



31st ADA BRIGADE VIGILANT TIMES



Volume 2, Issue 1

FALL 2012

31st ADA
"Ready and Vigilant"



4-3 ADA
"I Strike"



3-2 ADA
"Lethal Strike"



5-5 ADA
"Strike First"

ADA Soldiers complete pre-deployment training exercise

By 1LT Colby Johnstone, 4-3 Air Defense Artillery Battalion Adjutant

FORT SILL, Okla.-- One of the greatest challenges to preparing for deployment is simulating the deployed life.

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, "I Strike", finished up their Mission Rehearsal Exercise/Operational Readiness Exercise, or MRE/ORE), which aimed to simulate the stresses and sense of accomplishment of their upcoming deployment.

This six day exercise was used to evaluate and train four line Batteries, two support units (HHB and Echo CO), and the Headquarters Support Battery (HSB), also known as rear detachment.

A seemingly simple task, however, the "I Strike" BN had just completed Rail Load Operations and all their PATRIOT equipment had been put on a ship to meet them for their deployment.

With a tight pre-deployment timeline, 4-3 ADA BN turned to their sister battalion 3-2 ADA BN for support. "We could not have completed the MRE/ORE without their equipment" said Maj. Dan Swanson, 4-3 Operations Officer in Charge.

With their higher command, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade evaluating the exercise, 4-3 ADA's staff showed both their strengths and weaknesses as they faced the many challenges brought by the evaluators.

Living at FOB Mow Way was a good simulation for many: "Forward Operating Base Mow Way simulated a realistic environment of being downrange in Kuwait. We were able to sleep in bays," stated Spc. Matthew Hill of HHB.

The MRE/ORE was a valuable experience for the Soldiers not deploying as well. "HSB received excellent training in preparation of 4-3's deployment as this was our first real training exercise as a unit," said Sgt. Krysti DeThomas, HSB's Orderly Room NCO.

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This Family Readiness Group Command Information Letter is provided to all spouses of Soldiers within 31st ADA BDE, with the sole purpose of providing for the well being of Family members of 31st ADA BDE, as authorized and verified by my signature.

Michael T. Morrissey, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Commanding



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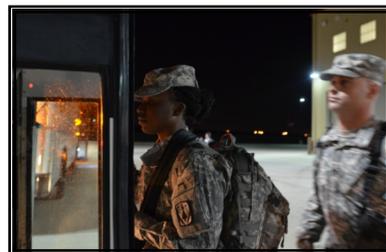


“Our Brigade team will be disciplined, ready to deploy and provide AMD in a complex and joint environment. Built on trust, resilient Families, and pride in our historic lineage.”

GERARDO DOMINGUEZ
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

MICHAEL T. MORRISSEY
COL, AD
Commanding

Around the Brigade



Volunteer Management Information System Training (VMIS)

The Fort Sill Volunteer Corps Coordinator, Laura Batule, will begin conducting VMIS Training for Soldiers and Family members who would like to learn how to maneuver in the website better. The training will be held the first Thursday of every month from 0900-1000 in the MWR Training Room in the

Welcome Center, Bldg 470, at the Adventure Travel entrance. Free child care will be provided for children registered with CYSS. Reservations must be made at the Garrison

9- 12 NOV
22-23 NOV
1-2 DEC
11-13 DEC
23-25 DEC
30-31 DEC
17 DEC- 4 JAN

Upcoming Events

Veteran's Day Holiday
Thanksgiving Holiday
Post Kindle Market
BDE NCO/Soldier of the Qtr Comp.
Christmas Holiday
New Years Day Holiday
BDE Block Leave Period

Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington

The 2012 Holiday Bazaar hosted by the Lewis Community Spouses' Club will be held Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Nov. 4 from noon to 5 p.m. in the MWR Fest Tent and the AFC Arena, 2272 Liggett Ave., JBLM Lewis Main. Admission is \$2 for adults, free for 15 and younger.



2012 TURKEY TROT
10k, 5k & 10k Inline Skate

November 17
MWR Fest Tent
Next to Bldg. 2272, Liggett Ave., Lewis Main
Race begins 9 a.m.
\$15 (Military) \$25 (Non-Military)

Early Registration Deadline: Nov. 6, Noon
JBLM access pass and shirt included
Late Registration Deadline: Nov. 15, Noon
JBLM access pass and shirt NOT included

\$5 late fee for day of race registration
Register online at JBLMmwr.com/races/turkey_trot
For more information call 253-967-4768



RICHMOND
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FREEDOM
SOUTH SOUND RUNNING
pepsi
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Fort Sill, Oklahoma



@ Nye Library
Every Wed and Thursday
(except in June and July)
11:00a.m.-12:00p.m. on Wed. and 2:00-3:00p.m. on Thurs.

Fun and education opportunity for preschool age children to develop the habit of visiting the Library and encouraging literacy at a young age.

Free and open to the military community. For more information call 442-2048



Fort Sill Family and MWR benefits include:

- 10% member discount at most Family and MWR facilities and at Family and MWR events when charged on the Membership card.
- FREE monthly 18-hole round of golf.
- FREE 3 games of bowling monthly.
- FREE monthly Membership Dinner OR Sunday Brunch.
- UNLIMITED \$3 men's haircuts at the Patriot Club Barbershop.

Take advantage of all the great benefits Family and MWR has to offer!

www.sillmwr.com

Need Hourly Care?

The Alice Grierson Child Development Center has slots available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers!

0730 - 1630

Visit our website at www.sillmwr.com for more information.

No Registration fees.

Call (580) 558-4305/4306 today to schedule an appointment.



Part Day Preschool

at Alice Grierson Child Development Center



9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more information, call (580) 558-4301. To register with CYSS, call (580) 442-3927.

Children must be registered with CYSS.
Ages 3 - 5
Monday - Friday



Interested in caring for children in a home setting?

Family Child Care Monthly Slide Show
Second Tuesday of each month
10:30 a.m.
Family & MWR Training Room



Slide show helps you learn how to become a certified Family Child Care provider.

For more information, please call (580) 442-3488/2470.



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'4-3 Soldier Takes Top Honors'

By Sgt. Nathan Akridge, 31st Air Defense Artillery Public Affairs

Soldiers across the Army strive for excellence. We push ourselves to be the best at PT, and we train to improve ourselves and to excel at our craft. Spc. Thomas Moreland, the unit supply clerk for C. Batt., 4-3 Air Defense Artillery, recently excelled by taking top honors by winning the Forces Command Supply Excellency Award.

Moreland had to win both at the battalion and brigade level to get recommended for the Forscom level. An inspection team came down from Fort Bragg, NC., and did a thorough check on his supply system. The team looked at everything from his hand receipts to his general logistic knowledge. They also inspected his Arms Room and made sure he didn't have any shortages.

Moreland said he was proud when he found out he won the completion.

"I didn't think I'd win. I was very happy when I found out I won, especially once I found out I beat out CW3's, Master Sergeants, Captains, and Majors.," said Moreland.

Moreland said it took a lot of hard work and dedication to win this award.

It's one-hundred percent knowledge of the job. You have to be totally dedicated to the unit level supply system, and have a love of the job," added Moreland. "There were a lot of long hours, making sure everything is right and squared away. I worked from 0600 until 1900 for about a month straight, but it was worth it and it definitely paid off."

1st Lt. Robert Mixon, executive officer for C. Batt., 4-3 ADA, said the award speaks of Moreland's expertise in his job. "I think it speaks extremely highly of his professionalism. I think it shows he is the best in battalion and brigade supply." Mixon said he is appreciative of all the effort Moreland made to win this competition.

"It never hurts to have someone who's proficient in his job in your ranks. It takes the weight off of other peoples shoulders to know they have someone they can go to," Mixon said.

Moreland will not be able to compete at the Department of the Army level due to an upcoming deployment, but said he is proud of all he has accomplished.



Run Honors Fallen Soldier

Sgt. Nathan Akridge, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade Public Affairs

Many service members have had to deal with the loss friends and comrades during the Global War on Terrorism. Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment held a memorial run at Joint Base Lewis McChord to keep the memory of one of their fallen alive. The four-mile run was held in honor of Sgt. Brandon Maggart, killed by indirect fire on August 22nd, 2010, while serving with the 5-5 Air Defense Artillery Regiment in Basrah, Iraq. The memorial run's purpose was to honor Sgt. Maggart and show his wife Teresa that she and her son Blake are part of the unit family.

"This run means to me than just honoring our fallen brothers and sisters in arms, it's also showing the families that they are not forgotten," said Staff Sgt. John O'Connor, Alpha Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

Over 250 Soldiers and family members supported the event at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Participants wore blue shirts, which had Sgt. Maggart's name on the back. The blue shirts are part of the "Wear Blue, Run to Remember" program, which acts a support network for the family of Soldiers killed in action, and also creates a living memorial for fallen Soldiers through memorial runs. The program was started by the wife of a Soldier who was killed in action in Afghanistan.

Another contingent of Soldiers and family members supported the event with a "shadow run" held at Fort Sill, Okla. Fort Sill support came from Soldiers of the 31st and 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigades, many of which served with Sgt. Maggart in Iraq.

"It was touching to see the team cohesion between Soldiers and family members to honor this fallen warrior," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gerardo Dominguez, Command Sgt. Maj., 31st ADA.



"I appreciate and sincerely thank everyone in the unit that helped facilitate the run and made it all come together."

-Teresa and Blake Maggart





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'Stinger Live Fire'

Despite the stifling heat of the Arizona desert, Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade lined up in anticipation of the Stinger missile and Avenger live fire range. The live fire was part of the Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course at Yuma Proving Grounds. The WTI prepared the Dragonslayers battalion for challenges that they may face on a real world deployment. For many Soldiers, this was their first time firing a Stinger or Avenger.

"It was my first time but I feel I did really well. I shot 21 out of 25 on the Avenger. I feel really good I hit that many," said Pfc. Ricco Mata from B. Battery 5-5 ADA.

Mata also added that he was also given a chance to learn the tricks of the trade while at the live fire.

"It's helping me learn more about my job. I learned you can use an MRE spoon to pry stuck rounds out of a .50. I also learned how to properly load the ammo in a can."

Staff Sgt. Justin McNealy says that the experience of a live fire gives the Soldiers knowledge about their job and how to do it properly.

"It will allow them to be more proficient in the job. They'll know how to do something from hands on experience instead of just reading about it in a book."

McNealy adds that he feels that the Soldiers performed well, despite the fact that for many Soldiers, this was their first live fire.

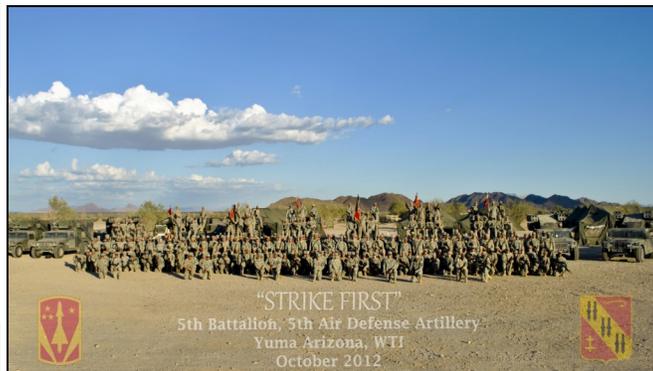
"All the teams overall are doing well. We had some mechanical hiccups, but overall the teams did very well."

"I hope the Soldiers take away the experience of actually being on the ground and being able to train with their team chiefs," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Bauman, from C. battery, 5-5 ADA. "It's great that they get to put their hands on the equipment and be able to troubleshoot, truly, for the first time while they're firing. It gives them that initial hands on experience, something to take back, so they can conduct their own after action reviews internally, and figure out what went wrong, things they could do better, and continue to push and train back at Ft. Lewis for further operations."

Pfc. Carlin Brien, from 5-5 A. battery, says the training showed him the importance of being familiar with your equipment.

"I learned that you need to learn how to troubleshoot your equipment because if you don't, it will break down and you'll have no idea how to fix it."

35 crews from the Dragonslayers fired the Stinger missile during the live fire exercise.





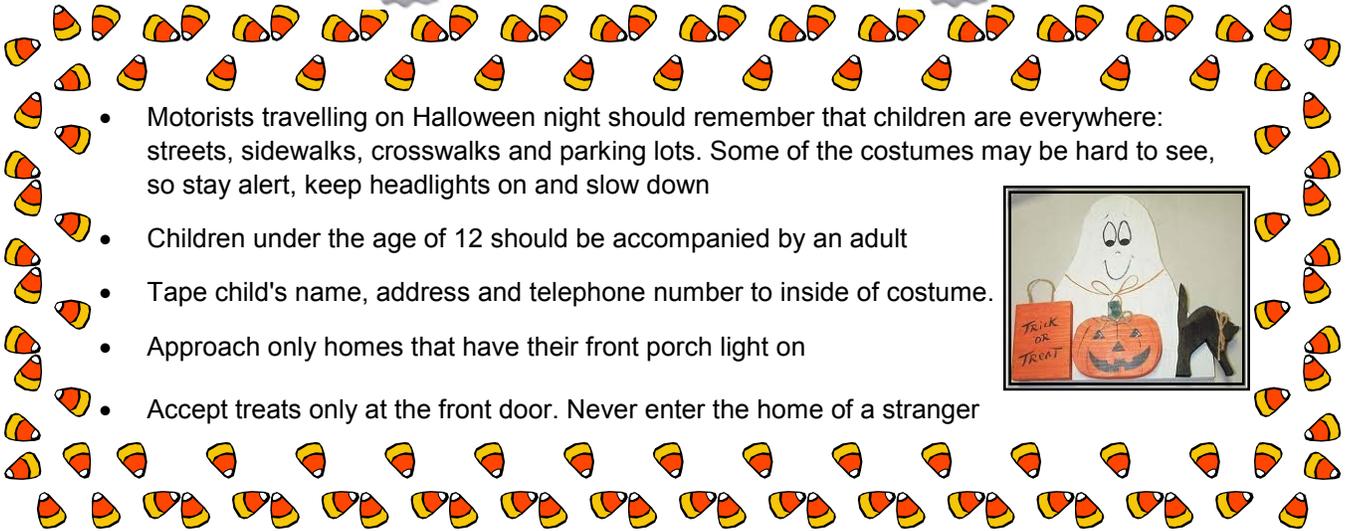
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Holiday Do's and Don'ts



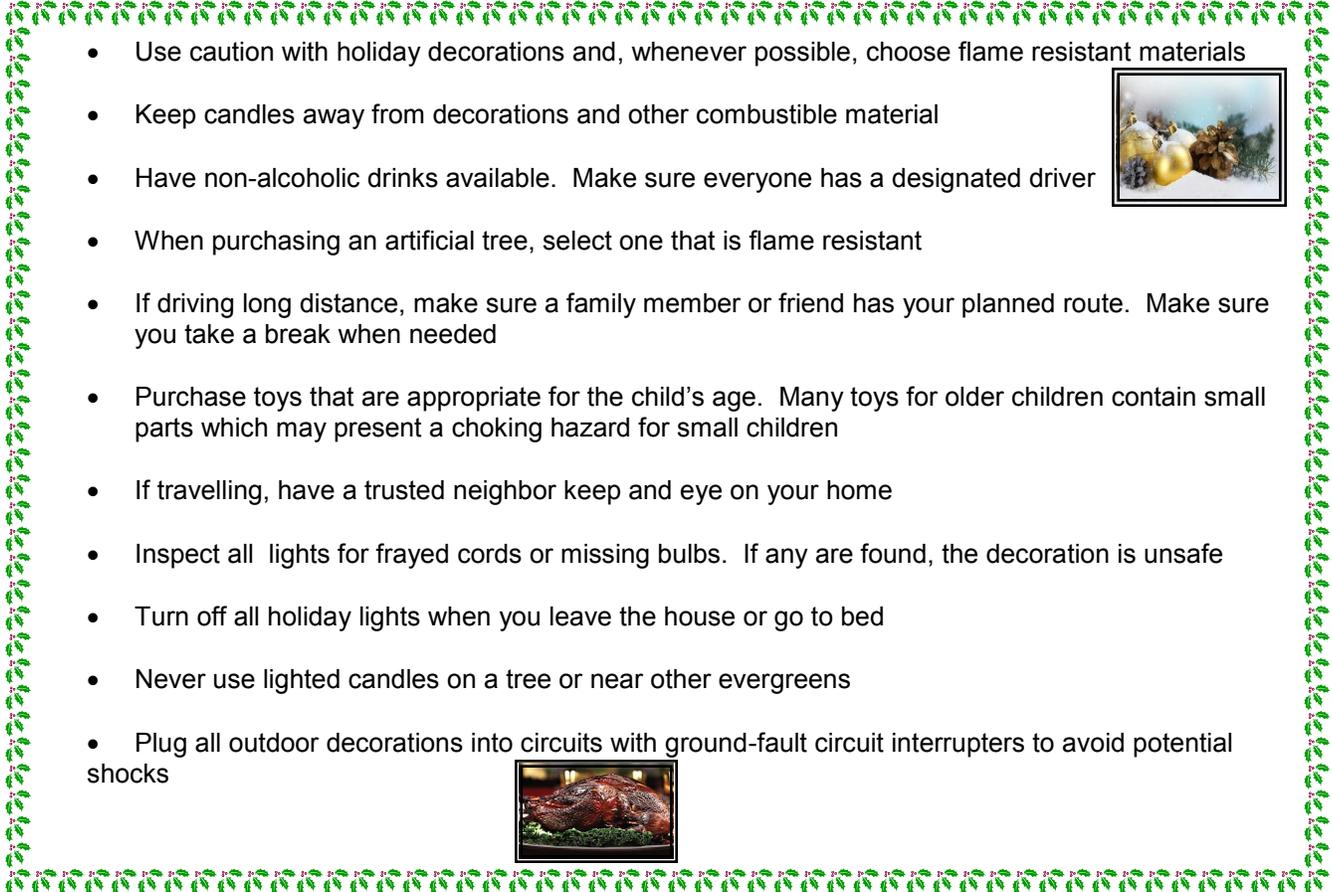
Halloween Safety



- Motorists travelling on Halloween night should remember that children are everywhere: streets, sidewalks, crosswalks and parking lots. Some of the costumes may be hard to see, so stay alert, keep headlights on and slow down
- Children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by an adult
- Tape child's name, address and telephone number to inside of costume.
- Approach only homes that have their front porch light on
- Accept treats only at the front door. Never enter the home of a stranger



Holiday Safety



- Use caution with holiday decorations and, whenever possible, choose flame resistant materials
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible material
- Have non-alcoholic drinks available. Make sure everyone has a designated driver
- When purchasing an artificial tree, select one that is flame resistant
- If driving long distance, make sure a family member or friend has your planned route. Make sure you take a break when needed
- Purchase toys that are appropriate for the child's age. Many toys for older children contain small parts which may present a choking hazard for small children
- If travelling, have a trusted neighbor keep an eye on your home
- Inspect all lights for frayed cords or missing bulbs. If any are found, the decoration is unsafe
- Turn off all holiday lights when you leave the house or go to bed
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens
- Plug all outdoor decorations into circuits with ground-fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks





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Chaplains Corner

LOVE

"No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and thus do what He wants me to do."

— Anonymous

"Youth is like spring, an over praised season more remarkable for biting winds than genial breezes. Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits."

—Samuel Butler

So as we invite God to become an integral part of our lives, know that we are in communion with the infinite source from which love comes. To truly love requires loving the way God loves, and God only loves unconditionally. To love unconditionally does not come naturally for us, consequently we must learn it and intentionally practice it. To place conditions on love is not to love at all. To say I will love you only IF you are nice to me, or IF I like you, or IF you agree with me etc. are examples of placing conditions on love which inevitably thwarts it. We must love those who are seemingly unlovable. Pray for those whom we find most detestable and then we will begin to unlock the mystery of love. Jesus Christ says that "the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and strength." And "the second is to love your neighbor as you love yourself." Love – the most powerful four-letter word in the universe – is also the least often used and the most misunderstood. Let us seek to understand love as we prepare to reap the harvest of its glorious fruits during this Fall Season. As we do this, we will discover that we have become the most powerful creatures in the universe – creatures of LOVE. May God's love rest upon us all!



—Chaplain R. Randall Thomas



EVENTS:

- 31 OCT from 1830-2030 Hallelujah Harvest (Halloween Alternative) @ Frontier Chapel
- 19-20 NOV ASIST Training. Location 3-2 classroom for leadership within
- 31st ADA BDE
- 30 NOV to 2 DEC SB Families event. Location and target audience TBD
- 12 DEC Christmas Prayer Breakfast – Location TBD

Family Readiness Support Assistants

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4-3 ADA BN SD:

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253-967-5267

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

Check us out at

sill-www.army.mil/31st_ada/

and on Facebook !



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Retention

INIT MID CAREER FY12 ETS TRAN

UNIT	OBJ/ACC	OBJ/ACC	OBJ/ACC	OBJ/ACC	OBJ/ACC
HHB	2/6 300%	6/6 100%	5/5 100%	13/15 115%	2/2 100%
3-2	29/43 148%	23/25 117%	8/9 113%	60/73 122%	13/19 162%
4-3	33/62 188%	37/37 100%	6/9 150%	76/108 142%	7/15 214%
5-5	13/18 138%	9/9 100%	5/5 100%	27/32 119%	7/13 186%
BDE	77/130	75/77	24/28	176/235	29/49
TOTAL	169%	103%	117%	134%	169%

31st Retention was the first to accomplish the FY12 mission in all retention categories for 32nd AAMDC.



Schools

“The strength of the United States is not the gold at Fort Knox or the weapons of mass destruction we have, but the sum total of the education and character of our people.”

- Claiborne Pell



WLC	SPC Lopez- 3-2 BN SPC Smith- 3-2 BN SPC Lovett - 3-2 BN	SPS Diallo- 3-2 BN SPC Hopper—3-2 BN
ALC	SSG Watson- 3-2 BN SGT Tan- 5-5 BN SGT Bell- 5-5 BN	SGT Clark- 5-5 BN SGT Haulk- 5-5 BN
SLC	SSG Davis- 3-2 BN	
PMG	SFC Marchette- 3-2 BN SFC Wells- 3-2 BN	SFC Mejl- 3-2 BN SSG Blevins- 4-3 BN
WOC	SFC Barreto- 4-3 BN SSG Bowers- 3-2 BN SSG Pavy- 4-3 BN	SFC Barnes- HHB, 31st SSG Manis- 4-3 BN SSG Ray- 4-3 BN

