) is highly mobile, multi-functional, and capable of long range surveillance. It acquires targets in boost, midcourse and terminal phases, providing commanders and operators a proper air picture long before the threat is in range of the weapon system itself.

Patriot's mission is to "provide protection against theater missiles (TMs) and air threats to critical assets in the corps and theater areas." TMs constitute the primary threat to be countered by Army ADA forces. Patriot can be tailored to the tactical situation in defending against air and missile attack. The radar set of the Patriot missile system (AN/MPQ-53) is monitored and controlled by the engagement control station (ECS) and performs very low to very high-altitude surveillance, target detection, target classification, target identification, etc.

Finally, the Avenger's mission is to "provide protection from enemy

reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition (RISTA) efforts." Avenger is designed to counter low-altitude unmanned aerial system (UAS), high-speed fixed-wing/rotary-wing aircraft, and RISTA threats. The Avenger is highly mobile and provides the fire unit flexibility with its variety of functions. It employs eight ready-to-fire Stinger missiles with the capability to convert those Stinger missiles into man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS). Additionally the Avenger has a M3P .50 caliber machine gun mounted on it.

Given the growing level of complexity of the battlefield, the need for increased mission command between THAAD and Patriot is even more critical. Mission command is defined by the US Department of Defense as, "the exercise of authority and direction by the commander using mission orders to enable disciplined initiative within the commander's intent to empower agile and adaptive leaders

in the conduct of unified land operations.” This criticality alone provided the initial implementation of these weapons system integration.

Mission command allows commanders to quickly and accurately employ the troop leading procedures and expedite the Military Decision Making Process and is critical to mission success. Secretary of Defense, James Mattis, summarizes the impor-

*“The mission of the United States Army Air Defense Artillery branch is to protect the force and selected defended assets from enemy/hostile aerial attack, missile attack, and surveillance.”*

ance of mission command: “[Mission command] is something that I am passionate about. I believe it’s absolutely critical to our warfighters. . . it is also something that encompasses all the military function of leadership but nothing is more important because no essential warfighting function or activity is possible without [mission command]”<sup>8</sup> (Institute for Defense and Government Advancement, 2009).

The purpose of the integration is to provide commanders and operators an enhanced air picture that allows the commander to make better informed decisions. With the enhanced air picture, the commander can implement decisions that would increase the protection of friendly assets and units. The integration of all three weapon systems is a difficult process and continues to present new challenges as the

unit looks to incorporate additional weapons systems, such as counter - unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS).

The integration of multiple tier air defense assets into one operational air picture here at 2-1 ADA was conducted in three separate phases. The first phase consisted of integrating THAAD and Patriot into a consolidated network utilizing multicast Tactical Digital Information Link - J (TADL-J)

over the US Indo-Pacific Command battery internal (BTIN) architecture. The two weapon systems were successfully able to pass numerous Link-16 message sets and validate their ability to conduct automatic engagement coordination (AEC) between the two.

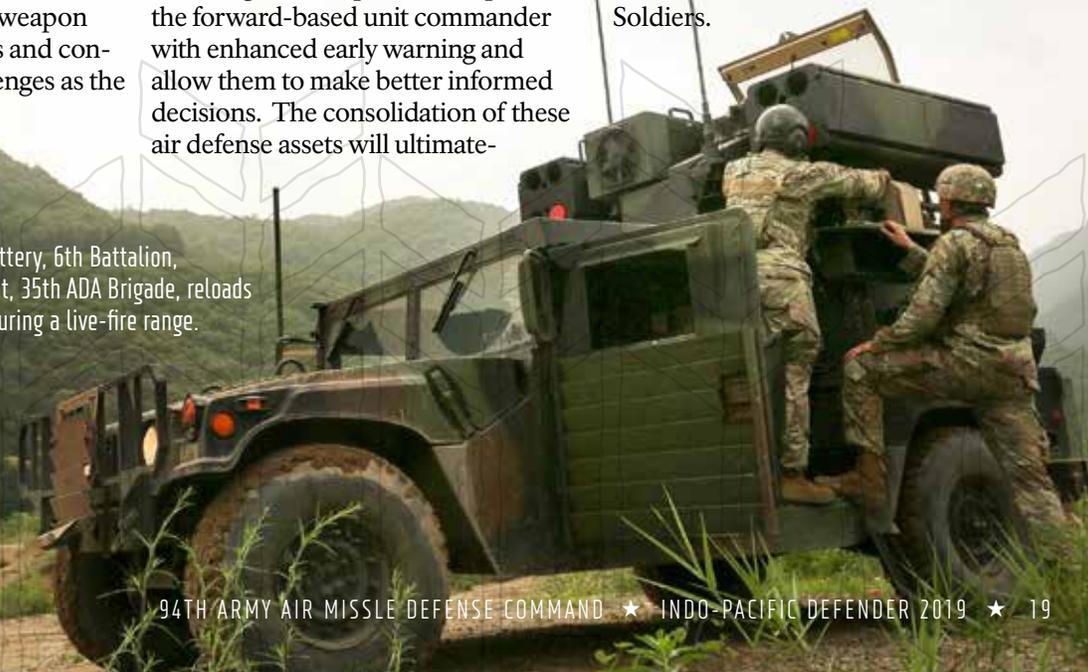
The final phase of this operation will be consolidating all three tiers of air defense into 2-1 ADA’s BOC. The implementation of this integration of capabilities provides the battalion with the enhanced air picture that provides commanders with appropriate command and control within their respective units. Additionally, in the event of an Avenger unit being co-located with a forward stationed unit, this enhanced and integrated air picture will provide the forward-based unit commander with enhanced early warning and allow them to make better informed decisions. The consolidation of these air defense assets will ultimate-

ly enhance early warning across the Korean Peninsula and increase the readiness status of the force.

Once the network architecture is built, 2-1 ADA will be able to seamlessly incorporate additional air defense weapon systems and ultimately expand the footprint of the Air Defense Artillery branch. Maintaining this network allows for 2-1 ADA to operate in accordance with the Fires Center’s stated goal of transitioning to the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Concept outlined in the 2017 Joint Publication 3-01. Focusing on the latter half of the definition of IAMD, interoperability amongst all three tiers of Air Defense provides “. . . overlapping operations to defend the homeland and U.S. national interests, protect the Joint Force, and enable freedom of action by negating an adversary’s ability to achieve adverse effects from their air and missile capabilities.” Additionally, the training value that it affords the junior enlisted, NCOs, and junior officers at the battery level is quintessential to rebuilding the SHORAD capability, especially within the 14G MOS. This integration has afforded the opportunity for Soldiers of different ranks and MOS to work together to create a blueprint – one that will allow other units to integrate their systems and will have the capability to augment any unit into their air pictures. Ultimately, it has provided a comprehensive understanding of Joint Data Networks to the Guardian Battalion and its Soldiers.

An Avenger system crew from E Battery, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th ADA Brigade, reloads an M3P .50-caliber machine gun during a live-fire range.

» U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. TODD L. POULIOT, 35TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE



# 94th AAMDC Names 2018 Best Soldier, NCO After Tough Competition

» BY ARMY SGT. 1ST CLASS CLAUDIO TEJADA  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Soldiers assigned to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command completed, Friday May 11, a grueling five-day competition that tested their physical and mental endurance to be named the 94th AAMDC's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year.

This year's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition had 10 competitors who excelled in other competitions at battalion or unit level before they moved on to the 94th AAMDC's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition.

The competition was tough for the five NCOs and five Soldiers participating in the event, but only two could be declared the winner.

Staff Sgt. Mitchell Ratner a patriot fire control enhanced operator assigned to Task Force Talon and stationed in Guam and Spc. Emily Moller a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear Specialist with 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Regiment, 94th AAMDC, and stationed in Okinawa, Japan, triumphed over their peers during the grueling five-day competition and were named the NCO and Soldier of the Year for the 94th AAMDC.

The 10 competitors represented the best of the best from the 94th AAMDC units stationed throughout the Pacific and its headquarters here in Hawaii.

"During this five-day competition, these Soldiers negotiated 19 physically and mentally demanding events," said Command Sgt. Major. John W. Foley, the command sergeant major of the 94th AAMDC. "They represent the best within the command, 1-1 ADA, Task Force Talon and the 94th Headquarters," Foley said.

The competition events ranged



Spc. Willie Gordon, a patriot fire control enhanced operator, assigned to Task Force Talon, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command fire his M4 Carbine Rifle while participating in the command's 2018 Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the year Competition weapons qualification lane. The competition took place at multiple training sites in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii the week of 6-11 May 2018.

## Competitors

### Junior Enlisted:

- SPC Bermudez Marian, 94th AAMDC
- SPC Gordon, Willie, Task Force Talon
- SPC Mathis, Julie, 94th AAMDC
- SPC Moller, Emily, 1-1 ADA
- SPC Regmi, Sarvesh, 94th AAMDC

### Noncommissioned Officers:

- SSG Diaz, Jorge, 1-1 ADA
- SSG Linares, Jamie, 94th AAMDC
- SGT Singleton, Carly, 94th AAMDC
- SGT Wolfe, Wyatt, 94th AAMDC

Moller competed at the U.S. Army Pacific Best Warrior Competition, both placing 2nd place overall.

from the Army Physical Fitness Test, a timed road march, drill and ceremony, the assemble, firing and qualification of multiple small arms and machine guns as well as a tough obstacle course and day and night

land navigation course.

The competition served as a learning tool for some competitors while others participated in the competition to challenge themselves and push their limits.

"The competition was physically and mentally exhausted," said Spc. Marian Bermudez, an air defense battle management system operator with the Headquarters and Headquarters, 94th AAMDC. "It was a very good learning experience and training for us to do," she said.

Although the days were long and strenuous, the competitors worked together as a team keeping each other motivated.

"Everybody pushed themselves," said Sgt. Wyatt Wolfe an intelligence analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters, 94th AAMDC. "Even though we were competing against each other, we all worked as a group and got along very well during the competition," he added while expressing his thoughts about his peers after the competition was over.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Michael T. Morrissey, Commander of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (left), Staff Sgt. Clifford T. Burton Jr. (center) and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric R. McCray, the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Command Sgt. Maj. (right), smile for a picture to celebrate Burton on earning the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Medgar Evers Outstanding Community Service Award on Sept. 28, 2018, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI. » U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY: SGT. MALCOLM COHENS 94TH ARMY AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND

# Air Defense Soldier Displays Excellence

» BY ARMY SGT. MALCOLM COHENS-ASHLEY  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Clifford T. Burton Jr., a Columbus, Georgia, native, received the Medgar W. Evers Outstanding Community Service Award on September 30, 2018, during an award ceremony conducted at the Pearl Harbor-Hickam Officers Club.

Burton was one of seven service members who received an Outstanding Military Leadership Award from the Honolulu-Hawaii branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for their leadership and selfless service.

“If this world is to move forward with any representation of what right looks like, we have got to train and develop future leaders,” said Alphonso Braggs, the president of the Honolulu-Hawaii branch of the NAACP. “These young men and women here today have certainly exemplified that, and that’s why they’re being recognized today,” Braggs said.

Staff Sgt. Clifford T. Burton Jr., is assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, Okinawa, Japan. Burton coaches youth basketball, football and

regularly volunteers at a local orphanage by donating clothing, food and toys.

For Burton, service to humanity has been something instilled within him prior to his service in the military.

“My mother and father always raised me to give back to the community and try to help other people out that are in need,” said Burton.

Burton believes come from his humble upbringing.

“Growing up in Columbus, Georgia, it’s a nice city, but the city does have poverty,” Burton said.

Just as Burtons parents taught him the value of community service at an early age, Burton also teaches the importance of community service to his three children.

“I want them to see that it’s not about just having everything, you have to be willing to dedicate your time to help other people,” Burton said. “Helping other people is how you count your blessing and how you receive your blessing,” Burton added.

The Medgar Evers, award comes from the life, legacy and service of WWII veteran Medgar Evers. He served in the U.S. Army and fought in the Battle of Normandy during World II. He was a civil rights activist in the

state of Mississippi and also the secretary of the Mississippi NAACP. He continued to serve humanity until he was assassinated in 1963.

Although he is no longer here, his legacy lives on through those who continue to serve others such as Burton.

The Honolulu-Hawaii NAACP recognizes service members who are nominated by their chain of command based on leadership, selfless service and mentorship while serving in Guam, Hawaii, Japan and Korea.

The NAACP, a civil rights organization was founded in 1909 to ensure equality in various fields for all people and to eradicate racial discrimination.

Also, awarded was Master Sgt. Wallace Layne, who was unable to attend the award ceremony. Layne was awarded the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Meritorious Community Service Award. He is assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery, at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa Japan.

“Considering I have spent the last two decades serving the country and taking care of soldiers and families, it is a nice affirmation and culmination of my efforts and military career,” Layne remarked in regards to earning the Ida B. wells-Barnett Meritorious Community Service Award.



Team Chief Sgt. Justin Adams verifies bore sight adjustments on the M3P .50 caliber machine gun with the assistance of the 94T Avenger System Repairer, Pfc. Jason Talbot. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: 2ND LT. BRAY MCCOLLUM, ECHO BATTERY, 6-52 AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE BATTALION

# Avenger and Sentinel Advanced Gunnery Validates SHORAD Capabilities on the Korean Peninsula

» BY ARMY 2ND LT. BRAY MCCOLLUM  
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

The “Silent Archers” of Echo Battery, 6-52 Air and Missile Defense Battalion, attached to 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th ADA Brigade, conducted Advanced Gunnery in October 2018 in conjunction with the 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Air Defense and Airspace Management (ADAM) Cell on the Digital Multipurpose Range (DMPTR) at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex (RLFC) about 30km northeast of Camp Casey, South Korea. Echo Battery is a forward-deployed Short Range Air Defense (SHORAD) battery stationed at Camp Carroll, South Korea. They safely completed a comprehensive training event that honed the profi-

ciency of Avenger crews on their M3P .50 Caliber Machine Guns, certified Sentinel crews from across the peninsula, and validated Avenger “Slew to Cue” capabilities with the 210th FA Brigade ADAM Cell.

Echo Battery executes one of the most crucial, intricate missions of any battery in the Air Defense branch. Its headquarters, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd platoons are attached to 2-1 ADA Battalion at Camp Carroll, while its 4th platoon is attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery/6-52 AMD Battalion at Suwon Air Base. Since the April 2017 establishment of Combined Task Force (CTF) Defender, Echo Battery provides Avenger Weapon Systems, its Sentinel Radar, and Security Forces (SECFOR) protection to critical assets of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)

battery and its supporting units.

With the growing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) threat, Echo Battery quickly acquired the mission to execute non-kinetic Counter-UAS (C-UAS) measures with several non-program of record C-UAS systems.

At Suwon AB, 4th Platoon continues to provide SHORAD to critical assets of 210th FA Brigade. In order to accomplish this complex mission, Echo Battery continuously trains its Soldiers to achieve Military Occupational Specialty dominance and expertise on their assigned systems.

According to TC 3-01.64, the Avenger’s mission is to “provide protection from enemy reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition (RISTA) efforts.” The Avenger is designed to counter low-altitude UAS systems, high-speed fixed-wing/rota-

ry-wing aircraft, and RISTA threats. The Avenger is highly mobile and provides the fire unit flexibility with its variety of functions. It employs eight ready-to-fire stinger missiles with the capability to convert those stinger missiles into man-portable Air Defense System (MANPADS). The effective range of these stinger missiles is 4km. The Avenger also has an M3P .50 caliber machine gun mounted on it. Integrated within Avenger units is the AN/MPQ-64—the Sentinel radar—that has a range of 40km.

Echo Battery conducted Advanced Gunnery October 22-26, with the intent to qualify its 24 Avenger crews, 6 Sentinel crews, and the Sentinel crews from 210th FA Brigade; the unit additionally strived to validate the Avenger Weapon Systems' "Slew to Cue" capability using air tracks from the Sentinel Radar transmitted via Enhanced Position Location Reporting Systems (EPLRS). While the unit executed gunnery without digital scoring in June 2018 at Chipori Range, the digital scoring system and team of contractors from the Warrior Training Alliance (WTA) greatly improved the scoring standards and enabled crews to conduct in-depth and insightful after action reviews (AARs) during the October 2018 iteration. At Chipori Range, the Avenger Master Gunners (AMGs) and Avenger Crew Evaluators (ACEs), Table VIII-qualified staff sergeants certified to score by AMGs, scored the Avenger crews from the firing line by looking at engagements on Remote Control Unit (RCU) displaying the feed from the Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR). This method, though a functional and commonly utilized means to score ground engagements, proved unreliable in comparison to the DMPTR at Rodriguez Range.

With multiple cameras to observe firing crews from a remote battle position, evaluators in the tower accurately annotated positive and negative engagements. The varying camera angles and play-back feature allotted clear, concise improvements for crews requiring remedial training.

On the first day of the Advanced Gunnery at the DMPTR, the Avenger crews conducted the Table V dry run

rehearsal of Tables VI-VIII as led by the officer-in-charge, range safety officer, and noncommissioned officer-in-charge. The leadership briefed crews on range orientation, concept of operations, and safety, as outlined in their daily risk assessment. Avenger crews proceeded through safety checkpoints to the ammunition point, to the "beach master", a term coined to describe a senior NCO who controls crew movement, and finally to the firing line. Prior to executing, the NCOIC reviewed Tables VI-VIII with the crews.

*"The Avenger is highly mobile and provides the fire unit flexibility with its variety of functions."*

Crews proceeded to bore-sight their weapons to complete Table VI; crews calibrated their M3Ps to fire between 950 and 1100 rounds per minute. Once completed, Avenger crews executed Tables VII-VIII of the prequalification and qualification iterations. Both tables required five ground engagements using the M3P and five aerial engagements using the Captive Flight Trainer (CFT) to simulate stinger missile engagements. The team chief (TC), the senior crew member, engaged the 500m and 600m targets while the gunner engaged the 800m, 900m, and 1000m targets from inside the turret. The TC also engaged two of the five CFTs while the gunner executed the remaining three.

The aerial targets were remote-controlled miniature aerial targets (RCMATs) operated by Team Outlaw, a military contractor group based in Huntsville, Alabama. Once crews completed Table VII prequalification with at least three successful aerial engagements and two successful ground engagements, they continued to the Table VIII qualification. All 24 Avenger crews completed Tables VI-VIII, qualifying after three days of firing. Personnel who qualified early conducted "shoot on the move" CFT engagements with the support of Team Outlaw's aerial targets—a rare opportunity.

The Sentinel crews concurrently trained and certified alongside crews from 210th FA Brigade on March

Order and Emplacement of the Sentinel Radar and Sensor C2 node. Since there is no doctrinal "gunnery" for the Sentinel crews to follow, each unit developed their own certification programs based on unit Mission Essential Task Lists (METL). Sentinel operators learned from each other and exchanged ideas on how to improve their respective programs.

After Echo Battery's six Sentinel Crews and 210th FA Brigade ADAM Cell's Sentinel crews rehearsed March Order and Emplacement of

the Sentinel Radar and Shelter, the senior 14G NCOs assessed the crews. After certifying, the crews conducted training with the 210th FA Brigade ADAM cell, using the Sentinel Radar to pass air tracks via EPLRS to four Avenger systems, further validating Avenger and Sentinel integration to enable the "Slew to Cue" capability.

None of the valuable training at Advanced Gunnery could have been accomplished without the help of the 94T Avenger system mechanics. As soon as they set foot on the range they were hard at work bore sighting the M3P machine guns. Whenever guns and Avenger systems went down, the 94Ts were on the scene to get things back up and running again. They were truly the silent and unsung heroes of the range and their efforts were crucial to the success of the mission.

Echo Battery exceeds the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade standard as one of the top-performing batteries. They incorporated Sentinel training and certification, established data links with 210th FA Brigade ADAM cell, and validated the Avenger's slew-to-cue and shoot-on-the-move capabilities. Echo Battery plans on integrating with the 2-1 ADA Battalion Patriot and THAAD units to perform SHORAD operations at Patriot contingency locations across the Korean Peninsula in November 2018 during the Battalion's FTX—another milestone to etch into Echo Battery's impressive history.



The official party for the reactivation ceremony of the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade salutes the flag during the playing of the U.S. National Anthem on Camp Zama, Japan, Oct. 31, 2018. The 38th ADA BDE was reactivated after 37 years of inactive service. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: CAPT. ADAN CAZAREZ

# The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Reactivates

» BY ARMY CAPT. ADAN CAZAREZ  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

CAMP ZAMA-Japan – On the 100th anniversary of its inception, the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade reactivates on Camp Zama, Japan, October 31, 2018, after 37 years of inactive service.

“Today is important, not only due to the reactivation of this storied unit, but also to recognize its legacy and those who served in it,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Morrissey, the commander of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

The 38th ADA BDE traces its history back to the coast artillery corps, organized as the 38th Artillery Brigade on Camp Eustis, Virginia, in 1918 for entry into War World I. The 38th ADA BDE participated in multiple battle campaigns in World War II, including Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe and Rhineland.

As the specter of communism fell over the world in the post-war years, the brigade was again called into service. The 38th ADA BDE spent the better part of three decades providing an umbrella of air defense capabilities

*“Today is important, not only due to the reactivation of this storied unit, but also to recognize its legacy and those who served in it.”*

over the Korean Peninsula until its inactivation on July 31, 1981.

With the reactivation of the 38th ADA BDE the Guardian Brigade is back in the Pacific, again during a critical period.

“The reactivation of the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade today demonstrates that commitment and strengthens the relationship with our long-standing Japanese allies,” said Morrissey. “To build on that commitment, we are fortunate to have outstanding leadership for this organization. Col. Pat Costello and Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Sartain bring with them years of leadership and experience.”

As the ceremony continued Col. Patrick Costello and Command Sgt.

Maj. Neil Sartain unfurled the newly reformed 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade's colors, marking the beginning of a new era for the 38th ADA BDE.

Costello expressed his gratitude for being selected to command the historic Guardian Brigade. He also emphasized that they are ready to add to the great history of the 38th ADA BDE.

“The Soldiers of the 38th will be proud representatives of the Soldiers that have served under those colors throughout its 100 year history,” said Costello. “As the brigade builds capacity, Command Sgt. Maj. Sartain and I are committed to providing a highly trained and skilled team ready to perform our mission providing joint and combined air missile defense in support of both INDOPACOM priorities and the collective defense of Japan.”

Maj. Gen. Viet Luong, commanding general for U.S. Army Japan expressed his trust and confidence in the 38th ADA BDE leadership.

“I assure you that under the brilliant leadership of Col. Patrick Costello and Command Sgt. Maj. Sartain, the brigade will embark on another journey, one in which it will serve with distinction,” Luong remarked.

# Goshogawara Tachi-Neputa Festival

» BY ARMY STAFF SGT. ANDRE E. RUSSO  
10th Missile Defense Battery

Members of the 10th Missile Defense Battery known as the “Samurai Battery,” and stationed at the Shariki Communications Site participated in the Goshogawara Tachi-Neputa Festival the first week of August.

The Soldiers of the 10th MBD are no strangers in their involvement with the local community. The Samurai Battery is viewed as valuable members of the community, which has proven to be vital to the success of their mission in Japan.

When the opportunity presented itself to participate in the Goshogawara City Tachi-Neputa Festival, the Samurai Battery was ready. The Goshogawara Tachi-Neputa Festival is a summer festival held annually between 4 and 8 August and it is considered one of the largest festivals of the Tsugaru region.

Massive 75 feet tall parade floats known as Tachineputa captivated spectators’ attention along with the smaller floats, drum floats, dancers, and entertainment during the festival.

This year a joint military effort took place during the festival. Soldiers

from the Samurai Battery along with Sailors from Misawa Air Base pushed and pulled one of the three massive Tachineputa lantern floats.

“It was an amazingly fun experience that I never thought I would be able to

local community event.

“I had a great time participating in the festival and interacting with the community, being stationed here is giving me the chance to fully appreciate the beautiful culture the country of

*“It was an amazingly fun experience that I never thought I would be able to do anywhere else, it was truly unique. The community is welcoming and I am privileged to be part of this event and experience the opportunity.”*

do anywhere else, it was truly unique,” said Spc. Dan Q. Nguyen with 10th Missile Defense Battery. “The community is welcoming and I am privileged to be part of this event and experience the opportunity,” he added.

The Tachineputa are paraded through the city streets while dancers excitedly shout “Yattemare! Yattemare!” which translated “Go and get ‘em!”

For Pfc. Michael Gress, a Patriot fire control enhanced operator and maintainer with the Samurai Battery, this year’s festival served as first experience participation in one his duty station

Japan has to offer,” said Gress.

While the Soldiers of the Samurai Battery partake in numerous community relation events throughout the year, they are always looking forward to the next opportunity to help sustain morale and build stronger relations.

“I am looking forward to continue to build on the great relationships the 10th Missile Defense Battery has done with the local community,” said Gress. “The community has been welcoming and I am privileged to be here and looking towards next year’s Tachi-Neputa Festival.”



Soldiers from the 10th Missile Defense Battery stand in position to push and pull a Tachi-Neputa lantern float before the start of the Tachi-Neputa Festival, Goshogawara, Japan, August 5. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: STAFF SGT. ANDRE E. RUSSO



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# 94TH AAMDC FLASHBACK

[1] U.S. Air Force Maj. Fredrick Cruz, pins down a fellow Airman during a U.S. Army Combatives Course exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. [2] Leaders from the 94th AAMDC pose for a group photo by the Missing Man Formation Monument at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Nov. 18, 2018. [3] A stinger missile team leader with the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade gives a general azimuth to his gunner of the possible direction of an aerial threat during RIMPAC 2018 at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, July 24. [4] Brig. Gen. Michael Morrissey, commander of the 94th AAMDC, presents U.S. Air Force Gen. CQ Brown, Jr., Pacific Air Forces commander, the Order of St. Barbara, during the 94th St. Barbara's Day Ball.

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[5] President Donald Trump thanked Soldiers of Task Force Talon for their service during a Christmas Day video conference call from the Oval Office on Dec. 25, 2018. [6] Brig. Gen. Michael Morrissey and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray, the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command team, presented Ms. Janice Zheng a financial management analyst for the 94th AAMDC with a certificate of achievement for her dedication and contribution to the 94th AAMDC and U.S. Army. [7] Brig. Gen. Michael Morrissey, 94th AAMDC commander and SGM Tommy Flores present a flower reef arrangement during a remembrance ceremony on Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam

December 7, 2018. The ceremony recognized the Soldiers of the Hawaii Coast Artillery Command for their service and for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country on December 7th, 1941. [8] A Soldier with the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command performs an inspection of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, during a system evaluation exercise at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 5, 2019. [9] Leaders from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command pose for a group photo by the Leadership Reaction Course at the Schofield Barracks, Jan. 17, 2019.

# Army Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officers Hone Their Gunnery Skills Through Certification

» BY ARMY CAPT. ADAN CAZAREZ

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – Army Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officers (ADAFCOs) assigned to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command honed their gunnery skills while participating in Resilient Shield 19, February 22-March 1, 2019, here.

The annual exercise is a computer-based Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint (FST-J) exercise. It replicates real world theater challenges by using current command and control (C2) weapons systems at the Tactical-to-Operational levels.

The three Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) ADAFCOs crews trained for countless hours during the weeks leading up to the seven-day exercise. Their emphasis was coordination and engagement capabilities.

Resilient Shield 19 simulated air and ground warfare. This exercise included the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and Japanese Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) ships, U.S. and Japanese Patriot Forces and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Battery's within the U.S. Indo-Pacific Theater.

The exercise also afforded the ADAFCOs the opportunity to perform their Table VIII certification, which is a requirement for ADAFCO crews to conduct their operational mission.

"This particular exercise is allowing us to demonstrate how we would conduct the operation in a "fight tonight" scenario, so we are performing a proof of concept during this exercise," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Caroline Surprenant, the ADAFCO Standardization Officer and Planner.

"I'm super excited about this train-



Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Army Air Defense Artillery Fire Coordination Officers (ADAFCOs) section take a group photo after honing their gunnery skills while participating in Resilient Shield 19, February 22-March 1, 2019. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: SGT. MALCOM COHENS

ing exercise because everything has been on paper, but now we're going to prove the concept really works," Surprenant added.

For the ADAFCOs participating in the exercise their goal is to become certified in Table VIII. In order to earn their certification, the AAMDC ADAFCOs must participate in a Joint exercise. They must also control a THAAD battery and engagements from at least one inter-service theater mission command platform and coordinate with at least one additional upper tier weapon system such as the Aegis or the Arrow.

"Resilient Shield has given us the opportunity to test and validate our AAMDC ADAFCOs abilities to perform their doctrinal role of upper tier shot de-confliction in a joint operating area airspace," she said. "The ADAFCOs perform de-confliction to prevent missile wastage and reduce the amount of post-intercept debris."

This training exercise also offered the AAMDC ADAFCOs an evaluation on their Table VIII certification.

"This is officially our first certification because this is the first time we have had someone external to our

unit fully evaluate us," she stated.

An Upper Tier Coordination Officer Course Instructor from the U.S. Navy provided the evaluation during the joint exercise.

"It's clear that 94th AAMDC, 613th AOC [Air Operation Center], and C7F [U.S. 7th Fleet] collaborated extensively to develop effective joint plans and defense designs in the run up to this event," said U.S. Navy Lt. Cdr. John Mastriani.

"Each branch brings unique capabilities and when employed together, the joint force is stronger than any service-specific solution," Mastriani added. "We're seeing that here."

The successful defense from unanticipated ballistic missile threats requires detailed planning and quick defensive reactions. In turn, the AAMDC ADAFCOs table VIII certification during Resilient Shield 19 produced positive results while also finding room for improvement.

"The exercise and certification over the last couple of days ensured our AAMDC ADAFCOs are confident in performing their operational mission regardless of the scenario," said Surprenant.



Soldiers of Task Force Wolf, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and Task Force Guahan, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, stand in formation during a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Guam, Feb. 4, 2019. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: SGT. MALCOLM COHENS

# U.S. Army's Only Forward-Stationed Multi-Component Air Defense Task Force

» BY ARMY SGT. MALCOLM COHENS-ASHLEY  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Yigo, Guam – Soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard’s 1-294th Infantry Regiment’s Task Force Guahan, and Soldiers from, 17th Combat Service Support Battalion’s Task Force Wolf participated in a transfer of authority ceremony on Feb. 4, 2019, at the Guam National Guard Readiness Center.

Task Force Guahan officially took over the mission from Task Force Wolf to provide security operations in support of Task Force Talon who is responsible for operating the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) on Guam

In attendance for the historical ceremony was the Guam Governor Leon Guerrero, who also serves as the Commander-In-Chief of the Guam Guard to recognize the outgoing unit for their support of the defense of Guam and welcome the incoming unit

First, I want to thank the service members of Task Force Wolf from Alaska and your families back home for being here, said Guerrero. The people of Guam and I are grateful for the patience of your families and of course for the dedication you have given to our nation and our island.

Task Force Wolf assumed the Defense of Guam mission in January

2018 and has excelled during their tenure. The dedication and professional excellence of Task Force Wolf has left a lasting impression on Guam and Task Force Guahan is set to pick up the torch and continue to blaze the trail to excellence, Guerrero added.

Over the years the security mission to support Task Force Talon has been provided by rotating units from the Army and active component. In August 2018, the Guam National Guard received a Department of the Army Activation Order to provide Security Forces to Task Force Talon on Anderson Air Force Base.

For the first time the Guam Army National Guard will be securing and protecting Task Force Talon, a critical asset in support of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Regional Homeland Defense mission. The THAAD is critical to the protection of Guam and residents and United States military bases on Guam from any ballistic missile threats in the Indo-Pacific region.

Since 2013, Task Force Talon has cultivated a strong and lasting relationship with the Guam Army National Guard. The addition of the Soldiers from Task Force Guahan into Task Force Talon demonstrates the U.S. Army Pacific commitment to having a globally responsive and regionally engaged Army.

Recently, Task Force Wolf and Task Force Guahan have been working

together in lieu of the transfer of authority, to learn from one another and to prepare for the many tasks that lie ahead. For the past few weeks both task forces have worked together hand in hand to ensure a smooth and successful transfer of authority, said Guerrero. Your exemplary work is an example of how our people can work in unity with our Federal Government to promote peace and prosperity in our region.

Lt. Col. Jon Castro, the commander of Task Force Talon at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, shared words on the historical significance of the event.

Today's ceremony is historically significant in a number of ways. First and foremost, this occasion stands as an official handover at one of our Nation's most vital, strategic locations, said Castro.

Second, the activation and deployment of the Guam Army National Guard on its home soil and finally, this marks the first time the Task Force Talon security mission transition between an Active Army and Army National Guard units, he added.

For the Soldiers of Task Force Talon and Task Force Guahan this transfer of authority symbolize more than just a transfer of mission.

Today, Team Talon starts a new chapter as the Army's only forward-stationed multi-component Air Defense Task Force, said Castro.

# E-3 ADA (THAAD) Prepared and Ready for Mother Nature

» BY ARMY 1ST LT. SPENCER MORRIS  
E-3 ADA (THAAD)

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam – Echo Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Task Force Talon, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), recently completed their Table VIII gunnery certifications, which entailed a lot more than just annual mobility requirements.

For E-ADA Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), it also included the movement and staging of all THAAD specific tactical equipment into an aircraft hangar to validate the unit's ability to prepare for a potential typhoon threat to the island of Guam.

Guam is situated in the South Pacific in an area known as Typhoon Alley. This area is more susceptible to typhoons from June to November compared to anywhere else in the Pacific Ocean. Typhoons bring powerful winds and flooding that can cause damage to equipment if not stored in a sufficiently rated shelter.

To meet the mission requirements of the homeland defense of Guam and typhoon readiness, Soldiers with E-3 ADA (THAAD) combined their Table VIII gunnery certification with a typhoon movement exercise.

The Table VIII gunnery certification combines all gunnery requirements into one overall assessment by external evaluators from the 94th AAMDC and it also assesses the battery's ability to conduct the required movement drills in response to a tactical order.

Soldiers within the battery have two hours to prepare the equipment for movement, thus enabling the task force commander to properly evaluate unit readiness. After successfully completing the initial portion, the battery has four hours from when the radar starts movement to successfully complete emplacement.

The safe and successful execu-



(Top) Soldiers assigned to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Task Force Talon, travel in a convoy during a Typhoon readiness exercise, 9 May, 2018, on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The exercise allowed soldiers to coordinate and practice procedures they may have to implement to protect assets and personnel in the event of severe weather. (Above) U.S. Army Sgt. Keeling from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Task Force Talon, inspects vehicles at the hangar.

» U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTOS BY: SENIOR AIRMAN ZACHARY BUMPUS

tion was attributed to the deliberate planning process which incorporated the troop leading procedures, placing a focus on junior leadership contributions. This manner developed the team, enlightening junior leaders on the planning process and the progression of events. Concurrently, the exercise put a great emphasis on the partnerships E-3 ADA (THAAD) has developed with 36 Wing, Andersen Air Force Base, and it served as a capstone event to validate joint plans.

“This exercise and certification is a true testament to the unit's readiness, while proving to the combatant commander its ability to remain flexible while maintaining real world mission

requirements,” said Cpt. Jared Kuntz, battery commander for E-3 ADA (THAAD).

The unit incorporated these typhoon readiness drills into their mobility certification to simultaneously execute their two training requirements. Instead of immediately emplacing the equipment, the battery completed a convoy movement to the designated hangar on the flight line while escorted by the unit's security element, Task Force Wolf.

Hanger Management met with unit leadership during the exercise to discuss a variety of techniques and procedures that would be performed in response to a typhoon.

# From Defending the Nation's Capital to Defending the Skies, 35th ADA Celebrates 100 Years Protecting Freedom

» BY STAFF SGT. TODD POULIOT  
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

Over the course of a hundred years, the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade has undergone numerous transformations, but one thing that has remained constant is the unit's legacy of defending freedom around the world.

The Dragon Brigade celebrated its 100th birthday, May 31, at Osan Air Base, South Korea, recognizing the unit's achievements, its robust partnerships, as well as affirming its critical mission on the Korean Peninsula.

"Tonight is about honoring the proud history of the Dragon Brigade," said Col. Richard Wright, 35th ADA Bde. commander. "It is also about celebrating the U.S. - Korea alliance, and the partnership we have established over the years."

Since 2004, the Dragon Brigade has served as a critical safeguard to the freedom of more than 51 million people on the Korean Peninsula. Brigadier Gen. Sean Gainey, 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command commander, and guest speaker for the evening, asserted the prestige of the 35th, its partnerships, and its current mission which sets the brigade apart from its peers.

"This brigade has formed an amazing team; not just within the Army, but the team that they've built with our Republic of Korea partners, as well as the 7th Air Force." Gainey said. "This brigade has a very strong, rich history. When the brigade moved out here to Korea it really separated itself from the peer brigades in the branch."

Among the brigade's accomplishments, according to Gainey, is being the first to integrate a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery with Patriot Missile batteries, first to employ counter unmanned aerial systems capability and essentially writing the doctrine for the Army, and employing



it in critical locations across Korea.

"If you look at where this brigade stands in combat readiness, you have to look no further than Exercise Key Resolve 18 where this brigade essentially set the standard," Gainey said. "The ability of this brigade to execute tactical flexibility has been nothing short of miraculous."

The 35th ADA Bde. traces its lineage back to June 1, 1918, when the American Coastal Artillery was constituted at Fort Hunt, Virginia, in defense of the Potomac River. Shortly after its creation, the Soldiers of the brigade shipped off to France as part of the American Expeditionary Force, and supported Allied victory in World War I.

The brigade's first major transformation took place with the advent of combat aviation at the outset of World War II, in which Germany and Japan held a significant advantage. The 35th Coastal Artillery quickly developed anti-aircraft artillery ca-

pabilities and served in North Africa, and on the beachheads of Salerno and Normandy. During Operation Overlord in 1944, the 35th was credited with 406 confirmed kills against enemy aircraft.

Following WWII, the 35th returned to the Washington DC area to provide anti-aircraft defense for the nation's capital. Early in the Cold War, the brigade was the first to field the Nike Ajax guided missile command, which was later upgraded by the Nike Hercules system.

From the Battle of Meuse-Argonne in WWI, to Salerno and Normandy in WWII, to the Persian Gulf, and finally, to the Land of the Morning Calm, the Soldiers of the 35th ADA Bde. have always led the way in defending the skies. To this day, the Dragon Brigade remains at the forward edge of air defense, pacing the branch in modernization and fielding the Army's newest air defense systems to defend against emerging threats.



# For Army's Highest-Ranking Muslim Chaplain, His Calling Came After Years of Turmoil

» BY SEAN KIMMONS  
Army News Service

**J**OINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – Shortly after converting to Islam, then-Sgt. Khallid Shabazz struggled to find his way while his devout Lutheran family and fellow Soldiers questioned his move.

And with a few Article 15s for insubordination on his record, Shabazz, a field artilleryman at the time, wanted out of the military.

Then, one day while training out in the field, an Army chaplain approached him and struck up a conversation.

"Honestly, it was like a revelation

from God," Shabazz said. "When it hit my ears, I knew that was what I was going to do in life. It was incredible."

The Christian chaplain had told Shabazz, who was a teacher before he joined the Army, that he should consider being a Muslim chaplain. That way, the chaplain said, he could help other Muslim Soldiers in need of guidance.

Shabazz later became a chaplain, and proudly wore his uniform with the Islamic crescent moon stitched onto it. The career change was a catalyst for him, as he went on to achieve several other goals.

Currently a lieutenant colonel, Shabazz holds two doctorate degrees

on top of four master's degrees. He has written three books and teaches online courses at four colleges. This fall, he plans to teach at a fifth one, the University of Hawaii.

He recently was chosen to study at the National War College, a rare feat for chaplains—only three of them are accepted each year.

And last year, Shabazz became the U.S. military's first Muslim division-level chaplain, a position he held with the 7th Infantry Division.

Now the lead chaplain of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command here, he plans to surpass yet another milestone on Thursday. That's when he is slated to be promoted to

*"Whether it's the Bible, Quran, or the Torah, I want people to understand that religion really has nothing to do with violence. 99.9 percent of the people in religion are good people."*

Col. Khalid M. Shabazz, the Chaplain of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, buttons his Army Service Uniform jacket after having the rank of Colonel placed on his uniform at his promotion ceremony on Oct. 4, 2018 at Hickam Officer's Club, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Shabazz earned a Doctorate of Ministry from North Texas Theological Seminary at Tyler, Texas.

» U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY: SGT. MALCOLM COHENS, 94TH AAMDC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

colonel, which will be the highest rank ever attained by a Muslim chaplain.

"It's phenomenal first, but it's unbelievable second," Shabazz said of his pending promotion.

## Becoming Muslim

Born as Michael Barnes, Shabazz grew up in a large Lutheran family in Alexandria, Louisiana.

Once a faithful Lutheran himself, Shabazz often attended church and even graduated from a Christian college.

His religious views changed in the Army when he decided to debate a Muslim Soldier on the merits of both religions. He admits he was ill-prepared for the debate and had misinformation about what Muslim people actually believed in.

Afterward, he became curious about Islam and began to study the Quran.

"I didn't want to convert; I was happy where I was," he said. "I'm a very inquisitive person. If I don't know something, I'm going to get to know it."

While Shabazz found more peace and solace by switching faiths, which included the Islamic custom of changing his name, many people in his life stopped talking to him.

His commander at the time, Shabazz said, even asked why he sided with the enemy.

"I was so hurt by those statements," he said.

He eventually came to realize it was a lack of understanding some people had with Islam, which he was also guilty of until he studied it.

Islam is sometimes distorted by extremist groups, he said, similar to how other religions can be twisted to incite violent acts.

"Whether it's the Bible, Quran, or the Torah, I want people to understand that religion really has nothing to do with violence," he said. "99.9 percent of the people in religion are good people."

## Problem Solver

As a whole, he said, the Army has improved its inclusiveness of Islamic culture. Religious accommodations allow Muslim Soldiers to worship on Fridays and now give female Soldiers the option to wear a hijab and males to have a beard.

He also educates leaders and Soldiers about Muslim holidays and other traditions.

For those struggling as he once did, he encourages them to pursue knowledge, too. Often, he receives calls from Muslims across the Army asking for help on issues or how to deal with blowback from others in their unit.

"What I ask you to do is, keep doing your job and keep working hard," he said he tells them. "Go to school at night and stay focused on everything else besides the treatment."

"That's coming from a person like me who went through that type of turmoil. I was an E-5 and I received some pretty tough treatment back then. I can tell them those stories and I think it helps."

As a chaplain, he strives to inspire Soldiers to be successful, no matter their religious preference. To date, he has helped at least 70 Soldiers become officers and many other NCOs

gain promotion points by taking college courses.

"I'm like a chaplain life coach," he said, laughing. "I'm telling them don't quit."

While proud of his faith, he does not want to be known only as the Muslim chaplain -- he is one of five currently in the Army. Unless a Soldier wants to talk about religion, he will leave those types of discussions at the door.

"I meet Soldiers where they're at. I attack problems," he said. "My job is not to be your spiritual advisor, your religious guru. I want to help Soldiers with school, with their family, their marital problems, and be almost like an arbitrator or a mediator."

## Life Changer

Years before, he had to overcome many of his own issues.

In high school, he failed the 9th and 12th grades. He was not able to graduate with his class and had to go to summer school. His destructive behavior continued throughout his first stint of college, he said.

When he was later able to get a job as a teacher, he made just under \$19,000 per year.

So, he decided to join the Army as a 23-year-old private to take care of his wife and children.

He also sought discipline and stability, which the Army could provide. As he initially thought it was a good idea to sign up, he admits it was a difficult change.

"I found myself getting into a lot of trouble. Having a 19-year-old sergeant cussing at you and telling you what to do didn't go over very well with me," he said, laughing.

Then that chaplain decided to stop and take the time to chat with Shabazz, who had just turned Muslim but still wrestled with his identity.

"I was at my lowest level and the chaplain came by and gave me what I needed at that point," he said. "I wanted to dedicate my life, and I have, to helping people who are in that position. Not by converting them, but by being a person who can put their arm around them and try to help them get to the other side."

# Army Air Defenders Participate in Rim of the Pacific 18 Exercise

» BY ARMY 1ST LT. MATTHEW LI

1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment

FORD ISLAND, Hawaii – For the first time a Patriot Air Defense Dis-mounted Patriot Information Coordination Central (D-PICC) and Army Air Defense capabilities participated, during the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 18 held from June 27 to Aug. 2.

The training exercise offered Soldiers from across the 94th Army and Air Missile Defense Command the opportunity to participate in RIMPAC 18 in support of the U.S. Army's Multi Domain Task Force Pilot Program (MDTF-PP) and demonstrate the ability to detect, track, and defeat air and ballistic missile threats in a joint and allied multi-domain environment.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment and 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment deployed their tactical equipment from their home stations to the islands of Hawaii.

RIMPAC 18 offered the Army's MDTF-PP the opportunity to utilize an Avenger and Man-Portable Air Defense Systems in a live fire exercise on the Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands on Kauai.

"What we wanted to provide was the capabilities of the multiple air defense systems to paint a better air picture and situational awareness to the maneuver commander or combative commander," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Branch, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

"Traditionally we receive our air tracks and air picture from our Sentinel Radar, but during this exercise we want to see what other capabilities we can receive an air picture from, in order to engage an hostile target as quickly as possible." Branch added.

With additional capabilities added to the training scenario, RIMPAC provided the MDTF-PP the opportu-

nity to use the distributed line-of-sight battle management network, known as Link 16.

"The biggest thing we're trying to validate here is how to incorporate different capabilities that are Link 16 capable to process targeting data to help the Multi Domain Task Force operate the way it needs too," said Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Coker, 17th Field Artillery Brigade.

"For the live fire training exercise we've a Sentinel Radar, Avenger and MANPAD team, set off shore. The Sentinel Radar will then pick up an aircraft identified as hostile, which will allow the Avenger and MANPAD teams to engage the target." Coker added. "The DPICC will then simulate the role of shooting down a cruise missile."

The employment of the D-PICC during RIMPAC 18 provided the ability to relocate the Battalion's Information Coordination Central tactical weapons control system from a vehicle into a collection of transportable cases providing the same capabilities of the mounted system.

"Through this exercise we're able to link in with the 17th Fires Brigade and receive their Link 16 air picture and information. Once we received that information we pushed out that information to our Patriot systems and relay that information to our Batteries that will be shooting," said 1st Lt. Ester Jang.

"Ultimately we're able to execute operational Air Missile Defense fires by running a Patriot simulation to counter cruise missile threats, and also established Joint Data Link between the D-PICC and 17th Field Artillery Brigade, Air Defense Airspace Management (ADAM) cell," she added.

The D-PICC's integration provided support to ensure the 17th Field Artillery Brigade effectively integrated IAMD capabilities into MDTF-PP utilizing organic ADAM cell capability.

"Our focus is to look past the 10 and 15 year mark and see where we



A Soldier with the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade waits for the radio call before an Avenger air defense system engagement during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 2018 at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, July 24.

» U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: CAPT. RACHAEL JEFFCOAT

can go with the Patriot and Avenger systems and establishing joint connectivity," said Jang. "As we move forward we're probably not going to be operating as a defensive operation but more of the offensive."

The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea-lanes and security of the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2018 is the 26th exercise in the series that began in 1971. Twenty-five nations, 46 ships, five submarines, about 200 aircraft and approximately 25,000 military personnel participated in RIMPAC from in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.



Royal Australian Navy officer, Sub Lieutenant Andrew Clark, escorts US Army soldiers from the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment during their tour of HMAS Melbourne in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, during Exercise RIMPAC 2018.

# 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment Soldiers Up Close with Melbourne

» BY LT. RYAN ZERBE  
Australian PAO

International engagement during Exercise RIMPAC started early for HMAS *Melbourne* as the ship welcomed aboard 20 soldiers from the US Army in Hawaii.

The American troops from the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment (BCD) stepped aboard for a tour of the ship while she was alongside at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to learn about her capabilities and history.

The 5th BCD guests were surprised to learn of *Melbourne's* 26 years of operational service and her links to the United States Navy as a variant of its Oliver Hazard Perry Class Frigate.

The tour included living spaces like the junior sailors' café as well as the main engine space, bridge and gun direction platform.

The highlight was an opportunity to watch *Melbourne's* SM2 vertical launch system rapidly load a guided missile training round on the ship's forecandle in less than a second.



US Army 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment Commanding Officer, Colonel Kareem Montague (left), thanks Executive Officer HMAS Melbourne, Lieutenant Commander Adrian Scott, for the hospitality and opportunity to tour the ship.

Commanding Officer of 5th BDC, Colonel Kareem Montague, said his unit's role integrating multinational services during RIMPAC presented them with a unique opportunity to step aboard a Royal Australian Navy vessel and meet the crew.

"We already have a very close work-

ing relationship with the Australian Army but this is an opportunity to see not only a sister service, but a foreign service's naval vessel," he said.

"We were not disappointed and it was interesting to see the pride they take in their ship, the time they spend working on it and how they've got such a long life out of it compared to the US."

Colonel Montague also presented US Army Captain Joe Grennon with the Army Achievement Medal on *Melbourne's* flight deck in front of members of the ship's company.

HMAS Melbourne will spend a significant amount of time at sea during RIMPAC, exercising a wide range of capabilities with more than 40 other ships and submarines from 25 countries.

She is joined at RIMPAC by HMA Ships *Adelaide, Rankin, Success* and *Toowoomba*.

Hosted biennially, RIMPAC is the world's largest naval exercise and provides a unique training opportunity designed to foster and sustain cooperative relationships across nations.



Teamwork is essential as Pfc. Jamie Dekker, focuses on safety and running PATRIOT emplacement drills with her teammate. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: CAPT. MARION JO NEDERHOED

# Loud & Proud

## Dream Team Leads Charlie, 2-1 ADA Launcher Platoon

» BY ARMY CAPT. MARION JO NEDERHOED  
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

When you think of the name “Dream Team” this dynamic, female duo is not what you might imagine as the lead team on a PAC-3 Patriot Missile Launcher. They rehearse with precision at a fast pace so that they are ready to protect populations and infrastructure.

The Patriot mission is vital to the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. The females are physically fit and fundamentally sound in their profession of arms. The frontline equipment that they maintain and operate is The PATRIOT Advanced Capability – 3 (PAC-3). It is the Army’s premier guided air-and-missile defense (AMD) system that provides highly reactive hit-to-kill capability in both range and altitude while operating in all environments. The Phased Array Tracking Radar to Intercept of Target (PATRIOT) Missile protects ground forces and critical assets at all echelons from advanced aircraft, cruise missiles and tactical ballistic missiles (TBM).

Pfc. Jamie Dekker, from Cape Town, South Africa and Spc. Jessalynn Mestre, from Orlando, Fla. are both 14T Patriot Launching Station Enhanced Operator-Maintainers with Charlie

Battery, 2-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion located at Camp Carroll, Republic of Korea (ROK). They have been a team since day one that they were assigned to Launcher Platoon. They both arrived in ROK a little for a year ago, they are roommates, they do everything together and they have both extended in the ROK as part of the Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP) Program.

The AIP program is for those service members with certain skill sets such as 14T that have served for 12 months and volunteer to agree to extend their tour and receive assignment incentive pay. Unaccompanied Soldiers are usually assigned to the ROK for one-year tour creating a constant turn-over of Soldiers in a unit.

“It is very important that they have chosen to AIP and says a lot about their character and leadership,” 2nd Lt. Terry Yang, a 2-1 Air Defense Artillery Officer and Launcher Platoon Leader said. “We have a very high op-tempo. Soldiers have a constant change of Date of Estimated Return from Overseas (DEROS) and it is difficult for the frontline unit. They are the bread and butter of the frontline Patriot Battery.”

Charlie Battery conducted recent training focused on preparation for

upcoming Air Defense Gunnery Table (ADGT) VII and VIII certifications through March order and emplacement (MO&E) drills, Reconnaissance, Selection, Occupation of Position (RSOP) rehearsals, and air battles.

Spc. Mestre and Pfc. Dekker earned the title, “Dream Team” due to their hard work, demonstrated leadership and the love they show for their military occupation. They are the most experienced and top team in their platoon with the quickest time on drills and it is recognized by the other Soldiers in the platoon.

“We run our drills loud and with excitement. We make it fun,” Pfc. Dekker said. “Running our drills is exciting and we love training new Soldiers.”

It takes 17-25 minutes to emplace the equipment and prepare to fire 2nd Lt. Yang said. During a recent training event the Dream Team logged a time of 12:52 as they prepared for movement. The entire drill takes about 45 minutes and includes march order and placement drills. Following prepare for movement they conduct a convoy brief, simulate movement to the next location and prepare for emplacement at the new location. 2nd Lt. Yang said the main reasons that a team fails qualification is because of safety and paperwork. There are many points of safety that have to be performed when conducting the drills and the equipment has many maintenance points that require a pages of detailed paperwork.

“Everything is about safety when preparing to jump to the next location and emplacement,” 2nd Lt. Yang said. “VIII Table Qualification is a requirement. This is a battery collective task to access the unit’s ability to maneuver to wartime locations.”

Personnel stationed in the ROK have a once in a life-time opportunity to experience a unique, vibrant culture unlike anywhere else in the world. They have the opportunity to explore and experience the Asia-Pacific and all the vibrant destination it has to offer. Spc. Mestre said this was also a factor in her decision to AIP.

“I really like to travel and venture out to other countries,” Spc. Mestre said. “I love the culture here. It is really different and the people are really nice.”

# Japan Patriot Battalion Fields First Operational Dismounted Patriot Information Coordination Central

» BY ARMY 1ST LT. MATTHEW LI

1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment

The success of the United States Army is aided by consistent improvement in warfighting equipment. As a forward deployed Patriot Missile Battalion, the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment (1-1 ADA) continues to protect the force and selected assets from air and missile threats against U.S., our deployed forces and our allies and partners.

The addition of the Dismounted Patriot Information Coordination Central (D-PICC) increases the battalion's ability to perform command and control of four firing Batteries currently located on Okinawa, Japan.

The D-PICC directs identification and engagement orders to subordinate Patriot Batteries. The D-PICC provides the ability to relocate the Battalion's Information Coordination Central tactical weapons control system from a vehicle into a collection of transportable cases. This provides the same capabilities of the mounted system, but enables flexibility and maneuver options for battalions with expeditionary missions.

"Beyond the great capability the D-PICC provides to our mission, one of the best aspects of the fielding was the support we received from the higher levels of the United States Army and industry partners," said Maj. Patrick Snyder, 1-1 ADA Executive Officer. "The assistance provided by the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Capabilities Manager, as well as the fielding team that Raytheon



brought forward with the equipment ensured that we were able to seamlessly integrate this great capability."

In order to validate the capabilities of the D-PICC, the battalion utilized a "crawl, walk, run" approach to training. The battalion executed various exercises involving their Tactical Operations Center, battle staff, and Battery Command Posts in preparation for an upcoming Battalion wide field training exercise.

"We received the D-PICC before the associated manning could be provided, and sourced our crews internally," said Maj. Juan Remy, 1-1 ADA Operations Officer. "Bringing great Soldiers forward from the batteries and training them to direct fires at the battalion level has been challenging, but definitely has shown us the quality of Soldiers we are lucky to work with on the 'Snake Eyes' team."

As the battalion integrates the

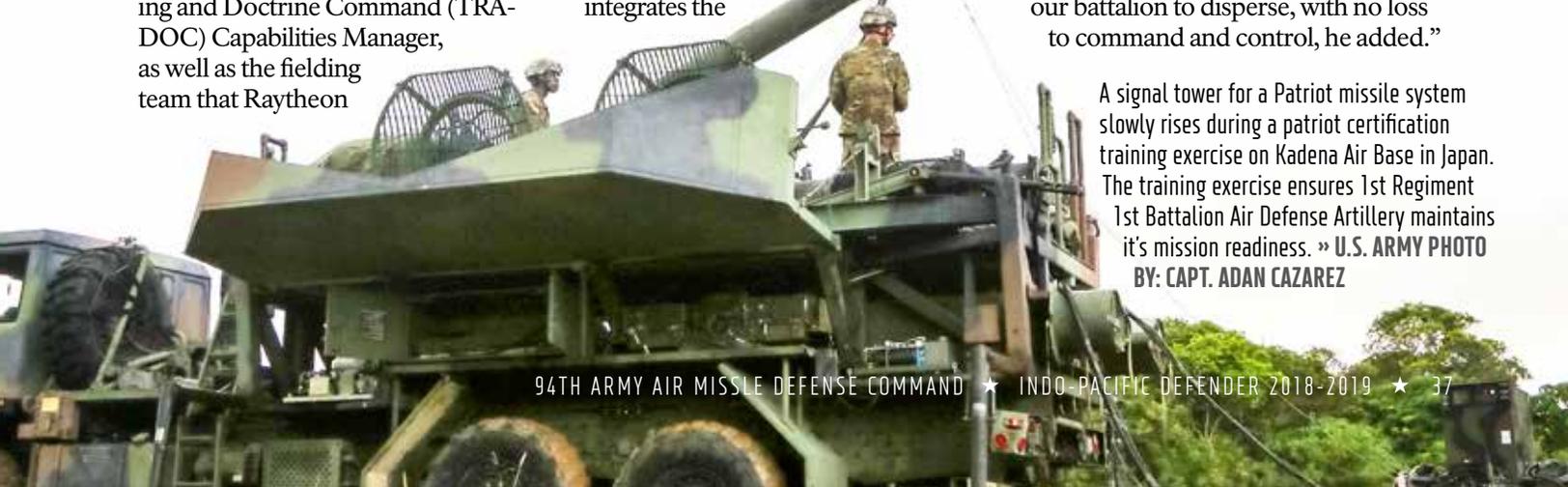
D-PICC into the daily battle rhythm, 1-1 ADA continues to spearhead the defense of Japan in the Pacific Theatre of operation.

"As the battalion transitions focus from a purely defense of Okinawa to the defense of key assets throughout the Pacific area of responsibility, the D-PICC is key to our mission," said Lt. Col. Neal Lape, 1-1 ADA Battalion Commander.

"Being the first Army unit to receive the D-PICC from production clearly signifies the unique mission our battalion has."

"Instead of having to fight in a consolidated footprint, the D-PICC allows our battalion to disperse, with no loss to command and control, he added."

A signal tower for a Patriot missile system slowly rises during a patriot certification training exercise on Kadena Air Base in Japan. The training exercise ensures 1st Regiment 1st Battalion Air Defense Artillery maintains it's mission readiness. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: CAPT. ADAN CAZAREZ



# US, Japan Participates in Training that Strengthens Alliance, Security

» BY ARMY SGT. MALCOLM COHENS-ASHLEY  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

HONSHU, Japan – Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment also known as “The Snake Eyes Battalion” took part in training exercise Keen Sword, from October 29- November 8, 2018 in Honshu and Okinawa, Japan.

Keen Sword is designed to enhance Japan-U.S. combat readiness and interoperability while strengthening bilateral relationships and demonstrating U.S. resolve to support the security interest of all allies and partners in the region.

Dating back to the mid-1980’s, this training between the United States and Japan has been a routine, recurring event for the U.S.-Japan Alliance. Keen Sword is a concrete example of the strength of the U.S.-Japan Alliance, the foundation of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region for more almost 60 years.

The U.S.-Japan- Alliance has long been the cornerstone of regional peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

Keen Sword included partnerships with the Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Japan Air and Ground Self Defense Force; and for the first time, the Canadian Navy participated.

Roughly 10,000 service members from the following units participated in Keen Sword: U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Forces Japan, 5th Air Force, 374th Airlift Wing, 18th Wing, 35th Fighter Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Although 1-1 ADA, played a small role in a large picture, they were able make a large and lasting impact.

Prior to taking part in Keen Sword, the snake eyes battalion had to execute multiple phases of preparation.

They conducted an Operational Readiness Exercise and a Mission Rehearsal Exercise between October 5-November 2, in Okinawa and Honshu prior to Keen Sword. This process was conducted in three phases: Prepa-



Japan Air Self-Defense Force 1st Lt. Yamamoto, left, and Leading Airman Ikumi Aomatsu, right, both Shariki Sub Base Patriot missile operators, standby during a Patriot Advanced Capability-3 deployment training, Japan.

ration, Execution and Recovery.

“1-1 ADA continuously partners with JASDF and JGSDF air and missile defense units both in Okinawa and Honshu, Japan,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Brewer, an air defense officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-1 ADA. “We have the common mission of defending our assigned assets with similar weapons systems.”

Through the proper use of their expertise, they were able to accomplish their mission.

“The mission of 1-1 ADA was to validate battle positions, systems and procedures for use during contingency operations,” Brewer stated. “We occupied battle positions on Honshu and Okinawa.”

Exercises such as this, provides the opportunity to exercise bilateral capabilities and identify gaps and seams, Brewer said.

Overall, they continue to improve combat readiness through exercises such as this. Sgt. Maj. Tommy Flores, the G35 Operations Sgt. Maj. assigned to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command served as an external evaluator during Keen Sword.

“1-1 did extremely well during the [External Evaluation], they are a highly

motivated unit that performed at a high level of proficiency,” Flores said when asked about the performance of 1-1 ADA during Keen Sword. “Exercises like Keen Sword identifies the shortfalls and helps us refine our [Tactics, Techniques and Procedures].”

Sgt. Maj. Flores went on to explain his role as an external evaluator during the exercise and the importance of his role.

“I analyzed the units performance throughout mission planning, preparation and execution,” Flores stated. “I helped them to update their SOP’s, TTP’s and best practices as an outsider of their organization.”

Over the course of the exercise the main goal was to reach the overall expected outcome set forth by leadership.

The overall expected outcome for Keen Sword was to execute our wartime posture and mission essential task list proficiency, Flores remarked.

In the bigger picture, continuing interoperability with ally nations is the goal for everyone involved in Keen Sword.

“We have worked together in the past and exercises like Keen Sword help us to build upon our shared responsibilities in the Pacific [Area of Responsibilities],” Flores said.

# Air Defenders Recognized for Excellence at Missile Defender of the Year Banquet

» BY ARMY STAFF SGT. TODD POULIOT  
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

The 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade hosted its 2018 Missile Defender of the Year banquet, November 16, at Osan Air Base, South Korea. The banquet recognized the outstanding achievements of air defense teams from all over South Korea. Brigadier General Michael Morrissey, commander of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command attended as guest speaker.

“You, the soldiers and airmen, maintain joint and combined ‘Fight Tonight’ readiness across this great country,” Morrissey told attendees. “The winners recognized tonight symbolize that readiness. They have demonstrated their commitment to excellence and to our profession.”

Twenty-six air defenders, comprised of eight teams, represented the Dragon Brigade as 2018 MDOY winners. They are:

**Best Information and Coordination Central Crew:** 1st Lt. Nathen Jackson, Sgt. Joseph Wuebbles, and Cpl. Austin Wecker.

**Best Tactical Command Station Crew:** Pfc. Leo Mangram, Pfc. Austin Porter, Pfc. Coty Gierisch, and Pfc. Adelo Fields.

**Best Engagement Control Station Crew:** 2nd Lt. Samuel Santa-Rita, Spc. Mitchell Santiago, and Pfc. Justin Angier.

**Best Battery Command Post Crew:** Spc. Brandon Mitchell and Pfc. Matthew Pasier.

**Best Launcher Reload Crew:** Staff Sgt. Raymel Shaw, Spc. Jacob Samtn, Pfc. Devin Weinrich, Pvt. Luis Baez, and Pvt. Gary Grimstad.

**Best Terminal High Altitude Area Defense TFCC Crew:** 2nd Lt. Kelsey Burns, Pfc. Patrick Griffin, and Pfc. Jacob Kuchar.

**Best Short-Range Avenger Crew:** Spc. Kyle McBride and Pfc. Justin Kunkle.

**Best Sentinel Radar Crew:** Spc. Kyle Robinson, Pfc. J’Ahntae Smith, Pfc. Sithisack Janya, and Pfc. Jordan Hall.

The above crews from across 35th ADA Brigade competed for top honors, over a four-day challenge, October 15 - 18. The brigade-level competition consisted of air battles, launcher reloads, written exam, board, hands-on maintenance evaluation, and a Backbone Challenge obstacle course. The brigade’s 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conducted evaluations over a month’s time to determine who would represent them at the brigade-level competition.

“This type of competition shows just how well the crews are trained and their knowledge level,” said 35th ADA Brigade Standardization Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mark Theriot. “It also gives the commander a snap shot of what they really have with these Soldiers. It brings all of the best crews to one arena and allows them to display their talents for the battalion and brigade command teams to see firsthand the hard work and dedication these soldiers give day to day.”

Theriot and his fellow evaluators were very pleased with the performance and efforts they witnessed from the various teams. The competition, he said, reminds us that there is truly greatness amongst us; that regardless of rank or experience, each member of a team contributes in their own unique way. He said the board provided specific cases in point.

“The crew was asked about the story of Saint Barbara, and this young man, (a private first class) is maybe 19-years-old and told the story like he was there! Later on, there was a crew with nothing but PFC’s and the tactical knowledge they put forth was beyond any board members expectations,” Theriot said.

Air defenders from the U.S. Air Force and Republic of Korea’s 2nd ADA Brigade were also recognized.

**Recognized from the USAF 607th Air Operations Center are:** Capt. Anthony Carillo, Chief of Space Operations; and Maj. Gloria Ramirez-Hick-



Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal MVP Award recipients: Staff Sgt. Phillip Toole and 1st Lt. Nathen Jackson with former NFL player Riki Ellison, Brig. Gen. Park Chan Sik, commander of Republic of Korea 2nd Air Defense Artillery Brigade; and 35th ADA Brigade command team Col. Richard Wright and Command Sgt. Maj. Wilfredo Suarez.

ey, Senior Air Defense Officer.

**Recognized from ROK 2nd ADA Brigade are:** 1st Lt. Kwon Oh Sung, 1st Lt. Soon Sung Do, Senior Master Sgt. Lee Gil Ju, Master Sgt. Lee Jin Mok, Master Sgt. Jang Su Hee, and Tech. Sgt. Noh Su Hwan.

A special award was created in honor of Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal, the former Eighth Army and 2nd Infantry Division commander, and a champion for air defense artillery on the Korean Peninsula, who passed away October 7. First Lieutenant Nathen Jackson and Staff Sgt. Phillip Toole, tactical director assistant, 2-1 ADA Battalion received the honorary award.

“I’ve been here for a little more than two years so I was here when Lt. Gen. Vandal was here, and he led the push for air defense on the peninsula. He always made sure we were taken care of,” Jackson said.

Jackson said he views the MDOY as a great opportunity for his Soldiers to show leadership how hard they work day in and day out, and the competition promotes growth for the entire unit.

“I really like seeing my Soldiers succeed; having that sense of accomplishment that they can go forward with and motivate their peers,” he said.



# Combined Joint Task Force Defender Commanded by First National Guard Officer

» BY ARMY CAPT. MARION JO NEDERHOED  
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

It was much more than just an Assumption of Command. The historic ceremony marked more firsts for Combined Joint Task Force (CTF) Defender located at Forward Operating Site (FOS) CP Carroll in South Korea.

On November 19, Lt. Col. John D. Wilson became the first officer to take command of the Joint Task Force. Additionally, CTF Defender is the first Combined Task Force commanded by a National Guard Officer.

“What a great day to be a Soldier serving in the Army’s premier Air Defense Brigade,” said 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Commander, Col. Richard W. Wright. “Today marks another historic milestone for the Dragon Brigade, the Air Defense Branch, and our Army as we continue to proudly serve the citizens of the Republic of Korea and the United States.”

The ceremony serves as the next step to a fully integrated air and missile

defense capability in support of the US/ROK Alliance. Reflecting back 18 months ago, in April of 2017, a second Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery deployed to defend against the ballistic missile threat of North Korea. D-2 Air Defense Artillery was the unit who answered the call and deployed to Seongju, South Korea amidst rising tensions between North and South Korea. The D-2 Air Defenders were the first THAAD battery to deploy to the ROK; achieving Initial Operating Capability (IOC), and changing the international narrative on ballistic missile defense on the Korean Peninsula.

The Dragon Brigade has been working toward this day for the past year. In early October 2017, D-2 assumed responsibilities of FOS Carroll and its air defense assets. D-2 reflagged under the 35th ADA on October 19, 2017. With the reflagging of D-2 a small, yet senior level staff was necessary to provide mission command for the Soldiers operating on FOS Carroll

and CTF Defender. Since its initial deployment CTF Defender has grown and is not composed of elements from D-2 Battery, Echo 6-52 Battery, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, a 12 person staff, and multiple other units from the Indo-PACOM region along with one battalion from the Republic of Korea Army.

“What Combined Task Force Defender does on a daily basis matters to our alliance, the people of South Korea and the United States, and – in fact – to the entire Indo-Pacific region,” Wright said. “CTF Defender marked the first deployment of a THAAD Battery outside of the Continental United States and its Territories. It was the first unit to have successfully demonstrated THAAD and Patriot integration in an operational environment over a joint tactical network and CTF Defender were the first Soldiers to deploy and integrate a Counter Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) capability in the Republic of Korea.”

This Assumption of Command



Col. Richard W. Wright passes the CTF Defender guidon to Lt. Col. Wilson during the Assumption of Command ceremony held November 19 at Camp Carroll, South Korea.

Ceremony now becomes another historic moment for the unit with the appointment of its first commander and being commanded by a National Guard Officer. Lt. Col. Wilson has served as an Air Defense Officer his entire military career starting with his initial assignment at 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Fort Bliss, Texas where he served as a Platoon Leader for Maintenance and Launcher Platoons and Battery Executive Officer. During his assignment, he deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Wilson had several other notable assignments prior to leaving active duty and joining the 263d Army Air and Missile Defense Command, South Carolina Army National Guard. In 2015, Wilson deployed to Qatar with the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) and served as the Active Defense Chief in Support of Operation Spartan Shield. His next assignment was as the Deputy Area Air Defense

Commander Coordination Officer and Operational Planner to US Air Force North at Tyndall Air Force Base.

“I know you’re ready for arguably one of the most challenging and complex commands on the Korean Peninsula,” Wright said in his remarks to Wilson. “There is a lot of uncertainty ahead, but without a doubt you are the right person at the right time to lead this great formation, and I know we can expect many more firsts from the Soldiers of CTF Defender.”

Wilson said he is very excited about this tremendous opportunity to be the first commander of CTF Defender and serve in Korea. For the past five years he had been on active duty with the National Guard and it had provided him the opportunity to get back into the ADA community and build relationships.

“It’s very unique to be a National Guard officer and serve in this capacity. This is a tremendous opportunity to represent the National Guard and what we can do with the active component force, and build that relationship and have that trust and confidence that we can work together,” he said.

As he has progressed through the ranks he has gained experience through various deployments while working with other military forces and coalition partners. Wilson said this has provided a sound foundation for the mission in Korea where he will be working with an Alliance and our

Korean partners.

“By working with other partners and building a unified team with a common purpose and common mission I have learned how to band together and move forward with others to accomplish a mission,” he said. “These experiences have opened my mind to working with others who may do business differently and with different business rules.”

Wilson said this is his first time in Korea other than coming to the peninsula for temporary duty and joint exercises. His mother is Korean and he is looking forward to the unique experience.

“I love really getting into the culture of wherever I travel,” he said. “I like getting away from the Army post and trying different foods and really experiencing the culture.”

Moving forward into the first days of his command Wilson said it is important that CTF Defender maintain its mission focus of being prepared to Fight Tonight.

“I want the Soldiers of CTF Defender to know that their leaders trust them and there needs to be mutual trust that their leaders are going to take care of them,” he said. “Whether it’s preparing them through training or personal issues or working through personal obstacles, I want them to know that their leaders care for them and that they are our main priority because without them we can’t succeed.”



Lt. Col. John D. Wilson passes the guidon to Sgt. Maj. Ramirez and assumes command as the first National Guard Officer of an active duty Air Defense Combined Task Force.



(Top) Japan Self-Defense Forces Lt. Col. Takeshi Murakami a Joint Theater Air Missile Defense coordinator talks in a conference call with members of the 94th Army Air & Missile Defense Command and liaison officers in Yokota Air Force base. (Above) Maj. Ricardo Fregoso (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Jose Arellano monitor their stations while participating in the annual command post exercise Keen Edge 18, held 26 Jan. to 3 Feb. at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

# Keen Edge 2018 Exercise Tests U.S., Japan Integrated Air and Missile Defense Interoperability

» BY ARMY MASTER SGT. TOMMY FLORES  
94th AAMDC Training Operations

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii** - The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command focused on testing Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) interoperability with their Japanese counterpart and other U.S. forces during Keen Edge 18, held 26 Jan. to 3 Feb.

Keen Edge is a joint command post exercise conducted to increase combat readiness and synchronization between United States Forces Japan and the Japan Joint Staff to prepare them to effectively defend Japan or respond to a regional crisis.

Theater Enabling Commands such as the 94th AAMDC use these types of exercises by challenging its staff with complex and robust scenarios where they practice and refine tactics techniques and procedures in the event of a crisis or contingency.

During the exercise Soldiers from the 94th AAMDC coordinated air and ballistic missile defense operations along with personnel from sister services such as the Air Force, Navy and U.S. ally forces.

Service members from the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JASDF) were actively engaged in the exercise as a portion of the exercise was taking place in Japan.

"This exercise is really important for us in building a partner capacity through bilateral understanding," said Lt. Col. Takeshi Murakami a Joint Theater Air Missile Defense coordinator with the JASDF.

"Keen Edge is a great opportunity to come together collectively in a strategic and tactical level to further improve our ability to work together improving our readiness," Murakami added.

The exercise also tested the 94th AAMDC expeditionary capability to forward deploy several of its Soldiers to Yokota Air Force base in Japan. The Tactical Command Post-Japan (TAC-J) provided the forward mission command node, which allowed Soldiers to work alongside the JASDF as a coordination element in theater on Yokota Air Base, Japan.

As Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC were fully engaged during the exercise they're also being evaluated.

Soldiers from the Army National Guard 263rd Army Air & Missile Defense Command stationed at Anderson, South Carolina traveled to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to conduct an external evaluation of the 94th AAMDC.

One of those evaluators was Maj. Jason Gordon, the deputy G4 with 263rd AAMDC.

"We're looking at the 94th AAMDC as a whole unit, in how they conduct their processes, standard operating procedures, and overall their ability to accomplish their mission," said Gordon.

The success of the exercise was determined by how the refinement and adjustments of the operations enabled the U.S. and Japanese leadership to make decisions.

"The cohesiveness of the 94th was evident throughout the exercise, the 94th seamlessly was able to integrate together as a team while refining their tactics and procedures," Gordon added.

As Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC concluded Keen Edge 18, the exercise further honed and refine the 94th AAMDC ability to Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) interoperability with its Japanese counterparts and other U.S. forces.



Pvt. Mike Rivera and Pvt. Keaton Kahn from Salem, Oregon maneuver a canister during Alpha Batter, 2-1 ADA PATRIOT Missile Reload Training and receive guidance from Pfc. Matthew Berko from Clark, New Jersey and Sgt. Dustin Pettit from Indianapolis, Indiana.

# 35th ADA Patriot Master Gunner Course Teaches Necessary Skills to Train and Certify Crews on Patriot Weapons Systems

» **BY ARMY CAPT. MARION JO NEDERHOED**  
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

Air Defenders are gaining an overall understanding of how air defense is supposed to flow and how standards and doctrine is applied during a Patriot Master Gunner Course at Osan Airbase, South Korea.

The 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is currently hosting the course with students now a third of the way complete. The course is demanding and critical for air defenders worldwide and to the South Korean mission.

Air defenders from the 35th ADA, South Korea; The 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAM-DC), Hawaii; Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Bliss, Texas and 1-1 ADA from Okinawa, Japan are participating in the course from September 11 – November 14.

“This course has definitely made me more knowledgeable on tactics,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Moscatelli from A/2-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion. “I have a better understanding of everything

going on. I will be able to evaluate and provide training to other Soldiers.”

The students have just completed Air Battle Management Level (ABML) Evaluation Process (level five of 16 levels of air battle management). The air defenders also recently completed Training Strategy briefs. The brief is a 12 month brief presented by small groups demonstrating how they will properly train and prepare their batteries for upcoming deployments.

Students in the course have been prepping for their briefs for four weeks working on them after class in the evening and on the weekends. The briefs require time management and the proper resources to ensure that the plans are flawless.

“I now have a better understanding of the operation,” Sgt. Thomas Manor from C/2-1 ADA said. “I didn’t have a good understanding of the big scale requirements. I now see things from a greater perspective and why things are done certain ways.”

The Training Strategy Briefs helps the air defenders to be able to provide

their peers, commanders and Soldiers with a better knowledge base at every level to assist both Soldiers and commanders with their jobs. The brief covers a year-long time frame from rest all the way to available for the AFROGEN process.

Sgt. 1st Class Gregorio Estrada, the Patriot Master Gunner Instructor from 3-6 ADA located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma said he is excited to see the course come back to the 35th ADA after two years. He was a student in the class in 2016 and has been able to take the knowledge that he learned, use it in the field and now bring it back to other students.

As part of the course the air defenders also conducted a block of instruction on Patriot Missile Reload. On October 4, Delta Battery, 6-52 ADA demonstrated a Patriot Missile Reload for those attending the Patriot Master Gunner Course. As a master gunner part of the training is to learn how to train and evaluate crews and this provided the opportunity to watch the crew team in action and discuss the operations they had just reviewed in class.



Participants from 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Japan Self Defense Force from the 15th Biological, Chemical Company, pose for a group photo on Combat Town, Camp Hansen, Oct. 10-11, 2018.

» U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: 1ST LT. MATTHEW B. LI

## 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment

» BY ARMY 1ST LT. MATTHEW B BREWER  
1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment

CAMP HANSEN, Japan - Interoperability is at forefront of joint and bilateral partnerships. In an effort to increase contingency readiness; Soldiers, Marines, and Airmen stationed in Okinawa conducted a joint and bilateral Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) combined training exercise on Combat Town, Camp Hansen, Oct. 10-11, 2018.

The two day CBRN training exercise built upon previously joint/bilateral field training exercises designed to increase combat readiness and interoperability of U.S. forces and the Japan Self Defense Forces.

Participants included US units from 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Japan Self Defense Force from the 15th Biological, Chemical Company. The units conducted iterations of reconnaissance, site exploitation, hazard response, and mass casualty scenarios.

Set in a simulated environment, each training iteration was progressive, building upon the actions of the previous rotation.

“Learning to communicate and



U.S. Airmen from the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron and Japan Self Defense Force service members from 15th Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Company, conduct detailed troop decontamination.

» U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: 1ST LT. MATTHEW B. LI

integrate with our partners on Okinawa is key to ensuring effectiveness and efficiency when we are called upon to perform our mission,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Li, the 1-1 ADA CBRN Officer and Shisa Fire organizer.

In addition to training, the units had the opportunity to share different aspects of their branch and service with one another.

“It’s great to come out here and train with our Japanese, Air-Force, and Marine counterparts. The energy and excitement they bring to training is really motivational,” said Pfc Kyle Power, CBRN specialist for Alpha

Battery 1-1 ADA.

As the dust settled on the last day of training, each participant of Shisa Fire walked away with a deepened knowledge of their role in a tactical environment.

“Complacency negates any progress that we’ve made fostering these relationships. Continuing to conduct these opportunities is paramount to ensuring future success on Okinawa,” said Li.

Training exercises like these provide the JSDF and U.S. military opportunities to train together in realistic scenarios, enhancing readiness and interoperability, Li added.

# Army Air Defenders Participate in Black Dart 2018

» BY ARMY STAFF SGT. JASON RADER  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

MUSCATATUCK UBRAN TRAINING CENTER, Ind.— Soldiers of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command participate in Black Dart 18 to hone and develop their tactical technical procedures to keep pace with the rapidly evolving small, unmanned aircraft systems threats (UAS).

Black Dart 2018, which began Sept. 5, and concluded Sept. 21, is an annual Department of Defense field demonstration of current and emergent counter-UAS technologies. The event is coordinated and overseen by the Joint Staff J8; Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization. The training event brings industry personnel, observers from allied nations and military participants from across the Department of Defense.

This year Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC participated in Black Dart 18 for a counter-UAS demonstration. The Soldiers deployed from their home station Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii to Indiana. The unit also deployed the 94th AAMDC's Air and Missile Defense Planning and Control System (AMDPCS) and established a Jump-Tactical Operation Center (JTOC) for the first time outside the U.S. Indo-Pacific Area of Operation.

The training event also integrated service members from the Australian Defense Force which participated alongside Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC.

"For this training exercise we implemented the 94th AAMDC to be the higher headquarters command and our partner nations as subordinate units, said Maj. Virak Metcalf, 94th AAMDC, plans and exercise officer.

"Each Pacific Partner nation had their own air space picture that allowed them to monitor for hostile UAS," he added.

Metcalf said the organic sensor data comes in through the Maneuver Aviation Fires Integration Application, which a small contingent of the Black Dart team operated, to the JTOC.

From there the team distribute the Common Operating Picture (COP) to their partner nations for them to prosecute hostile targets using non-kinetic effects.

"One of our primary objectives for Black Dart 18 was to develop Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTP's) with our Australian partners. We also, replicating a deployment of the JTOC to connect and share a counter UAS common operational picture that was fully interoperable with our allies and partners," Metcalf added.

"Black Dart 18 established and illustrated the capability of the JTOC and Australian Defense Force's to provide a COP through LINK-16. This was important, because it allowed our command and control systems to provide an interoperable common operational picture through our Air and Missile Defense Workstation and prosecute UAS's," said Metcalf.

The Black Dart scenarios provided a realistic training environment for both the 94th AAMDC JTOC and the Australian Defense Force.

"UAS are a big threat on the battle-

field and in civilian populations and are evolving at a rapid pace, making demonstrations like Black Dart 18 critical. Staying ahead of the threats is critical and we must have a good understanding of our adversaries' capabilities before they outpace us," said Maj. Jared Boyd with the Australian Defense Force.

"The goal here was to work along side the 94th AAMDC to learn about new and emerging counter UAS technology and discuss compatible command and control systems that enable data sharing across full spectrum of operations," Boyd added.

With the rapidly evolving threats of UAS, Black Dart 18 allowed the Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC JTOC and Australian Defense Force to communicate within the battle space and coordinate to reduce reaction time from detection to engagement.

"Black Dart 18 afforded us the opportunity for the 94th AAMDC and its partner nations and units to come together under one tent in order to find out what works and fix what doesn't so we can become a force multiplier for combined operations and have the ability to create a strong defense against hostile UAS threats," said Sgt. First Class Aaron Cartes, 94th AAMDC, battlefield system manager.

"The benefits of doing these types of exercises is that it helps us stay proficient in our tasks and skills, but it also allows us to test our detection capabilities and evaluate our tactics, techniques and procedures. In the future we'll fight along side our allies and partners and the integration of the Australian Defense Force in Black Dart 18 prepared us as a joint team to counter UAS threats," Cartes added.



Soldiers from the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command and Australian Defense Force pose in front of the 94th AAMDC Jump-Tactical Operation Center (JTOC), during Black Dart training exercise on Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Indiana, Sept. 17. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: SGT. SARVESH REGMI

# Echo Company, 2-1 ADA Best in the Pacific

» BY ARMY CAPT. JONATHAN DANIELL  
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea – They recover, they resupply, they repair – and they are the best in the Pacific.

E Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, was named the top medium-sized maintenance company for all U.S. Army Pacific in the annual U.S. Army Award for Maintenance Excellence competition.

Despite their placement in the medium-sized category, their output suggests otherwise, as they’ve built a reputation as the go-to maintenance company for tenant units at Camp Carroll, South Korea.

“Organically we support seven units across the southern region for 2-1 ADA Battalion,” said 1st Lt. Jackson P. Yates, executive officer for E Co, 2-1 ADA Battalion. “However, we’ve built some great relationships at Camp Carroll, so on any given day, we work with 11 different units in some capacity.”

The decision to compete for the AAME started with the leadership, but the shot at excellence resonated with every Soldier in the formation.

“The Patriot batteries go through

gunnery tables to demonstrate their proficiency and readiness,” said Yates. “We don’t have that, so collectively we decided the easiest way to showcase our level of expertise was the AAME competition.”

Their hard work and professionalism paid dividends when Eighth Army selected E Company, 2-1 ADA Battalion, to represent the three-star headquarters in the USARPAC contest.

According to multiple Soldiers, they weren’t surprised when they won.

“We have great leadership and everyone works really hard,” said Sgt. Jorge Melendez, a generator mechanic with E Co, 2-1 ADA Battalion. “When we found out we won, it felt like all our hard work paid off. I’m proud to be part of this team.”

Instead of basking in their spoils from the Eighth Army title, they re-evaluated every process, edited every standard operating procedure, and rehearsed duties and responsibilities with every Soldier. Their commitment to excellence impressed the evaluators from USARPAC and once again they won the top unit in their category.

Now with their accolades behind them, E Co continues to rehearse and

train on their mission essential tasks to maintain peak performance.

During their Feb. 13-14 field training exercise at Camp Carroll, South Korea, they conducted vehicle recovery operations, logistical resupply operations and intermediate maintenance, further validating their bragging rights as best in the Pacific.

“Every day these Soldiers do amazing things,” said Capt. Terence K. Ngoh, company commander for E Co, 2-1 ADA Battalion. “Everyone in the formation truly cares and that is what separates us from every other unit. These Soldiers want to be the best in the Army.”

Most Soldiers only serve a one year tour in South Korea, meaning most won’t have the opportunity to compete again for E Co, 2-1 ADA Battalion.

Yates acknowledged high personnel turnover as one of the biggest challenges for the unit.

“We’re no different than any other unit in Korea, personnel turnover is challenging,” said Yates. “However, we’ve developed great continuity products, our NCOs do a great job training and mentoring new Soldiers, and our leadership is very supportive. I’m confident we will be competing again at the theater level.”

The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence was established in 1982 by the Department of the Army to incentivize units to establish exceptional maintenance programs.

Soldiers from E Company, 2-1 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, stand in a formation during Operation Rogue One Feb. 13-14, 2018, at Camp Carroll, South Korea.



# Task Force Talon Participates in Combined Joint Exercises

» BY ARMY MAJ. JOHN R PENDON  
Task Force Talon (THAAD)

Tactical Ballistic Missile (TBM) threats remain a top concern within the U.S Indo-Pacific Command and 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command (94th AAMDC) stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

Lt. Col. Johannes E. Castro, commander of the Task Force Talon team, is responsible for maintaining upper tier missile defense operations, from their location on Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

Task Force Talon is widely recognized for its unique strategic air and missile defense capability better known as the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) system.

This advance air defense capability is part of a global posture that synchronizes partnerships, strategic defense planning, and joint Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) operations within the Pacific region. Currently, THAAD is supporting the homeland defense of Guam and shares an intricate mission with Navy Aegis ships, providing upper tier defense of critical strategic assets and friendly forces in order to counter medium and long range ballistic missile threats.

This year for the first time, Task Force Talon participated in two major exercises that focused on partnership, joint readiness and improvements in strategic missile defense operations. Members from the Task Force Talon shared their expertise with joint services and key leaders, allowing them the opportunity to synchronize and facilitate BMD efforts in order to enhance strategic operational planning efforts.

## Juniper Cobra 18

Juniper Cobra is a U.S. European Command bilateral exercise that enhances coordination between U.S. and Israel Defense forces. This annual

training emphasizes on a variety of computer-assisted simulations that range from ballistic missile threats to crisis supply, foreign disaster response, and foreign humanitarian assistance. However, the focal point of Juniper Cobra still remains to be the ability to integrate and synchronize various missile defense capabilities that range from Patriot, Aegis, Iron Dome, and Arrow within an austere environment.

Soldiers from E-3 ADA (THAAD) participated in the annual combined military exercise between Israel and the United States European Command with a focus on strengthening military partnership against regional threats.

"Juniper Cobra was the most challenging and stimulating exercise I have been involved in since becoming a Tactical Control Officer," said Army 1st Lt. Spencer R. Morris, E-3 battery executive officer.

Members from Task Force Talon facilitated various training objectives from synchronizing planning efforts to simulating missile engagements.

"The joint exercise embodied several key learning points ranging from a better understanding of joint brevity to the significance of coordination between all shooters and the air defense artillery fire control officers," said Spencer.

## Resilient Shield 18

Resilient Shield is a joint exercise that focuses on realistic BMD operations shared between Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces, Japan Air Self-Defense Forces, U.S. Navy 7th Fleet, U.S. Air Force 613th Air Operation Center, and 94th AAMDC. During the exercise warfighters train on operational integrated air and missile defense, surface warfare, and anti-submarine warfare in order to help shape and improve detailed planning requirements, precision ship stationing and quick defensive reaction measures.



Sailors from the USS O'Kane Aegis gave a site tour to the Soldiers from Task Force Talon highlighting PACFLT's integrated BMD responsibilities within the PACOM region.

This year members from Task Force Talon took the opportunity to conduct tactical level warfighter coordination for upper tier engagements between Aegis BMD and THAAD weapon systems. This allowed the operators to exercise the Joint Kill Chain and become more proficient with coordinating engagements with joint and bilateral partners.

"Resilient Shield provided us with a good opportunity to look at how we integrate into the joint and combined operational environment," said Army Chief Warrant Officer Richard D. Burton.

"We conducted coordinated engagements with Aegis and Patriot from Guam and Japan by executing ballistic missile defense firing doctrine, TBM [tactical ballistic missile] discrimination, and coordination through the air operations center." Burton continued referring to actions by his team throughout the exercise.

Over the next year, Task Force Talon will continue to expand their partnership in various key multinational exercises in order to maintain their mission readiness, and allow the joint community to better understand, prepare, and integrate missile defense capabilities within the region. This advanced BMD technology remains a vital role in the efforts to protecting troops, coalition partners, and critical assets as the unit continues to execute the Homeland Defense of Guam. "Stands Ready!"

# 35th ADA BDE Leads the Charge for C-UAS Operations in USINDOPACOM

» BY ARMY CAPT. JONATHAN PASLEY  
35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

Keen observers in the world of Air Defense have been watching one trend in particular during the past several years: the proliferation of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). Once an advantage enjoyed solely by technological Western nations, the use of drones has transitioned into the hands of the civilian consumers and by extension into the hands of insurgents such as the Islamic State militants encountered in Iraq and Syria. Their tactics and techniques could easily be adopted by hostile actors around the globe. Our military procurement system has struggled to compensate for the emergence of this new threat, but Echo Battery, 6-52 Air and Missile Defense, 35th Air Defense Brigade in Korea has now become the leading element in USINDOPACOM to address this new and dangerous threat.

What makes drones dangerous? The Russians have demonstrated the ability of unmanned systems to put real-time Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities to devastating use against Ukrainian forces as artillery spotters (Freedberg). Many UAS models (military or civilian) can provide accurate location data from ranges that make them almost undetectable with the naked eye, so that the first warning forces on the ground will get is accurate and deadly incoming artillery fire. The insurgents in Iraq and Syria have added another spin, equipping off-the-shelf Chinese-made quadcopters with grenade munitions for precision placement of explosives in urban conflict (Watson). Even commercial quadcopters are surprisingly difficult to destroy with small-arms or crew-served weapons, because they present a very small and highly maneuverable target and have redundant engines. A small 'drone swarm' conducted an attack on a Russian airbase in Syria which resulted in several



key airframes lost to fires started by the drones (Trevithick, Embury-Dennis). As hostile actors refine this type of coordinated attack, the drone threat will only become more dangerous to ongoing operations.

Why are we not able to engage drones with existing Air Defense weapons systems? In many cases, because such small targets effectively did not exist when the current weapons systems were designed. The High to Medium Air Defense (HIMAD) weapons systems such as Patriot and the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) system that make up the bulk of US Air Defense Artillery weapons are not well suited to C-UAS operations. Even detecting such small and often nonmetallic targets is a tricky balancing act; most air defense systems are designed to filter out small

objects in the environment (such as birds) so that they do not overwhelm a system with possible threats. This can allow small aircraft to slip through detection, which may have been what enabled Yemeni Houthi rebels to crash an Ababil-type unmanned drone into a UAE Patriot radar being employed in Saudi Arabia (Gibbons-Neff). Notably, software changes and system upgrades are refining the C-UAS abilities of existing systems, as illustrated by the successful Israeli engagement of a UAS with a Patriot missile in November of 2017 (Associated Press). However, this is a very expensive solution as drones may cost tens of thousands of dollars where a single Patriot interceptor will cost more than \$2 million. This is a waste even ignoring the financial implications, because every Patriot missile used this way is one which is

not available for the primary system mission of defense against deadly ballistic missiles.

What about the Short Range Air Defense Artillery? While certainly a more practical solution than firing Patriot interceptors, even the Stinger-missile-equipped Avenger and supporting Sentinel radar systems employed in the Army's SHORAD batteries are not designed for C-UAS. In the absence of a credible air threat during the counterinsurgency operations of the past decade and more, there has been little emphasis on development or employment of SHORAD forces for this role. Most SHORAD batteries were relegated to the National Guard, and the unarmored Avengers they employ are typically not permitted to deploy overseas. There are programs underway to adapt these systems to C-UAS duties (including new Stinger variants and Sentinel radar upgrades). However, these systems still have the disadvantage of being kinetic systems which were originally designed for a wartime environment – they present a significant risk of collateral damage if employed in an environment with a large civilian presence. Operations during the armistice between North and South Korea provide an object example – no risk to civilian lives or property will be tolerated during armistice operations. A nonkinetic solution is needed.

Enter Echo Battery 6-52 AMD under the 35th ADA BDE. As part

of Combined Task Force Defender (CTF-D), they are tasked with defending the D-2 ADA THAAD Battery at Seongju-ri near Daegu. This is a challenging mission with a genuine North Korean threat (Reuters Staff) and restrictive armistice rules of engagement. To accomplish this mission, the Battery has become the first unit in USINDOPACOM to receive the Expeditionary Low, Slow, Small UAS Integrated Defeat System (E-LIDS). Already employed in several countries in CENTCOM, this system uses many of the same components employed successfully in the C-RAM (Counter Rocket, Artillery, and Mortar) system and turns them against UAS platforms instead. E-LIDS has been sped into production and is not yet a program of record, but operational testing has already been conducted to ensure the system is ready and capable of accomplishing its mission. In addition to this, Echo Battery has also fielded the Drone Defender man-portable C-UAS system which will enable a flexible and layered defense against any UAS incursion with minimal risk of collateral damage. These systems permit the Battery to conduct not only area denial but also to electronically 'defeat' enemy UAS that could threaten critical US assets. This in turn ensures that the THAAD system is able to continue to preserve freedom of movement around the peninsula.

The THAAD site at Seongju-ri

presents a ready testbed for C-UAS systems, as systems like E-LIDS and THAAD have never before been integrated into a single defense design. Additional systems are already being considered for incorporation and testing. The 2-1 ADA BN and 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade are maximizing the opportunity and recording a number of lessons learned from the first such site in the USINDOPACOM AOR. The units on CTF-Defender are engaged daily in shaping the doctrine for the use of these systems. From this initial test site comes the possibility of expanding the use of these systems to units across the Korean peninsula and across the USINDOPACOM AOR. Echo Battery has already demonstrated the capability to emplace the systems in new locations, and will continue to improve integration into Air Defense planning on the peninsula.

The danger from increasingly creative use of UAS is a real threat, and the capability gap for existing systems is clear. However, with such a unique opportunity for integration of the C-UAS mission set into Air Defense Artillery units, the E BTRY and by extension the 35th ADA Brigade are in a key position to lead the development of TTPs and doctrine governing the effective employment of these systems. Air Defense Artillery will help blaze a path in this new domain for the rest of the Army to follow. "First to Fire! Ready in Defense!"



An unmanned aerial vehicle is placed onto a launcher before an engagement. The UAV will be used as an aerial target and engaged by a Stinger missile using Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADs), during RIMPAC 2018 at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands Hawaii, July 24. » U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY: SFC CLAUDIO TEJADA/RELEASED

# Missile Defense Sensor Managers Push for Excellence



Soldiers with the Sensor Management Cell assigned to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, perform a tactical beach road march on Bellows Air Force Station, Waimanalo, Hawaii, on March 27, 2018.

» U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY: CAPT. ADAN CAZAREZ

» BY ARMY CAPT. ADAN CAZAREZ  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—Soldiers from the 10th and 14th Missile Defense Batteries compete for excellence during the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Sensor Manager Best Crew Competition conducted here, 26-30 Mar.

The SMC operators conduct their daily operations through integration, asset management and tactical control of the sensors in support of mission priorities of the supported Combatant Commanders and the Area Air Defense Commander.

The SMC Best Crew Competition determines the best crew within the 10th and 14th MDBs who have mastered a series of benchmarks throughout the competition.

This year, five teams composed of all ranks, from commissioned officers, warrant and non-commissioned officers were pitted against each other during individual and team events in hopes to be named the Best Crew.

The competitors faced many difficult challenges during the week such as an individual Army Physical Fitness Test, leader reaction course, navigation course, a functional fitness event, tactical road march, oral boards, written



Soldiers with the Sensor Management Cell, carry a tire as a team during a five-kilometer course as part of the Best Crew Competition.

tests, crew test, and mystery events.

Unlike previous competitions in the past, the focus of this year's best crew competition was teamwork.

"This year we incorporated more team events to test and challenge the SMC crews," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Hill, 14th MDB, 94th AAMDC. "The adaptability, changing pace, and exceeding physical requirements are all qualities of a Soldier and a competition like this brings the best out of our Soldiers."

The competition showed the heart and resilience of each competitor.

"This competition is designed not only to push Soldiers to their limits physically, but also to illuminate how as Soldiers we never quit," Hill said.

The competition is held each year, not only for performance recognition,

but also to improve camaraderie and unit cohesion.

"This competition is not just about winning; it's about bringing the team together," said Sgt. Jeffery Golden, 10th MDB, 94th AAMDC. "Through these events we're not only creating Esprit de Corps, but also building trust within each other."

"Teamwork and the ability to trust one another is essential in performing our mission as sensor managers," said Golden.

The competition is unique in the Air Defense career field as the competitors apply basic soldiering skills combined with MOS specific tasks.

"The competition overall was demanding, both physically and mentally," said Sgt. Adam Thym, a sensor manager for the 10th MDB who works at the 94th AAMDC sensor manager cell.

"Not only did we have to do the physical activities of the competition, but we also had to employ our job knowledge towards scenario based problems related to our air defense mission presenting a crew decision to the competition officer in charge," Thym added.

This year's SMC Best Crew honors went to Sgt. 1st Class Baron Godfrey, Staff Sgt. Justin Meyers and Staff Sgt. Andrew Conley, all sensor managers of the 14th MDB.

# Pritchard named Honorary CSM for the 94th AAMDC

» BY ARMY SGT. MALCOLM COHENS-ASHLEY  
94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command

Imagine, waking up at 6:00 a.m. and reporting to a formation as simply another Soldier within the ranks of many. No responsibility, unsure of your future and all the possible accolades that await you in the years to come. Now, standing in front of the same unit your career began, as the most senior enlisted Soldier with enough accolades to fill the entire formation. Then one day retiring from the U.S. Army and returning to the same unit, now as the honorary Command Sgt. Maj. This is the reality for the fit, youthful, now retired Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Pritchard, whose leadership and dedication has brought him back full circle to the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command.

“His way to clearly articulate what’s important, he was an excellent communicator and understood how to motivate people to do what was important and keep them on task,” said Lt. Col. John W. Brock II, the 94th AAMDC, G35 who served alongside Pritchard in the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas.

The leadership and dedication of Pritchard has led to some of his greatest accomplishments.

Pritchard entered the Army in July of 1986 and completed One Stop Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Bliss, Texas. After OSUT, he reported to then, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 94th Air Defense Artillery Brigade in Kaiserslautern, Germany where he began to truly shape his life and career in the Army.

“This command means a lot to myself and it means a lot to my wife,” Pritchard said. “My wife and I first met in this command in Germany.”

Naturally, the 94th AAMDC will always hold immeasurable value to himself, his wife Lori and their kids, Cari and Christa. He left the 94th ADA BDE and allowed his dedication and



The Commander of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, (from left) Brig. Gen. Michael Morrissey, his spouse, the spouse of the Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray (Center) and the Honorary Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Pritchard (R) and his spouse smile for a group photo on December 6, 2018, at the Saint Barbara’s Day Ball at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii.

leadership qualities to propel him in rank and to greater leadership roles such as: platoon sergeant, operations sergeant, senior drill sergeant, first sergeant, chief of basic non-commissioned officer course, non-commissioned officer academy commandant and Command Sgt. Maj.

During his time in service, Pritchard was able to bring forth knowledge, experience and wisdom that left a positive effect on many people he worked alongside of.

“He was one of those command sergeants major that really could give officers a run for money in planning,” said Brock. “He was exceptionally intelligent.”

Once Pritchard completed his time in Fort Hood he then returned to the unit where his career started, the 94th AAMDC, but this time the unit had relocated to Hawaii. He would no longer be standing in the formation, but out in front leading the formation.

“To be able to be assigned to the 94th for such a long time period means a lot to me,” Pritchard remarked. “I have a lot of respect for this command, serving quite frequently in the command.”

Once he completed his time in the 94th AAMDC he would go on to become the Deputy Commandant at the United States Sergeants Major Academy before his retirement. Once retired,

he continued to dedicate his time to lead Soldiers and their families, but now as the Executive Director for the Armed Forces YMCA in El Paso, Texas.

With his extensive resume, his legacy was solidified within the ranks of the 94th AAMDC and he would return quite often as he was invited to be apart of events held by the 94th AAMDC. He and his wife Lori even came back to Hawaii to renew their wedding vows.

On December 6, 2018 he was invited to the Saint Barbara’s Day Ball to become the Honorary Command Sgt. Maj. of the 94th AAMDC. The current Command Sgt. Maj. of the 94th AAMDC, Command Sgt. Maj. Eric McCray praised the very qualities that carried Pritchard throughout his career.

“Command Sgt. Maj. (R) Pritchard’s servant leadership is what stands out the most, his willingness to serve something greater than his self,” said McCray. “Always placing the needs of the nation and others before any personal accolades over 20 plus years of service.”

To this day, Pritchard remains an excellent example of what true service, dedication and leadership is.

“I’ve always taught others seize the opportunity,” Pritchard stated. “Not for the goodness of you as an individual, but what you’re going to gain from it so you can give back, train, educate and teach others.”

# 94th ARMY AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE COMMAND

