

Battalion staffers visit isolated site

By Chaplain (Capt.) Brian Hall

Over the Independence Day holiday, three members of the 3-2nd Air Defense Artillery traveled to Patriot Site K, a forward deployed location under the command of the 10th Army and Air Missile Defense Command. Site K has a unique personnel composition for a unit under the control of an Air and Missile Defense Command. The bulk of the Soldiers are infantry paratroopers with a little support provided by an air and missile defense detachment.

The battalion chaplain, Capt. Brian Hall, Sgt. 1st Class Rudregus Davis and Spc. David Winkle made the trip to provide services to the Soldiers stationed there. Hall and Winkle provided religious support, while Davis, the battalion career counselor, was able to provide his services as well.

As part of the day's events, they dedicated a gymnasium to all the fallen paratroopers within their unit's history, which dates back just prior to World War II. Hall was invited to participate in the ceremony.

"As we dedicate this building to the memory of their fallen, may it serve as a reminder to us of their dedication to serve and sacrifice for Liberty's sake," said Hall.

The ceremony concluded as 1st Sgt. Stephen Faulk of the 11th Missile Defense Attachment unveiled a memorial plaque affixed to a large rock in front of the gymnasium.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of Taps, and the attendees were then offered time to pay their final respects to the fallen.

The following day, Davis was busy counseling the Soldiers of Site K. Early that morning, he gave a class which covered a variety of topics relevant to the Soldiers. The purpose of the class was to make sure the Soldiers were aware of the latest changes in retention and what benefits were available. Some of the topics were the latest trends in reenlistment, including what branch managers wanted Soldiers at the lowest level to know; the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill and the Temporary Early Retirement Authority.

Overall, the class was well received and beneficial to the Soldiers. 1st Sgt. Faulk stated in an email that days after the visit, "... the Troops on-site are still talking about retention." In the same email he also praised the professionalism of Hall and Davis and thanked the command team of 3-2nd ADA for allowing them to support the Soldiers of Site K: Truly a "one team, one fight" experience.

