



Vigilant Times

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade

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New Sergeants Inducted at Ceremony

By CSM Kogut, Paul

On the 25th of March 2011, the Brigade conducted an NCO Induction Ceremony for six newly promoted Sergeants. The inductees were: SGT Taylor (HHB 31ST), SGT Farmer (B 4-3), SGT Rodgers (B 4-3), SGT Brock (E 4-3), SGT Alvis (E 4-3), and SGT Meronek (E 4-3). The newly-promoted sergeants were sponsored by their first line leaders. This mission took place at the Lawton/Fort Sill Veterans facility with numerous residents in attendance, to include our COOP partners from the surrounding community. Command Sergeant Major Carr, along with CSM Kogut (4-3 ADA CSM), conducted the NCO Induction Ceremony and welcomed each new inductee into the prestigious NCO Corps as each of their names were called to walk across the stage.

Each of the new inductees were presented with a framed copy of the NCO Creed as well as their own copy of The Army Non-commissioned Officer's Guide.

The guest speaker for this event was the Air Defense Artillery Regimental Command Sergeant Major James T. Carr as he spoke

about what it means to be an NCO in today's Army. He stressed the importance of these new inductees to take responsibility for their Soldier's actions and be engaged on a daily basis. He encouraged them to continue to strive for excellence in all that they do by taking advantage of personal and professional schooling while on Team Sill. CSM Carr closed his speech by thanking the community for all their support, to include 31st BDE's COOP partners in all that they do.

The Lawton/Fort Sill Veterans center is no stranger to the brigade, as we conduct routine visits to the many veterans of the past on all holidays.



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Commander's Corner



To our Soldiers and Families,

I have had the opportunity to walk around and visit with our Soldiers here at Fort Sill, at Fort Lewis, and our Soldiers deployed with 3-2 ADA BN. I have found out what is important to our Soldiers. There is a need for balance between work and family and predictability for our Soldiers to accomplish their mission. This is of the utmost importance to me during this critical time for our Brigade.

As the Commander, it is my number one priority to ensure the Brigade's Soldiers, Units and Families are prepared for any mission. 4-3 ADA BN is completing their equipment fielding and gearing up for certifications, 3-2 ADA BN is preparing to come back and begin their redeployment, and 5-5 ADA BN is completing their reintegration and reorganization. With these events, there is no better time to ensure our Soldiers are properly trained experts on their equipment. Being proficient at these common tasks does not stop at the user level, it is important for all leaders to be the expert their Soldiers need to guide them. This leader development stems from all Soldiers and leaders alike understanding the Campaign Plan.

The need of strong, confident leaders and Soldiers is extremely important. However, we must not forget that there is a balance between expert Soldiers and family. The Force Well Being line of the effort, within the Campaign Plan, encompasses all those programs and initiatives that allow the 31st ADA BDE to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of our Soldiers and their Families, while enabling them to restore and maintain balance, cope with the stress they face due to the operational tempo, and have fun! Finally, I would like to remind all of you of the 31st ADA BDE Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Training this month and thank those who have volunteered. Your time is precious and your dedication does not go unnoticed. I encourage you all to embrace the positive things in your life and remember to stay safe. Always ask yourself if you are doing the right thing and the rest should come with ease.

–COL. Garcia

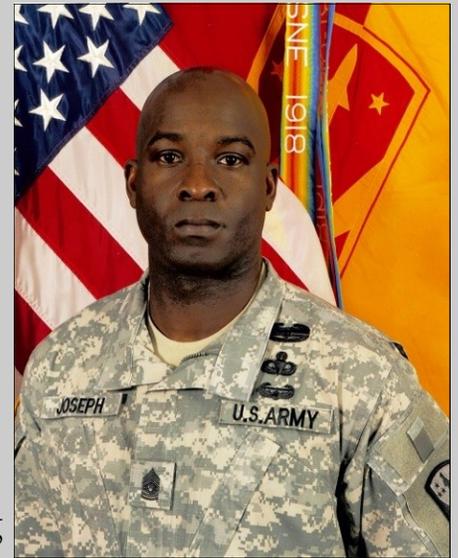
Commander's Corner

First and foremost I would like to thank the Soldiers and family members for accomplishing numerous tasks this quarter. I sincerely appreciate everything you do in keeping our Brigade “Ready and Vigilant”! The Soldiers of this great unit have handled numerous tasks with absolute professionalism, while taking care of family members and maintaining discipline.

The past quarter has offered me the opportunity to visit our Soldiers overseas. I assure you our Soldiers are engaged and look forward to completing their mission. Moreover, everyone is ready to return and begin the redeployment/reintegration process. The “Lethal Strike” Battalion has really made great strides in the MWR facilities in both areas. The reputation of this unit is emulated throughout the Air Defense branch. The discipline of this Battalion, coupled with outstanding SPEAR and joint exercise results, has really propelled this great unit to the forefront of great units in the force.

I would like to thank the Soldiers and family members of the “Dragonslayer” Battalion for an exceptional reintegration. The Battalion has undergone a new Command team changeover. I have confidence this command team will keep the “Dragonslayers” as an elite unit within the Air Defense community. Again, special thanks to Bravo Battery for winning the Knox Award as the best Battery size unit in the branch. I ask that everyone continue to work on the reintegration and enjoy your time after completing an exceptional deployment over the past year.

The “I Strike” Battalion continues to introduce new personnel to the 31ST ADA family. The unit continues to acquire its equipment and gain combat power. I recently observed some energetic Soldiers as the Battalion completed the first phase of validating its equipment several weeks ago. I continue to be amazed by the discipline Soldiers of HHB 31ST ADA. This is undoubtedly one of the most disciplined, trained and cohesive units I have ever witnessed. I would like to thank all personnel who were selected to Sergeant First Class. Congratulations, to our Command Sergeants Major who were selected to serve in the future at Battalion or Brigade positions. “Ready and Vigilant”!



–CSM Joseph

“Passover What?”

“The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt” (Exodus 12:13).
In this age of rock bands, video games, I-Phones and Super Bowls, who cares about Passover? By the way...”Passover what?”

Most of us are aware that spring has arrived: trees are blooming, turkey season has come to Oklahoma, and Easter is just a few weeks away. Oh yes, Easter is a time to hunt Easter eggs; a time go to church, and a time to take your honey out to eat! Where did Easter come from, anyway? Easter didn't just happen by chance. It is rooted in the shedding of blood...and its roots are in Passover. And so we ask again: “Passover what?”

A long time ago, down in Egypt, the Hebrew people were Pharaoh's slaves. He was making a lot of money off of their free labor, and he executed them at will. The Hebrews cried out to God in their suffering, and God answered. He sent a quick reactionary force (composed of Moses and Aaron) to confront Pharaoh and demanded, “Let my people go!” Pharaoh replied, “Not a chance!” God gave Pharaoh an opportunity to change his mind. He sent nine minor plagues upon the whole land. He changed all the water of Egypt into blood. He covered the land with frogs and then lice. He infected cattle, horses, donkeys, camels, and sheep with diseases. He covered people with swarms of flies and filled their houses with them as well. He caused painful boils to break out on people's skin. He caused awful thunder to rock the sky, and then sent hail to flatten all crops in the fields. Then, He sent locusts to eat up the flattened crops, and covered the land for three days with a thick darkness. Still Pharaoh would not capitulate and let the Hebrews leave. Finally, God sent the worst plague of all: He sent the Angel of Death.

In preparation for this plague, God instructed the Hebrews, “Each household is to kill a lamb, wipe its blood on the doorposts of your house and above the door. Then, roast the lamb over a fire and eat it all before morning.”

That night, at midnight, the Angel of Death struck. He killed the first-born in every house—except the homes of Hebrews which were marked with blood. The blood of lambs paid the penalty for the Hebrews' sins. Within the hour, Pharaoh had Moses and Aaron standing at parade rest in his throne room. At last he shouted, “Moses, get your people out Egypt, now!” Thanks to the blood of lambs, by dawn the Hebrews were on the road toward the Promised Land.

Easter was also made possible by the shedding of blood. Jesus of Nazareth became the Lamb of God, whose blood was also shed on the cross of Calvary for our sins. Because he died for us, we can live in freedom with him forever.

One of my fondest memories is of Raymond and Jennie Barkey. As a twenty-four-year-old pastor, I visited in their home. Raymond was about 5' 2” tall and weighed about 120 pounds. Jennie had a hard time walking. They were both about 80 years old and set in their old-fashioned ways. That day Raymond told me a story I will never forget.

He told how in 1917 there was a parade in his small town. Bands marched and played. There were hundreds of flags waving, and speakers with microphones encouraged young men to enlist in the Army and fight the Germans. Before that parade was over, Raymond was riding a horse-drawn wagon packed with other excited volunteers. He trained, went over to France, and fought the Germans. He saw many young men shed their blood for our country. At the end of the war, he was fortunate to come home again, meet and marry his wife, and live a long life of freedom and happiness.

Passover and Easter are about freedom; but freedom is not free. It is purchased at the price of dedication, discipline, vigilance, and sacrifice. Only those willing to shed their blood are worthy of it. If we lose our freedom, we lose everything. What kind of lamb are you?

— CH. (MAJ) Glenn R. Scheib

'Leading From the Front'

By SPC Peterson, Shawna

Here at Rear Detachment 3-2 Air Defense Artillery, Soldiers anxiously await for 3-2 forward to return from theater. As Rear Detachment continually trains and accomplishes the mission, two Non-commissioned Officers have gone above and beyond the call of duty. CPL Kenneth A. Moore was named the 31st Brigade Volunteer of the Month as well as Fort Sill Volunteer of the Month. CPL Moore works hand in hand with Mrs. Rebecca Brunwald and the Family Readiness Group Team here in 3-2 ADA Battalion. On top of being the visual/audio operator, he plans out each event and coordinates with guest speakers. Even with all the demands here at work, he is a devoted husband to Mrs. Marilyn Kate Moore and father to two little boys, Kayden (4 years) and Korbin (3 months). CPL Moore will be recognized on 19 April 2011 from 1800 to 2000 at the Patriot Club for his dedication and commitment.



SFC Robert J. Walker is the prime example of what it means to be an NCO. On 10 March 2011, SFC Walker was recognized as the Fort Sill NCO of the Year for 2010. He was also inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. SFC Walker works very hard as the Rear Detachment First Sergeant and provides motivation for fellow NCOs and junior enlisted to progress in their career and work hard towards their goals.

On 4 March 2011, Rear Detachment Soldiers went to the Veterans Center located here in Lawton, Oklahoma to give back the appreciation for the time they served in the military. Soldiers heard stories of war heroes and enjoyed playing dominoes, pool, and shuffle board. This day with the veterans opened soldiers' eyes to giving back to the community.



Calling All Volunteers!

All volunteers on post must now be registered on the Volunteer Management Information System. Below are instructions on how to register online as a volunteer however everyone must select their unit along with any organization your volunteer for on post to complete the process.

Volunteers at 5-5 ADA BN, please select Joint Base Lewis McCord and then 31st ADA BDE 5-5 ADA BN. If you need further assistance, please contact your FRSA. Thank you for all you do!!!

Instructions for registering as a volunteer:

If you are not registered on the website, START HERE.

- Go to www.MyArmyOneSource.com.
- Click on the Volunteer Tools tab in the upper right corner.
 - Click on Online Opportunity Locator.
- Use the drop down box & select the Military community, Fort Sill
- Use the drop down box & select your unit- 31st ADA BDE, 3-2 ADA BN, 4-3 ADA BN
 - Click on Search.
 - Select the position you are interested in, and click on Apply at the bottom of the page. Click on the Register for this Site link on the right.
- Click here to Register Now, and complete the registration information.
 - Click continue.
- Verify information and click Register at the bottom right hand corner.
- Screen will show "Registration Complete" and "Thank You for Registering".
 - You have been pre-approved and logged into the site.
 - Click continue (returns you to homepage).

If you are registered on the website, START HERE.

- Go to www.MyArmyOneSource.com and log in.
- Click on the Volunteer Tools tab in the upper right corner.
 - Click on Opportunity Locator.
- Use the drop down box & select your unit or other organization.
 - Click on Search.
- Select the position you are interested in, and click on Apply at the bottom of the page.
 - Position description will open on the screen.
- Review to ensure this is the position you are looking for. Scroll to the bottom and click on Submit.
 - Screen will say Volunteer Application Sent.
 - Screen will say "What would you like to do next?"
 - Follow instructions based on your desired goals.

Help another... Volunteer!

Once approved, you may then begin to log your hours. Hours must be input by the 5th of the month for the previous month - see instructions below.

-If you've never logged hours.

- **Go to www.MyArmyOneSource.com and log in.**
 - Click on Volunteer Tools tab in the upper right hand corner.
 - Click on Service History.
 - Click on the Hours button (highlighted in blue) next to your position.
 - To enter for the current month, select Day, & Add for Open Dates.
 - When you are finished entering hours, be sure to scroll to the bottom and click SAVE!
-

Family Readiness Support Assistants

31st ADA BDE FRSA:

Bonnie Jones

Email: yvonne.marie.jones@conus.army.mil

Office: (580) 558-0827

3-2 ADA BN FRSA:

Rebecca Brunwald

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Office: (580) 442-1474

4-3 ADA BN FRSA:

Kristen Martin

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Office: (580)-442-0784

5-5 ADA BN FRSA:

Roxanne Goins

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5-5 ADA Unit Wins Award

By 1st LT Vaitautolu, Carol M.

After a year-long deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom X-XI and Operation New Dawn, the “Bushwhackers”, Bravo Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment were recognized by the Fires Center of Excellence as winners of the 2010 Air Defense Artillery Henry A. Knox Award. The Bushwhackers are the first Air Defense Artillery Battery to win the unit level award annually presented to only one Air Defense Artillery unit and one Field Artillery unit. The Bushwhackers served on the most attacked base in Iraq, credited with ten intercepts of rockets and mortars launched by insurgents in the surrounding area. The battery also provided early warning for over one-hundred pending attacks against 25,000 coalition forces on the base. During the twelve month mission, the Bushwhackers suffered zero casualties, a credit to their training.

The battery was led by Captain Joseph Steele and First Sergeant James Brazill who trained the unit at Fort Lewis, Washington culminating in a Mission Readiness Exercise at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The battery was doubled in size when it received its Navy Sailors comprising of Land-based Phalanx Weapon System technicians, operators, and force protection for each LPWS gun. The battery truly learned what it meant to serve in a joint environment as the Soldiers and Sailors deployed to Iraq serving under the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing which commanded the Air Force base in Iraq. The troops experienced the melting pot of inter-service culture. The Air Force base provided all life-support for sustaining operations and recognized the Bushwhackers on several occasions in which the battery’s efforts saved lives.

The battery improved system performance and effectiveness during its tenure and established procedures for follow-on units in order to sustain the high operational readiness rate. They battery regularly conducted test fires of the guns sending 20 millimeter rounds down-range at all times of the day and night lighting up the Iraqi sky. The battery coordinated with Air Force airspace managers and internally to ensure that execution of both combat and test fires were conducted safely. The mission that the Soldiers and Sailors of Bravo Battery accomplished was the epitome of joint operations and is worthy of recognition.

The bonds that were formed during the deployment are life-long bonds that reach through the services. The families of the Bushwhacker Family Network sustained the troops with care packages, birthday gifts, supplies, and encouraging words. The voluntary efforts of Mrs. Hope Schmidt, Mrs. Reese Shephard, and the rest of the family readiness group were invaluable to the Bushwhacker command team. Upon redeployment, the Navy Bushwhackers returned to their respective Naval commands all over the United States and abroad. Two sailors, FC1 Haskins and FC2 Nagle, volunteered an additional year to their mission in Iraq. These sailors provide the knowledge, experience, and continuity that will guide the Bushwhacker replacements through their deployment. These difficult decisions reflect the patriotism of the men and women of our armed forces and troops serving in harm’s way. The Soldiers and Sailors of Bravo Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery experienced camaraderie, esprit de corps and teamwork that will never be forgotten by the Bushwhacker family.

4-3 ADA BN Judges Science Fair

By 2nd LT Johnson, Caleb

Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery spent an entire week judging the Pioneer Park Elementary Science Fair. Over seventy students participated in the Science Fair with projects ranging from a baking soda and lemon juice bottle rocket to a comparison of different cleaning and antibacterial products. 2nd LT Cody Biggs, Charlie Battery executive officer, said, “The Pioneer Park students are very enthusiastic, creative, and intelligent.” Projects were graded on their overall look, presentation, scientific thinking and an overall “wow” factor.

4-3 ADA BN concentrates its efforts on following the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade Campaign Plan which requires its units to have a Community Outreach line of effort along with the other Army functions people hear so much about. Col Garcia, Commander of the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, is a strong believer in his unit’s relationship with local schools. He states, “By touching the lives of the children in these schools, we will be reaching out to every family associated with the school and bring them into our 31st ADA BDE Family.” An Army post is a big part of the community, so as our nation’s defenders, we are proud to help out our community whenever we can. 2nd LT Christopher Barber said it best when he described his experience. “Science lives in the young. It was nice to see young minds exploring the world of science, that will one day shape our future.”

4-3 ADA BN strongly believes we have all the necessary requirements to have a positive impact on Pioneer Park Elementary. In the past, we have served as hall monitors, set up their safety day, sponsored a field trip to one of the Fort Sill ranges, and now participated in their science fair. We will continue to support Pioneer Park Elementary because as Col. Garcia says “As professionals, we coach, teach, and mentor our subordinates on a daily basis. We will extend this influence into our sponsored school and build a rapport with them that will lead to further involvement of the BDE into various school functions.”

Along with teaching the students to think critically, the Science Fair provided the opportunity for the students and parents to work on projects together and spend quality time with one another. The Soldiers who volunteered to judge the science fair did more than just help out with their sponsor, Pioneer Park Elementary, they learned the importance of community, their role in it, and that washing hands with anti-bacterial soap is the best way to keep them clean.



–Upcoming Events–

- Post CG's Challenge: April 29
- HHB 31st Summer Safety Day: May 06
- BDE Single Soldier Retreat: May 13-15
- Armed Forces Parade: May 21
- 4-3 ADA Summer Safety Day: May 26
- Memorial Day Training Holiday: May 27-30
- BDE DONSA: June 17
- Thunder Run Motorcycle Safety Rally