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TODAY'S AIR DEFENDER

The United States Army Air Defense Artillery Branch's Newsletter

38th ADA Brigade Welcomes Task Force Talon

SMDC Welcomes New Commanding General

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Purpose: Today's *Air Defender Newsletter* provides past and present Air Defense Artillery leaders with a quarterly update of informational highlights to assist in their individual, collective and professional training efforts, as well as report on activities occurring throughout the Air Defense Artillery community.

Official Distribution: Today's *Air Defender* is distributed by the Commandant of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery to key members of the Air Defense Artillery chain of command across the U.S. Army.

Mark A. Holler
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commandant,
United States Army Air Defense
Artillery School

Mark A. Holler

RFIs, Notes, and Notices: To submit a Request for Information (RFI), please email the POC listed below.

Points of Contact:

We appreciate those who have provided announcements, notices, articles and lessons learned.

Additionally, if you have a story of interest or wish to initiate a discussion on any topic or issue facing the Air Defense Artillery community, contact Mr. Donald Herrick, Air Defense Artillery Public Affairs Officer, at (580) 442-1820 or donald.a.herrick.civ@mail.mil

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Editor's Note:

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On the Cover:

Courtesy Photo from the Missile Defense Agency.

The new M-SHORAD Stryker vehicle on display at the Army versus Navy game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 14, 2019. (U.S. Army Photo by Natalia Thaniel)

From the ADA Commandant's Desk

Our annual Air Defense Artillery (ADA) awards recognize the very best in our formations. The Henry A. Knox and Alexander Hamilton award winners are units that demonstrate exceptional achievement, superior mission accomplishment, and overall unit excellence. The James A. Shipton award winner demonstrates superior individual leadership, tactical proficiency, and selfless service by an active component Soldier. This year, we added the Charles G. Sage award to recognize individual excellence within our National Guard formations. I am excited to congratulate this year's winners, who together epitomize the excellence emblematic of the Air Defense Artillery. The 2019 recipients are: CPT Cody Williams, Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery (Shipton); CPT Eric Grant, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery (Sage); Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery (Knox); and Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 88th Air Defense Artillery (Hamilton). Well done by all!

As we enter a new year, we continue to deliver solutions across multiple D-O-T-M-L-P-F domains. Our team is currently working on a rapid revision for TC 3-01.86 (Patriot Gunnery Program) to provide commanders increased crew certification flexibility in support of high OPTEMPO requirements. We are attacking this with a "bottom-up" process, and



A U.S. Soldier with Charlie Battery, 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conduct Avenger certification training at the Oberdachstetten Local Training Area, Germany, Nov. 12, 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Georgios Moumoulidis).



the operational force has provided extensive input during the revision. Our goal is to publish the revised gunnery program no later than the 3rd quarter of FY20.

The Vice Chief of Staff of the Army signed the Army Integrated Air Missile Defense (AIAMD) and the Maneuver Short-Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) Force Design Updates. The Army Structure Memorandum (ARSTRUC) outlines the following ADA unit conversions.

The 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery, will be our first M-SHORAD battalion in FY21. The 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, will convert to an AIAMD battalion also in FY21. During this same year, we will also activate the second M-SHORAD Battalion as part of the Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF). M-SHORAD will be the interim MDTF organic ADA capability, and the permanent solution is yet to be determined.

The third M-SHORAD battalion will activate in



A Patriot Launcher is staged during 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment's culminating field training exercise on Fort Sill, Okla., Oct. 25, 2019. Subordinate units of 3-2 are scheduled to remain in the field for over one week. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Amanda Gerlach)

FY22 and will be followed by the fourth battalion in FY23. In FY21, we will activate, the 4th Battalion, 60th Air Defense Artillery, which will be a personnel only battalion. This new battalion will help offset the current OPTEMPO for our Counter Rocket Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) battalions. Tentatively in the active component, the end state of our transition will leave us with four M-SHORAD battalions and five to six Indirect Fires Protection Capability (IFPC) battalions.

We have initiated planning a Corp and Division SHORAD Kill Chain Simulation Exercise with the Fires Battle Lab for a 2nd Quarter FY20. This exercise simulation will examine fire control concepts for integrating future beyond visual identification SHORAD capabilities (e.g., IFPC at Corps and Division level) into the Joint Forces Air Component Commander's (JFACC's) Joint Kill chain. The exercise results are expected in the 3rd Quarter FY20 and will inform Table of distribution and allowances (TDA) and Military Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) modifications.

Senior U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School leadership, including myself and the Assistant Commandant, served as facilitators throughout the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) Branch week (Nov. 12-15). Instruction focused on a Large-Scale Combat Operation (LSCO) scenario in the European theater with vignettes requiring students to apply both strategic and operation field grade competence. This year's course emphasized student understanding and application of SHORAD

at the Corps and Division level of operations.

Air Defense Artillery achieved remarkable results during the FY20 cadet accessions due to great efforts by many engaged leaders across the branch. 61 United States Military Academy (USMA) cadets accessed ADA (10% increase from FY19). Of significance, 82% had ADA as their #1 preference, with ADA in the top three for all the cadets. The highest-ranking USMA Cadet accessing ADA this year was #32 on the order of merit list, up from #255 last year. 92 Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets accessed ADA (12% increase from FY19), including 13 distinguished military graduates. 67% had ADA as their first choice, and 32% as their second or third choice.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mitchell Brown assumed responsibility as the sixth Air Defense Artillery Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch (CWOB) on Nov. 20, 2019. I would like to recognize the hard work of the outgoing CWOB, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric Maule, who led the development and implementation of several personnel domain solutions for the branch. Maule spearheaded our branch's first-ever Warrant Officer accession bonus (\$1.7 million per year), and he authorized our Chief Warrant Officer 2 direct commissioning program recently signed by the Secretary of the Army.



From the CSM's Foxhole

The Heart of the Branch continues their incredible work of building, developing and training Air Defenders. This work is informed by the Army People Strategy (October 2019) of the new Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. McConville. As we continuously assess our Programs of Instruction (POIs) and prepare to conduct Critical Tasks Site Selection Boards (CTSSBs) this year for a number of our enlisted Military Occupational Specialties, we will strive to achieve a progressive, continuous and deliberate pathway for our Soldiers as they advance in their careers. Our goal is to reinforce and develop what they gain in the operational force to produce a Soldier technically and tactically proficient at their skill grade. This complimentary relationship (TRADOC and Operational Force) is necessary to be successful. We can lean on each other to fill gaps, but cannot abdicate institutional or operational development to the other domain. As we refine and improve our POIs while adding rigor, we continue to expand the credentialing opportunities for our Soldiers. These opportunities bring an additional validation of the expertise gained as Army professionals. People First! Winning Matters!

[CLICK HERE FOR: The Army People Strategy](#)



Members of 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, lower a platform to gain access to generators during movement process assembly operations on Fort Sill, Okla., Oct. 16, 2019. The vehicles underwent a more in-depth inspection as the second part of the assembly operations. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Amanda Gerlach)



The Fort Sill Noncommissioned Officers Academy (NCOA), in conjunction with the Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD), is rebalancing the curriculum of the Advanced and Senior Leader Courses. They are incorporating the mandated United States Army Sergeants Major Academy Leader Common Core Competencies (NCOC3) as well as a common Air Defense block. This effort, informed by the Individual Critical Tasks List (ICTL), will fill gaps in our mid and senior noncommissioned officers and develop an ADA expertise common to all Air Defenders. I encourage all Sergeants Major and leaders responsible for noncommissioned officer development to become familiar with the Short Notice Standby DA Form 4187. This DA Form is a way to request an unfilled Advanced Leaders Course or Senior Leaders Course training through HRC for a non-promotable Sergeant or Staff Sergeant. This group is a train ahead population and can be a readiness enhancer before a deployment. The first Lieutenant Colonel in Soldier's chain of command can endorse the



U.S. Soldiers with Charlie Battery, 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, conduct Avenger certification training at the Oberdachstetten Local Training Area, Germany, Nov. 12, 2019. (U.S Army photo by Georgios Moumoulidis).

requests, and the Soldier must be willing to report to school with as little as two weeks' advance notice.

[CLICK HERE FOR: Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System](#)

As the Air Defense Artillery Branch transforms and our force structure grows, opportunities will continue to increase for our Soldiers. These include new duty stations, increased authorizations in our military occupational specialties, and promotions into our senior noncommissioned officer ranks. Our ability to sustain the health of the Career



Spc. Zachary A. Owens inspects a generator during movement process assembly operations on Fort Sill, Okla., Oct. 16, 2019. All batteries in 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, prepared their vehicles and equipment for field training scheduled for later this month. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Amanda Gerlach)

Management Fields (CMF) 14 population is imperative to meet future requirements. I encourage all leaders to double down on retention efforts and personally engage every Soldier in the retention window. The Air Defense Team at Human Resources Command, in the Army G3 and here in proponent office, continuously works hard to ensure that Air Defense competes well for force shaping and sustaining tools, including bonuses for retention and accessions. Our rapid growth creates opportunities for Soldiers from other CMFs to reclassify into our ranks. These transition Soldiers will help fill gaps in our noncommissioned officer ranks that we cannot grow fast enough to meet the force structure timeline. They bring leadership experience common to the Army, and most bring maneuver experience necessary as our training focuses on fighting in large-scale combat operations.

I wish a happy new year to you and your families and look forward to seeing you as I circulate around our formations.



From the CWOB's Corner

Happy New Year!!! Welcome to 2020 and the third edition of Today's Air Defender. As the new Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch (CWOB) for Air Defense, I would like to thank everyone for your congratulations and well wishes. I especially want to say thank you to the five CWOBs before me that have done so much for the cohort and the branch. Without their myriad plans and actions, the branch would not be as well off as it is today.

This position changing hands was not the only item of note happening over the last three months. 10th Army Air & Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) welcomed their second Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO), Chief Warrant Officer 5 Anson Seebeck. We have also seen more progress on the many great initiatives Chief Warrant Officer 5 Maule started while in this seat.

10th AAMDC Welcomes New CCWO

On Oct. 25, 2019, the commanding general of 10th AAMDC, Brig. Gen. Gregory Brady presided over a charter ceremony that formally recognized Chief Warrant Officer 5 Anson Seebeck as the second CCWO for 10th AAMDC. Seebeck's charter as CCWO is to serve as the technical adviser to the Commanding General for all warrant officer matters within the 10th AAMDC as well as lead and mentor the warrant officers across the formation. "You are the expert of experts this formation needs," Brady said. "I am truly honored to serve with you and look forward to seeing the tremendous impact that I know you will have on our formation."

Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch Change of Responsibility

On Nov. 20, 2019, The Commandant for the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, Col. Mark Holler, presided over a change of responsibility ceremony between Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric Maule, the fifth CWOB and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mitchell Brown.



Maule is retiring after nearly 31 years of service. "Chief Maule is foremost a leader in our branch and Army, and a leader who epitomizes what it means to be a Chief Warrant Officer 5," he said. "He is a very high level critical and creative thinker, and that combination is rare in the Army and what we seek in our leaders." Maule's efforts include spearheading the branch's first Warrant Officer accessions bonus; Driving the pending effort to instill direct commissioning to Chief Warrant Officer 2, and leading the effort to establish a CCWO at Space and Missile Defense Command.

"Chief Brown assumes responsibility during a time of significant change for our Army and branch," said Holler. "Your qualifications, your skills and most importantly, your reputation makes you the right leader for the job." Col. Holler stated he looks forward to working with Brown "as we bring solutions in the areas of doctrine, training, leader development, and personnel for Air Defense Artillery."

Current Initiatives

140K/140L Rapid Realignment Initiative (RRI)
 – In mid-November, we received word from Headquarters – Department of the Army (HQDA) that this force design update (FDU) was approved and applied to the FY21 tables of organization and equipment (TOEs) for the affected units. These updates will be added to the modified TOEs (MTOEs) in January. These adjustments will provide AAMDC Commanders with the proper strategic level subject matter experts for both tactics and support operations. They also allow for proper talent management and growth for both MOSs by providing them a continuous path up through the echelons from battery to AAMDC, while ensuring the AAMDC CCWO positions remain intact.



Direct Commissioning to CW2 for senior NCOs

In late December, a draft of the Army directive was staffed out for review. This review is the final hurdle to be crossed for this initiative to become a reality. Both Air Defense and Special Forces were given the go-ahead to operate a two-year pilot program for this initiative. At the end of the two years, the Army will determine if it will continue and potentially be broadened to the other branches. The pilot for this initiative will not start until the Army directive is signed by the Secretary of the Army, and it will not be retroactive to any candidates or packets already accessed.

Battalion Readiness Center

There has always been a gap at the ADA Battalion for a codified support operations capability. Battalion Commanders have always created a Battalion Readiness Center (BRC) out of hide.



Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Davis, an Athens, Alabama native and standardization noncommissioned officer with the 69th Air Defense Artillery “Top Notch” Brigade, performs his checks on all of the 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment’s equipment for their tactical operations center, Jan. 23 in the U.S. Army Central Command’s area of responsibility. Units are evaluated on their equipment maintenance, because most of equipment runs days at a time and can directly affect their readiness. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brandon Banzhaf, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade’s Public Affairs NCOIC)

When the 140E MOS split, the resulting 140L remained in the Fire Direction Center, where the 140E position was. Because the split only affected the warrant officer cohort, there was no action taken to reapportion the necessary personnel to create the BRC at the battalion. I have begun staffing an FDU through the CCWOs to the AAMDC Commanders that will codify the creation of the BRC by moving the 140L into a new paragraph with 1x 14E20 and 1x 14T10. I want to thank Chief Warrant Officer 3 Terry Wood and his Warrant Officer Advance Course students for working out the best course of actions to accomplish this much-needed update.



The OCADA Update

Command and General Staff College (CGSC) Branch Preparation Course

The U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Commandant's office planned and executed a branch preparation course for Intermediate-Level Education (ILE) students at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Nov. 12-15. The course prepared officers to contribute ADA-specific expertise to division level planning of Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) before ILE's Advanced Operations Course (AOC). Based on a European peer-competitor scenario and involving all ADA weapon systems, instruction focused on four critical event vignettes: Forward Passage of Lines, Security Zone Operations, Hasty Defense and Wet Gap Crossing. A key objective of the course was developing the students' ability to produce products necessary for the Military Decision Making Process. Officers finished the week better able to understand and synchronize ADA capabilities into a combined arms plan. Senior facilitators throughout the week included Col. Mark Holler, Col. David Shank, and Col. Charles Branson.



Cadet Accessions

The branch continues to achieve measurable success in attracting the most talented Cadets to a career in the Air Defense Artillery. For the class of 2020, ADA accessed 61 United States Military Academy (USMA), West Point Cadets, and 92 Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets. (This represents a 10% and 12% increase from last year,



respectively.) 85% of accessed USMA Cadets listed ADA as their #1 preference, while 99% of ROTC Cadets had ADA in their top 3 branch choices. This accession makes three straight years of increased Cadet preference for ADA. The highest-ranking USMA Cadet this year was #32 on the Order of Merit List (OML), up from #255 last year. ROTC accessions included 13 Distinguished Military Graduates, with the highest-ranking Cadet being #256 on the OML.

Such remarkable accession results are due to support from across the branch and the efforts of engaged leaders at every rank. Decisive to these efforts were units making available the most talented junior leaders for Cadet outreach, and senior leader presence at key events. This year, ADA conducted face-to-face interviews with Cadets at West Point for the first time as part of the accession process. We look forward to expanding this initiative to ROTC next year.

Branch Growth and Recruiting

The Military Occupational Specialty 14P (Air and Missile Defense Crewmember) structure will increase from 646 authorizations this year to 1344 authorizations by FY23, as we field Maneuver



SHORAD. OCADA is setting conditions to meet the personnel requirements of our new capability through a Recruiting Brigade outreach campaign. As part of this effort, OCADA is providing updated material and messaging to inform potential recruits of the unique opportunities the branch has to offer. We are also leveraging brigade master trainers to influence 10,000 local recruiters in selling the branch to their contacts.



Oklahoma City Recruiting Battalion. Air Defense supported recruiting efforts at the Wichita Falls Air Show and the annual Great Plains Technology Center science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Day events this quarter. Our ADA Career adviser, Sgt. 1st Class David Bunker, promoted the opportunities available in the Air Defense Artillery on our local television nightly news.

Direct Commissioning

As part of the Army's ongoing Talent Management program, Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) intends to achieve initial operating capability for Officer direct commission appointments up to the rank of Colonel for all branches and functional areas by Jan. 31. In support of this initiative, OCADA is developing qualification requirements, micro marketing materials, recruiting strategies, and career counseling programs to support direct commissions. Successful candidates will be approved by a branch selection board and receive 1:1 credit constructive credit for relevant experience, so they enter service with a grade comparable to contemporaries who commissioned immediately after completing a bachelor's degree. Full operational capability is expected by Dec. 1, 2020.

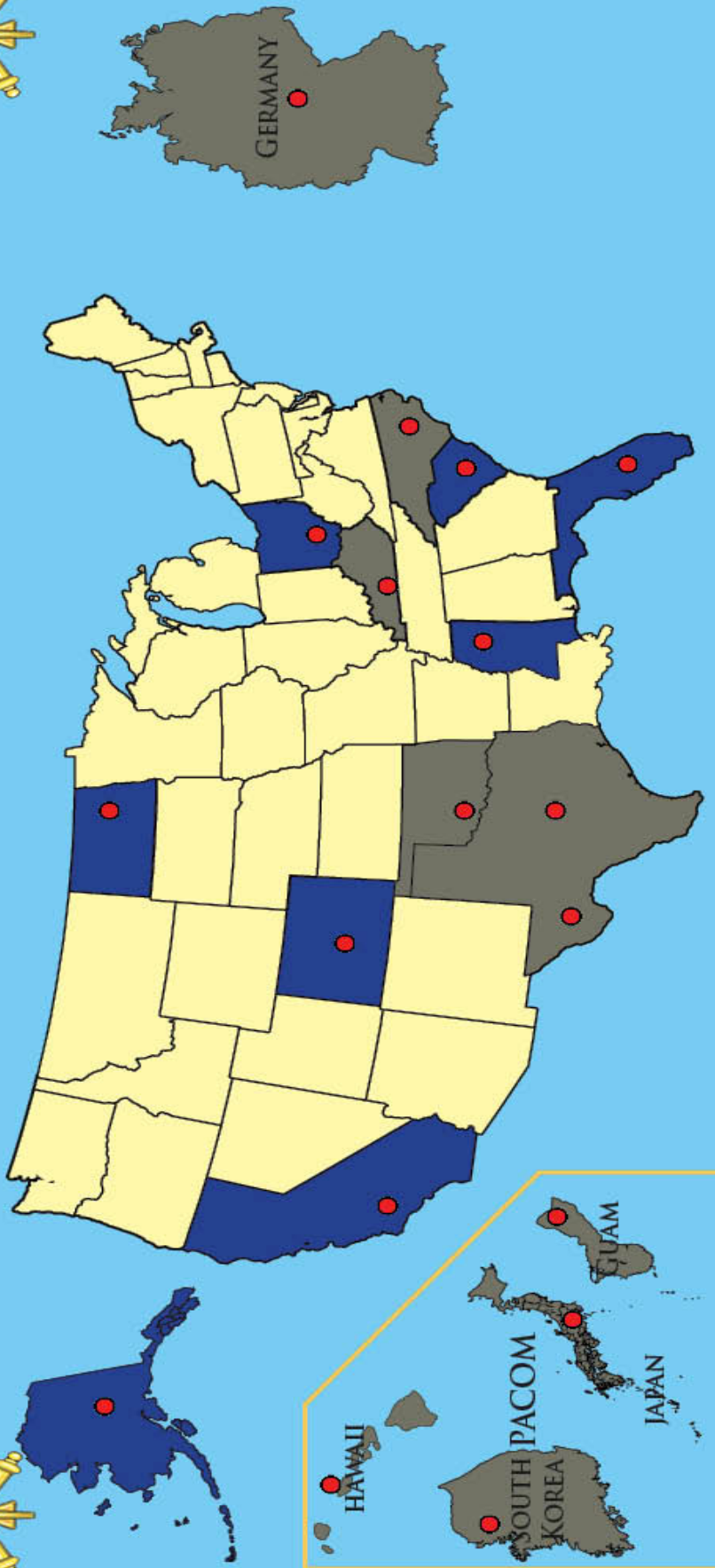


The new M-SHORAD Stryker vehicle on display at the Army versus Navy game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 14, 2019. (U.S. Army Photo by Natalia Thaniel)

An exciting development this month was the Maneuver-SHORAD (M-SHORAD) Stryker prototype being showcased prominently to a national audience at the Army-Navy game. The vehicle served as the backdrop to ESPN's game day broadcast, which included three live interviews highlighting the new ADA capability. Additionally, Gen. Milley, Gen. McConville, and Command Sgt. Maj. Love spoke with participants about the system. This notable exposure on the national stage will significantly buttress ADA recruiting efforts.

Locally, OCADA continues to facilitate and support recruiting efforts through close association with the

AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Alaska 49th Missile Defense Bn	Florida 164th ADA BDE 1st Bn, 174th ADA 3rd Bn, 265th ADA	Ohio 174th ADA BDE 1st Bn, 174th ADA 2nd Bn, 174th ADA
California 100th GMD BDE Det	Mississippi 1st Bn, 204th ADA	South Carolina 263rd AAMDC 2nd Bn, 263rd ADA 678th ADA BDE
Colorado 100th Missile Defense BDE	North Dakota 1st Bn, 188th ADA	
Florida 1-211st RTI		

ACTIVE COMPONENT CONUS

Kentucky 2nd Bn, 44th ADA	Texas 32d AAMDC 11th ADA BDE 1st Bn, 43rd ADA 2nd Bn, 43rd ADA 3rd Bn, 43rd ADA 5th Bn, 52nd ADA 69th ADA BDE 4th Bn, 5th ADA 1st Bn, 44th ADA 1st Bn, 62nd ADA	Oklahoma 30th ADA BDE 2nd Bn, 6th ADA 3rd Bn, 6th ADA 31st ADA BDE 3rd Bn, 2nd ADA 4th Bn, 3rd ADA 5th Bn, 5th ADA
Germany 10th AAMDC 5th Bn, 7th ADA 5th Bn, 4th ADA	Japan 38th ADA BDE 1st Bn, 1st ADA	South Korea 35th ADA BDE 2nd Bn, 1st ADA 6th Bn, 52nd ADA
Guam Task Force Talon	Hawaii 94th AAMDC	

38th ADA Brigade Welcomes Task Force Talon



*Story by Sgt. Raquel Villalona
Tuesday, October 8, 2019*

ANDERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Guam – The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade command team personally welcomed members of Task Force Talon to the team during a visit to Guam, Oct. 6-8.

The visit started with a mobilization ceremony for the 1224th Engineer Support “Hita” Company, Guam Army National Guard Oct. 6, placing the unit on active duty status in preparation to assume the security forces (SECFOR) 12-month rotation mission of Site Armadillo from Task Force Guahan, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, GU ARNG.

“This occasion marks the first step in the official transfer of authority between security force units in one of our nation’s most vital and strategic locations,” said Col. Patrick M. Costello, 38th ADA Brigade commander. “It marks the continuation of the unique multi-composition of the task force, a model that demonstrates the versatility of our military, but more importantly demonstrates to the Army, what right looks like. The mobilization marks the continuation of the integration of reserve component and active duty Soldiers as a total force to strengthen the defense of U.S. citizens, U.S. territories, and safeguard our national interests.”

The Indo-Pacific region covers 52 percent of the

earth’s surface, making Guam’s strategic location immeasurable to the air defense mission.

“Our geographic location here in Guam, in the Pacific theater, is one that we are seen as the epicenter in the defense for threats in the region,” said Guam Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, GU ARNG commander-in-chief. “We are here to celebrate the transition of TF Guahan to Hita Company’s 71 Soldiers that will deploy for a year to guard and protect the assets in the Pacific and defend the nation.”

Hita Company will officially join TF Talon and assume the SECFOR mission from TF Guahan, 1-294th Inf. Regt. during an upcoming transfer of





authority ceremony.

“Since 2013, TF Talon has cultivated a strong and lasting relationship with the Guam Army National Guard,” Costello remarked. “Today’s ceremony and the upcoming transfer of authority symbolizes the continued commitment between both organizations to defend Guam and support the U.S Indo-Pacific Command Regional Homeland Defense mission. TF Talon continues its historic legacy as the Army’s only forward-stationed, multi-component air defense task force.”

TF Talon is comprised of four elements, each contributing to the holistic mission of defending the Indo-Pacific region from any ballistic missile threats.

“TF Talon is made up of a command and control (C2) section/headquarters element; a SECFOR element, currently TF Guahan until Hita Company assumes the rotation next month; and E-3 Air Defense Artillery-THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense), which provides the air defense aspect at our Guam location” said Sgt. Maj. Dennis M. Petty, TF Talon senior enlisted advisor. “Members of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion-CPN (command post nodes) detachment from Wahiawa, Hawaii, provide the SMART-T (Secure, Mobile, Anti-jam, Reliable, Tactical-Terminal), which enables satellite maintenance and communications capabilities

essential to the mission due to the austere location.”

TF Talon, originally established by the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in 2013, joined the ranks of the 38th ADA Brigade on Oct. 1, 2019. The 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is also comprised of 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery; 10th Missile Defense Battery; and 14th Missile Defense Battery.

Maj. Bryan Z. Lipe, TF Talon officer-in-charge and Petty provided Costello and Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Sartain, 38th ADA Brigade senior enlisted advisor, a guide through TF Talon’s area of operations to welcome Soldiers to the Pacific Guardian Brigade and assess what systems and procedures are in place to continue mission success and efficiency. Together, the leaders gaged what areas required improvement and where Soldiers and processes were excelling.

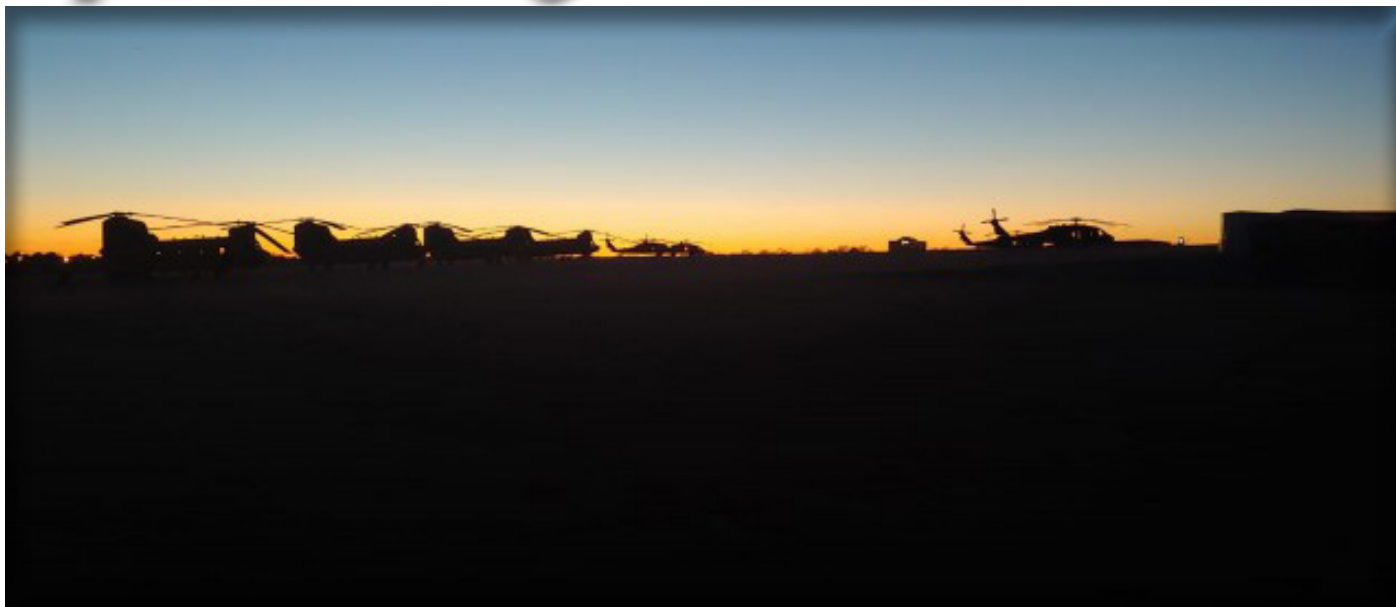
“It is important for TF Talon to maintain proficiency with the THAAD system and all the components that go into making the defense of the region possible, but we need to start looking at the bigger picture,” said Lipe. “The task force seeks to integrate air defense training, not only with the GU ARNG, but also with aviation and maritime elements so that we can train like we will fight.”

To move forward with this objective, leadership met with U.S. Navy Capt. Hans Sholley, Joint Region Marianas chief of staff, and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Gentry W. Boswell, JRM deputy commander, to discuss future multi-domain training, enhance interoperability and synchronize service capabilities, Oct. 8.

As tensions continue to grow with China, Russia and North Korea, the integration of TF Talon’s air and missile defense with joint partners remains crucial in the Indo-Pacific region.



Fort Sill Air Defense Artillery Students Optimize Training Time With National Guard



*Story by Capt. Liam Phillips
December 2, 2019*

FORT SILL, Oklahoma (Dec. 3, 2019) -- Name a better duo than Soldiers and training; I'll wait. Millennial aphorisms aside, our Soldiers only become proficient with training, and they only become experts after repetition of that training.

The success of the Army coincides with how well it trains its Soldiers. It falls upon the Army's leaders, commissioned and noncommissioned officers, to get the most out of training.

Good training requires initiative and detailed planning. It is easy to execute the bare minimum, to conduct only what is required. When there is an opportunity to maximize training, though, it is imperative that leaders exploit the occasion, conduct the additional planning, and build proficiency among their Soldiers.

The anecdote of Operation Mjolmir Crush, a mission that took place at Fort Sill, reinforces that additional coordination and planning can pay dividends for the Soldiers being trained and subsequently the Army.

On Nov. 18, four Army units took part in joint mission Operation Mjolmir Crush. The units and many of the personnel within these units were unfamiliar

with each other, but thanks to the initiative of the Special Operations Element and the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) schoolhouse these units were able to coordinate and integrate with each other.

The primary objective of this operation was to certify the Minnesota National Guard's 53rd Combat Aviation Battalion (CAB) as it prepared for deployment. The 53rd CAB was tasked with moving a platoon-sized element of Soldiers to a compound, and picking them up from a designated landing zone one hour later.

The 53rd CAB could have used almost anyone to serve as Chalks for the mission, but Sgt. 1st Class Robert Veloz, of the Special Operations Element, worked with ADA schoolhouse leadership to use this operation as an opportunity to train ADA Captains Career Course (CCC) and Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) students.

The ground training that the students conducted after being dropped served as a great example of maximizing training. The Soldiers being dropped on ground could have made the choice to simply wait for pickup. This is a case of choosing the "hard right" over "easy wrong."

The Soldiers on ground capitalized on the hour

they had to become familiar with Army assets and conduct repetitions of a skill.

The CCC and BOLC students were tasked with conducting Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT), clearing the compound at which they were dropped. In addition, they needed to work with Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams and military working dogs, learning to integrate them into MOUT.

For many of the second lieutenants, this was the first time they had done MOUT since ROTC, or for some, their first time conducting MOUT. Also none of them had ever worked with EOD or military working dog teams. Regardless, they rehearsed before the execution and left with relevant takeaways that they could apply to many facets of their Army careers.

Second Lt. Sean Kirchner, who served as a squad leader during operations, shared a detailed and nuanced perspective after the training.

When asked if his expectations had been subverted in any way, Kirchner said, “I learned that room clearing is a minuscule part of actually clearing an urban objective. Most of our time during the actions-on phase was spent outside of a building, moving between objectives and ducking enemy fire.

“I learned that ... at times as a leader you will want to stop and assess the situation, but that is not always a viable option. I was balancing keeping command and control of my squad, avoiding simulated small arms and indirect Fires, and clearing the objective,” Kirchner said.

Kirchner spoke to decision-making on the battlefield and communicating well with subordinates. These facets of leadership will never be obsolete, and the operation proved that with the young officers.

Operation Mjolmir Crush enlightened its participants on the importance of communication, with many lieutenants expounding upon the necessity of sufficient planning.

The ADA students took a concept of the operation



96 hours before execution and use the military decision making process to accomplish a mission. They also learned about the importance and functionality of EOD and working dogs, and how these specialized units assist Soldiers on the ground.

Even though the primary goal was to certify the 53rd CAB, leaders were opportunistic and imparted knowledge and experience to young air defense officers. Operation Mjolmir Crush may be a didactic tale, but that makes it no less relevant to leaders who take of it a lesson.



10th AAMDC Welcomes New CCWO



*Story by Capt. Robert Durr
Friday, October 25, 2019*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – The 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command welcomed its new command chief warrant officer, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Anson Seebeck, during a charter ceremony October 25 at the Armstrong Club in Kaiserslautern.

Brig. Gen. Gregory J. Brady, commanding general of the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, presided over the ceremony formally recognizing Seebeck as the 10th AAMDC's second command chief warrant officer.

"Chief Warrant Officer Seebeck 5 has rendered superb service in positions of steadily increasing responsibility in both technical and tactical realms at the battery, battalion and brigade levels," Brady said.

Brady applauded Seebeck and his family for their selfless service and welcomed them to the 10th AAMDC command.

"You are the expert of experts this formation needs," Brady said. "I am truly honored to serve with you and look forward to see the tremendous impact that I know you will have on our formation."

Seebeck's charter as the 10th AAMDC command chief warrant officer is to serve as the commanding general's technical advisor with all matters related to



10th AAMDC warrant officers and most importantly lead and mentor the warrant officers across the formation.

During Friday's ceremony Seebeck said words could not express how much he is looking forward to serving as senior warrant officer advisor in the 10th AAMDC.

"I'm incredibly honored to serve with the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of this great organization as your command chief warrant officer," Seebeck said. "There isn't anywhere the Seebecks would rather be than here with the European Defender Team."

Seebeck's most recent assignment was at the Patriot Evaluator and Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor Cross Functional Team with the Army Evaluation Command at Fort Bliss, Texas. The 10th AAMDC CCWO is the primary advisor to the commanding general on warrant officer professional development, to include the proper balance of training, education, and mentorship of more than 44 warrant officers representing seven branches and 17 Military Occupational Specialty's within the organization.

The warrant officer corps originated with the congressional establishment of a mine planter service in the Coastal Artillery in July 1918. Currently there are 28,038 warrant officers across three components representing three percent of the Army force structure and 22 percent of the officer ranks with 17 branches and 44 specialties, seven of which serve in the 10th AAMDC. The rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 is limited to five percent of the total warrant officer strength.



New Commander Takes Charge of WSMR Air Missile Defense Test Detachment



Story by Vanessa Flores
Thursday, September 26, 2019

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. – Maj. Benjamin W. Klandrud assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Air Defense Artillery Air Missile Defense Test Detachment (3-6 ADA AMDTD) from Capt. Kevin M. Ryan on Sept. 24 at White Sands Missile Range during a change of command ceremony.

Lt. Col. Joseph C. Scott, the 3-6 ADA Battalion Commander officiated the ceremony and provided remarks.

“Over the last year, Capt. Kevin Ryan has led the dog pound through good times and bad, through tragedy and triumph, as he and his Soldiers strove to make our branch stronger and more capable for the battlefields of tomorrow,” said Scott.

The test detachment and their organization’s overall mission is to support the rapid modernization of capabilities to counter existing and future aerial threats. The 3-6 ADA AMDTD has been at WSMR since 2014 conducting software testing, live-fire testing, and working on the integration of systems.

Ryan commanded the test detachment for about a year. Upon graduating from the Air Defense Artillery

Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, he was assigned to the 11th Brigade. He took command of C Battery 1st Battalion, 43rd Army Defense Artillery where he deployed to Bahrain in support of Inherent Resolve.

“Through this past year at command through the bad times and the good I watched 138 Soldiers band together and look out for each other like a family. I am truly grateful for each one of you and will never forget you all,” said Ryan. “Maj. Klandrud, welcome to the team, please look out for the Soldiers and take care of them, I know you will do a great job.”

This is Klandrud’s fourth permanent change of station in the El Paso and White Sands area. He was previously the Executive Officer of the Combined Task Force Defender for the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade in the Republic of Korea.





“Thank you for being at today’s change of command ceremony. First of all, I want to thank Col. Scott and Col. Barnette, who could not be here, for the opportunity to serve as the detachment commander,” said Klandrud. “Being a leader of troops has always been the most rewarding experience in my career, I look forward to the unique challenge that this White Sands unit has.”

Originally, from Brookfield, Wisconsin, Klandrud was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Air Defense Artillery Branch after graduating from Ripon College.



NCOs, Soldiers Vie For Pacific Guardian Of The Quarter Honor



*Story by Sgt. Raquel Villalona
Thursday, November 7, 2019*

SAGAMIHARA, Japan – Nine Soldiers and noncommissioned officers assigned to various units throughout 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade competed in a grueling test of their physical and mental abilities during a quarterly contest at Sagami General Depot Nov. 6-7.



In the end, Staff Sgt. Alfred Taitano, Patriot fire control enhanced operator/maintainer, won the title of noncommissioned officer of the first quarter, and Spc. Isaac Swilling, petroleum supply specialist, won the title of Soldier of the first quarter. Both Soldiers are assigned to the newest brigade addition: Echo Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), Task Force Talon.

“This was the first time members of E-3 ADA participated in the competition,” said Taitano. “Spc. Swilling and I had to introduce our unit’s work ethic and readiness to the rest of the brigade by performing well. We spent countless hours preparing in the weeks leading up to the event and came here from Guam to Japan to win it.”

The competition’s events included a height and weight assessment; an Army Physical Fitness Test; a drill and ceremony competition; timed disassembling, reassembling and function checks of the M4 carbine rifle, M9 pistol and M249 light machine gun; virtual M4 marksmanship tests on the Engagement Skills Trainer; a 12-mile ruck march with a three-hour time limit; Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System programming proficiency assessment; a written test; and a formal board before Sgt. Maj. George Rupprecht, brigade air defense sergeant major, and other senior NCOs.

“We do the Pacific Guardian of the Quarter Competition to foster esprit de corps and camaraderie amongst members of the brigade,” said Rupprecht. “It helps them assess their strengths and weaknesses and makes our Guardians better-rounded on both intellectual and physical aspects of

Soldiering. We also use this competition to feed into U.S. Army Japan's quarterly competition and the upcoming Best Warrior Competition."

Staff Sgt. David Shores, air defense battle management system operator and competition coordinator, said events were based on common Soldier tasks that are not specific to any military occupational specialty and it was a close race all the way to the end.

"The competition on day one was tight after the seven events were conducted," said Shores. "It was not until day two after the board that we were able to identify the winners. This was the second time our brigade has organized the competition and the first time we focused on the total Soldier concept: each event was based on a 100-point scale, so the Soldiers who won exhibited a high degree of skill in most events. Most impressively, all competitors completed the 12-mile ruck march with 45-pound weighted rucks in less than three hours."

The winners each received an Impact Army Achievement Medal. They will also go on to compete in the U.S. Army Japan Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Competition.

In addition to the winners, competitors included: Staff Sgt. Andrew Guillian, Patriot fire control enhanced operator/maintainer, and Spc. Timotheus Redd, Patriot launching station enhanced operator/maintainer, both with 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment; Sgt. Jesse Sanchez, human



resources specialist, 14th Missile Defense Battery; Sgt. Erick Salazar and Spc. Onil Almanzar, both Patriot fire control enhanced operator/maintainers with 10th Missile Defense Battery; and Sgt. Jose Perez Feliciano, information technology specialist, and Pfc. Dewey Langston, Patriot fire control enhanced operator/maintainer, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 38th ADA Bde.

Lt. Col. James L. Crenshaw, brigade deputy commanding officer, spoke at the closing ceremony and asked members of the audience to celebrate the Guardians who participated by emulating them.

"If you are a leader, encourage your folks to pursue what these Soldiers have pursued," said Crenshaw. "I was very impressed with the many challenging events this group of fine Soldiers have conquered. Keep chasing your aspirations and you will be the next Sgt. Maj. Rupprecht or Command Sgt. Maj. (Neil) Sartain in the future."



SMDC Welcomes New Commanding General



Story by Jason Cutshaw

Friday, December 6, 2019

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Daniel L. Karbler assumed command of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command and the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense from Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson during a Change of Command conducted at the Von Braun III auditorium at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, Dec. 6.

During the ceremony, Gen. James C. McConville, Army chief of staff, placed a Superior Unit Award streamer on the USASMDC colors before accepting them from Dickinson and then passing them to Karbler. He then thanked Dickinson and his wife, Angie, for all they have done for the Army and the command.

“Giving up the colors is never easy,” McConville said. “But thank you for your steady hand and leadership of SMDC. I know the community here is sad to lose you and Angie, but we are all excited that such a great team will be moving over to U.S. Space Command. I know the command there will

be better for having you both.”

McConville then welcomed Karbler and his wife, Leah, and challenged him to build upon the SMDC legacy.

“I have full trust and confidence that SMDC is in good hands,” McConville said. “You have the skills and experience this command needs. We look forward to seeing you and Leah lead the SMDC team going forward. I know the community here will wrap its arms around you both and I have no doubt that SMDC is better for your leadership.”

The Army chief of staff also took a moment to talk about the impact of the command and the role SMDC Soldiers, civilians and family members have in maintaining peace around the world.

“I want to thank all of you for what you do every single day to make us the world’s greatest military,” McConville said. “Today’s ceremony is really about more than just passing the colors, it’s a chance to recognize this command and the men and women who make it great. Winning matters in our profession. When we send the United States Army somewhere, we don’t go to participate. We don’t go to try hard. We go to win. There is no second place or honorable mention in combat.

“In providing missile defense and space capabilities, not only to our Army but to the joint force and our allies and partners around the world, SMDC is a key part in making sure we can do that and that we can win,” he added. “SMDC deploys missile batteries, satellites, computers and sensors to enable warfighters to win, and that is what it is all about. It is our people in the Army here at SMDC who make us strong and make us special. In our Army we don’t man equipment, we equip people because our Army is people. All of you define SMDC and your hard work is what makes this command great.”

After placing a Joint Meritorious Unit Award

streamer on the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense colors, U.S. Navy Adm. Charles “Chas” A. Richard, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, presided over a Change of Command where Karbler took the helm of JFCC IMD.

The SMDC commanding general also serves as commander for JFCC IMD and provides USSTRATCOM commander with synchronized missile defense plans, conducts ballistic missile defense, operations support and advocates for missile defense capabilities to deter adversaries and defend the United States, deployed forces and its allies against ballistic missile attacks.

Richard then thanked Dickinson for his service to the nation and those who serve at SMDC.

“I could not be more proud of what Jim Dickinson and this command have done,” Richard said. “He solved very difficult problems with Army can-do and SMDC know-how, and that is what I am always going to remember about him and this organization.”

SMDC serves as the Army Service Component Command to USSTRATCOM, as well as supporting USSPACECOM, and conducts space and missile defense operations and provides planning, integration, control and coordination of Army forces and capabilities in support of missions of strategic deterrence, integrated missile defense, space operations and cyberspace operations.

Richard congratulated Karbler and said he looks forward to serving with him.

“Dan, I know you are going to crush it here. I am indeed very proud of you, and I look forward to working with you,” Richard said. “I am confident you are up for the challenge and will continue to do great things.”

Dickinson, who is assuming the position of USSPACECOM deputy commander, reflected on his time at SMDC and thanked everyone for his success during his three years at the command.

“I need to thank my wife, Angie,” Dickinson said.

“Thanks for being here today and always being by my side and taking care of the families and taking care of me at the same time.

“Dan, I couldn’t be more proud to pass these colors to you today,” he continued. “You’ve got the absolute right background and right leadership skills to take this unit and organization to the next level. The interest could never be higher in both missile defense and space.

“This has been the absolute best job I have ever had in the United States Army,” Dickinson added. “There wasn’t a day that went by that I didn’t thank God that I got this job and was able to do some of the things we were able to do as an organization.”

During the Change of Command, Karbler thanked everyone for their kind words and said he and Leah look forward to working with the SMDC team.

“To Team Redstone and the greater Huntsville area we appreciate the warm welcome we have already experienced,” Karbler said. “We look forward to being a part of this terrific community.

“To the SMDC team, we are humbled and honored to lead SMDC,” he continued. “At no other time in my 32-plus years have I seen this command so relevant to the complex challenges that face us today and tomorrow. 21st century strategic deterrence is more than just nuclear deterrence, it demands we provide world-class support to space, missile defense, high altitude, and emerging counter-UAS missions. In the face of adversaries who are ever-adapting, we must move fast, innovate and be willing to accept risk.

“What we do is critical to warfighting readiness and ensures our Soldiers can shoot, move and communicate on the complex battlefields of not only today, but also tomorrow,” Karbler added. “We are grateful for the privilege to lead the SMDC team and for the opportunity to become key members of Team Redstone and the Huntsville community.”



Air Denfense Artillery

Change of Command Ceremonies



69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade:

On Oct. 30, Col. Ethan Hall assumed command from Col. Curtis King.



Col. Ethan Hall, Brig. Gen. Clement Coward and Col. Curtis King stand at attention before 69th ADA Bde's change of command ceremony on Oct. 30, in the 1st Bn., 44th ADA Regt motor pool. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Andrew Mallet.)

Air Denfense Artillery

Change of Responsibility Ceremonies

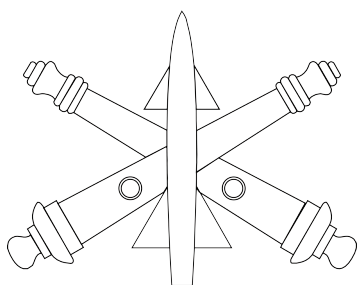


6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery: On Nov. 15, Command Sgt. Maj. Luis Cruz assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Gene Harding.

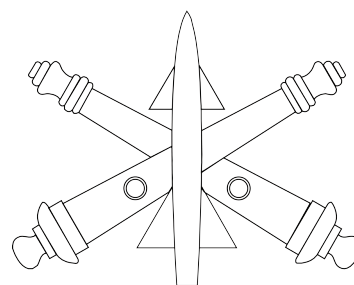


(U.S. Army photo curtsy of 6-52 ADA Facebook page)

Air Defense Artillery Senior Leader Retirements



Rank	Name
COL	McCallion, Joseph
CW4	Madison, David
CW4	Wyatt, Hanna
CW3	Heck, Scott
CSM	Moore, Christopher
CSM	Smith, Heather



**Thank you for your service.
First to Fire!**



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L 221.7 (5.63 MI) W 23.1 (0.58 MI) H 24.6 (0.62 MI)
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