

# Lightning Strike Newsletter



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## **Soldier of the Year competition**



## **ADA Soldiers advance in Connelly Competition**



# Commander's Corner

March was filled with more training for Soldiers in the battalions of 69th ADA. Both 4-5 and 1-44 participated in field training for their individual Battery Table VIII certifications. 1-44 ADA also participated in the 32nd AAMDC's SPEAR (Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness), while 4-5 ADA took part in Virtual Flag, which was a joint operation with the Air Force at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

We also held the Soldier of the Year competition where several Soldiers, NCOs and Officers competed in an APFT, a ruck

march, Warrior Tasks & Battle Drills, and a board for the titles of 69th ADA BDE Soldier of the Year, NCO of the Year and Officer of the Year.

As for this month, the deadline for taxes is coming up. April 15 is the last day to have your taxes post marked or electronically sent out. If you haven't done your taxes already, make sure you get down to the tax center on Clear Creek.

As always, I wish you all safe and happy holidays, and I hope April will be another great month in the Lightning Brigade.

Lightning Strike!



COL James Jenkins, 69 ADA Commander

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## Attn. HHB 69 ADA Soldiers and Families:

You can sign up for HHB 69 ADA's online VFRG at [www.armyfrg.org](http://www.armyfrg.org). If you need assistance or have any questions, contact Susan Ulsamer, the Brigade FRSA.



Lt. Col. Ron Leininger, 69 ADA Chaplain



## Chaplain's Corner



### Unit chaplains and assistants:

**HHB, 69 ADA:** CH Leininger and Sgt. Passetti- 833-2900

**1-44 ADA:** CH Pena and Pfc. Jaramillo- 618-8027

**4-5 ADA:** CH Sink and Spc. Henry- 287-4316

The chaplains of the brigade have a lot to offer our brigade's Soldiers including: pastoral counseling, chapel services for several religions, newcomer's briefs and marriage retreats. The chaplains are 100% confidential for all issues.

### Upcoming events:

New Family and Soldier training-monthly training that is beneficial for every new Soldier and Family member coming to the brigade. The next sessions are April 29-30 and May 26-27.

Strong Bonds retreats for the up-coming months are to be determined.

## ADA Soldiers put cooking skills to the test for this year's Connelly Competition

By Pfc. Maria Asenbrenner  
69th ADA BDE PAO

Cooks from the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade competed in the small Garrison Philip A. Connelly Competition March 4 at the Patriot Inn Dining Facility here.

The Philip A. Connelly Competition is a competition for food service personnel throughout the military services. The purpose of the competition is to improve the quality of food throughout the military and provide well deserved recognition for the food service personnel who deserve it most.

The Soldiers preparation for the competition started weeks before the actual competition day. The food service personnel at the Patriot Inn Dining Facility spent countless hours making sure that they had their menu set, their facilities spotless, and their cooks prepared to achieve success.

For many of the members of 69th ADA's Connelly Team, this is not their first experience competing in the Philip A. Connelly Competition.

Throughout the year of 2009, 69th ADA's Connelly Team took first place in the field portion of the FORSCOM level of the competition and moved on to the Department of the Army level of the competition, finishing second place overall.

"We want to set the standard and win," said Spc. Thomas Cropper, a cook from the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 1st Battalion, 44th ADA Regiment, 69th ADA Bde.

After preparing for weeks, 69th ADA's Connelly team feels confident in their abilities to do well, Cropper added.

There are more aspects to the Philip A. Connelly Competition other than cooking. The cooks have to make sure to follow a set schedule while preparing the



food, follow the recipes with no variation what-so-ever, properly serve the food to the dining facility patrons, and make sure that their facilities are clean and tidy in the kitchen and in the dining area.

The personnel working at the Patriot Inn Dining Facility have a unique love for cooking, and that makes this dining facility stand out from the rest, said Sgt. Lyndon Brown, a cook from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th ADA Regt., 69th ADA Bde.

"We put our heart and soul into our food," he added.

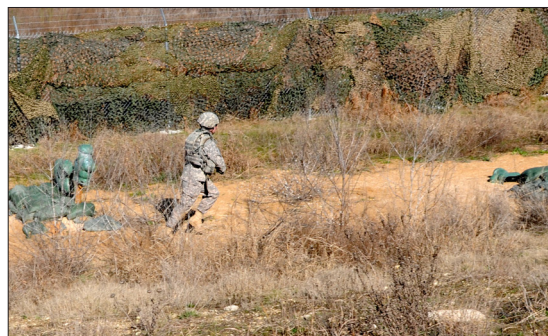
Overall, this competition is a good experience and a good challenge that results in good quality food, said Sgt. Vincent Apolista, a cook from HHB, 1st Battalion, 44th ADA Regt., 69th ADA Bde.

There are three dining facilities participating in the small Garrison Philip A. Connelly Competition on Fort Hood. The facilities include the Patriot Inn Dining Facility, Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Dining Facility and Freeman Cafe Dining Facility.

The results of the small Garrison level of the competition were released in late March. 69th ADA won the small Garrison level of the competition and will move on to the next level.



# 69th ADA Soldier of the Year Competition



**(Left) Soldier of the Year: Spc. William Hahs of C Btry. 4-5 ADA. (Center) NCO of the Year: Sgt. Erin Gooch of A Btry. 1-44 ADA. (Right) Officer of the Year: 2nd Lt. Mitchell Stock.**

# 69th ADA sets up new Soldiers and Families for success

By Pfc. Maria Asenbrener  
69th ADA BDE PAO

Soldiers just becoming a part of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade are required to attend the brigade's in-processing program called Bridging to Successful Living.

During this newcomer's brief, Soldiers and their Families learn about financial management, how to build resilient families, how not to marry a jerk or jerkette, and they listen to introductions given by the command and staff of the brigade.

Bridging to Successful Living is a monthly program that 69th ADA hopes will be a successful activity for new Soldiers and Family members in the brigade to attend.

"The program is executed at brigade level for two days. Our program takes a holistic approach by integrating the entire family into the brigade prior to Soldiers reporting to their respective battalions," said Col. Jimmy Jenkins, the brigade commander of 69th ADA.

The financial management section of the in-processing is filled with videos from Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Dave Ramsey's videos focus on a number of different aspects of money saving and money making. He gives advice on how to save money, get rid of debt, improve credit scores and much more.

Several of the Soldiers said that after watching the videos from the Financial Peace University that they feel more aware of how they are spending their money, and they have been introduced to a new way of organizing their finances.

"It showed me how to better manage my money. I don't have much debt, but it opened my eyes, teaching me if I save now while I am still young I can retire and not have anything to worry about," said a 21 year old single Soldier.

In addition to learning from the Financial Peace University in 69th ADA's newcomer's program, classes are also available at the Comanche Chapel several times a year on the same information. For more information on attending Financial Peace University class at the Comanche Chapel call 287-8979.

During the two-day process married Soldiers and spouses also receive training on how to build resilient Families, while the single Soldiers learn about how not to marry a jerk or jerkette.

"The Chaplain did an excellent job with the entire program and was great with Resilient Army Families presentation," said a 37 year old Soldier who has been married for 15 years.

"Putting the couples in smaller groups for discussion helped the younger couples get some ideas on how to strengthen their Families from the older couples," the Soldier added.

Many Soldiers liked the concept of the Families being included during Bridging to Successful Living.

Several of the Soldiers were thankful for the section staff introductions because after going through Advanced Individual Training they finally were able to figure out what "S1-S6" are for.

"The training was Family-friendly and showed me that leadership really cares about us newbies," said a 27 year old married Soldier.

"As a leader, this training helped not only my Family and me, but also gave me information that I feel I can pass on to younger Soldiers to help them," said a 35 year old married Soldier.

"95 percent overtly liked the training, especially the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University material," Chaplain Ron Leininger said. "This has been a positive step forward in building renewed resiliency into our warriors. But there is more work to be done," he added.



**Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Clem, the senior noncommissioned officer of 32nd AAMDC, visited 69th ADA March 3. He gave a speech to the Soldiers in the brigade, and he recognized some of the Soldiers, who were pointed out by their leadership, for their outstanding efforts in the 69th ADA Brigade and its battalions.**



# 69th ADA NCOs graduate from 1SG course



## 1-44 conducts SPEAR training, becomes more combat ready

By Pfc. Scott Rubin  
1-44 ADA

The 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, in coordination with the 69th ADA Brigade and the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command conducted Standardized Patriot Evaluation Assessment Readiness at Fort Hood from Feb. 15 through March 12.

The exercise demonstrated their proficiency in advanced air defense tactics using the PATRIOT system. The SPEAR consisted of simulated air battle crew teams in training.

Reflecting on his prior and present SPEAR training, Spc. Jason Arsonault of the 1-44 ADA said, "A great proportion of what I have learned about the PATRIOT system is due to the SPEAR."

The first two weeks of 1-44 ADA's SPEAR was dedicated to self-evaluation of combat readiness. These efforts were led by 1st Lt. Stephanie Stone, who received the Army Achievement Medal, along with Chief Warrant Officer 3 Balch, for their devotion to the mission at hand.

"We are more ready as a unit for deployment after having concluded the SPEAR. All crews and batteries know what is expected of them," Stone said.

During the third week of 1-44 ADA's SPEAR training, 69th ADA Bde. arrived on the scene. Battle crew leader of team one for 1-44 ADA, Spc. Terry Gillespie, weighed in on the brigade's assistance during air battle operations.

"They provided critical training

alongside us and added to the great successes of our crew teams," Gillespie said.

The final week of 1-44 ADA's SPEAR operations, 32nd AAMDC brought in their evaluators with score cards for an overall test of the battalion's combat readiness. 1-44 ADA successfully qualified all of their air battle crew teams that were involved in the exercise.

During the four weeks of training endured by 1-44 ADA's finest, newly placed Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Clem of 32nd AAMDC visited 1-44 and had a statement for all its Soldiers.

"1-44 is on a short leash for deployment. General Petraeus himself is involved with getting this battalion deployed," Clem said.

## 69th NCOs graduate Battle Staff Course



# Fort Hood Activities and Events

## Apache Arts and Crafts Classes

Apache Arts and Crafts offers classes on ceramics, wood shop, basic framing, mat cutting, scrap booking, and pottery. Times and costs vary depending upon the chosen class. Apache Arts and Crafts is located on the corner of 761st Tank Battalion and 62nd St. For more information call: (254)287-5623.

## Family Pasta Night

Every Thursday Club Hood hosts Family Night with pasta dinners served in the Mesquite Dining Room. Call 532-5073 for more information.

## Tax Center Open!

The tax center is open from Jan. 19- April 16. Hours of operation: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday- Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Thursday from 9:30 a.m.- 7 p.m. For more info call 288-7995, 288-7995, 288-5040. Walk-ins welcome, for appointment call 287-3294. Co-located with Cleer Creek Commissary, bldg. 50001.

## EFMP Tutoring

If your child needs help additional help with school work, EFMP offers tutoring for students in 1st through 12th grade. Tutoring is on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For more information call 287-6070.

## Easter Sunday Brunch

Enjoy a meny of baked ham, top round of beef, herb chicken, stuffed flounder, shrimp a' peel, masked potatoes and vegetables, full breakfast buffet, salad bar, desert table and more. April 4 at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. at Club Hood. \$18.95 for adults, \$5.95 for children 5-12, under 4 eats free. Egg hunt and photos with Easter bunny available.

## American Red Cross Volunteer Orientation

Volunteer orientation will be held April 6 at 9 a.m. in classroom A Hospital Education (above the ER) at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center. For more info or to sign up call 287-0400 or 288-8144.

## Domino Tournament

Wednesdays through April 14. Open to all FMWR patrons 18 and older. Weekly prizes awarded. Two person teams can register by calling 532-5073. One team may win an all-expense paid trip to Las Vegas to compete in the World Domino Tournament.

## Fort Hood Women's Softball Meeting

The women softball team is holding tryouts for the MEDCOM softball tournament which will be held in Atlanta, GA this year. For interested participants, there will be a meeting April 9 at 5 p.m. at Delgado Field (next to Abram Gym). Point of contact is Coach Janice Johnson at 553-4800 / 681-3964 or Clarice Torrence at 285-6336.

## Bunny Hop- 5K Run/Walk

There will be a 5K run/walk April 17 beginning at 8 a.m. It is free and open to the public. Prizes will be awarded to 1st through 3rd place. Register at any Fort Hood fitness center or online at hood.mwr.com. Check-in begins at 7 a.m. For more info call 285-5459.

## Comanche III Craft Fair/ Bazaar

Come out and show off your crafts and also see the many wonderful treasures that can be found at the Comanche III Craft Fair and Bazaar. There will be games for kids, entertainment and refreshments for everyone. Booths are available for rent but spaces are limited. Sign up no later than April 22. For more info call 285-2244.

## Free Red Cross Babysitting Class

The Texas Area Chapter of the Red Cross is registering students of Military families wishing to become certified in Babysitting, Child and Infant CPR, and Pet First Aid. Classes will be held April 23 and 24. For more info and to register call 776-8362 no later than April 12.

## The Little Mermaid on stage

*The Little Mermaid* will be performed on stage at the Howze Theater April 24. Show starts at 4 p.m. and is free and open to all. No tickets required. Seating is first come, first serve. For more info call 286-5342.

## 6th Annual Children with Special Needs Camp

Summer camp program primarily for children 5-21 years of age who have chronic illness and/ or disabilities. Please join us for three fun filled days of activities from July 15 to July 17, centered around children with special needs. The activities are at Camp Care a Lot which is held at the Peaceable Kingdom Retreat for Children. Call 618-7813 or 287-6070 for an application to register for camp.