

# Barbecue helps unit reduce stress

By Sgt. Tova Chapin

The Soldiers of C Battery 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment deployed to Turkey for a highly publicized deployment months ago. Not only are they defending critical assets from aerial attack but the Soldiers conducted a battery change of command and took part in their battalion change of command.

As the unit settled onto an empty mountainside and built a living and breathing tactical site, they've made improvements that include a make-shift movie theater. As a way to reward Soldiers for their hard work is being noticed and to give them a break from the day to day routine, the battery leadership hosted their a "Morale Barbecue and Movie Night."

The night started with a battery formation to promote Spc. Tova Chapin and to award Soldiers with their earned Good Conduct Medals and achievement awards. Once the formation was over, everyone headed to the barbecue. Once the soldiers arrived it was time to relax and have a good time.

An area was set up next to the Battery Maintenance Center (which doubled as their movie screen). Sgts. Spencer Fletcher and Austin Percival cooked an assortment of food that included hot dogs, hamburgers and bratwurst on a home-made grill. Music played in the background as C Battery Soldiers participated in dancing to popular songs like the "Cupid Shuffle".

The battery commander, Lt. Col John Dawber, came up to site to take part in the festivities and to talk to the Soldiers one on one. The Soldiers waited in anticipation for the daylight to fade enough to show the chosen movie.



During the movie the camaraderie within the battery continued to build as soldiers and leaders enjoyed the movie together. As the evening ended it was apparent that much of the stress individuals were feeling from the mission was put aside and the battery ended the night closer and more connected.

This morale building experience refreshed their resolve to push on with the mission and continue their outstanding work.

*Soldiers enjoy a break during their deployment to Turkey.*