

Fast Eagle Exercise

By 1st Lt. Timothy Robinson, 4-3rd ADA Battalion, 31st ADA Brigade



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait- The Spartans of C Battery 4th Battalion 3rd Air Defense Artillery continue to train while deployed in the Central Command area of responsibility, where they provide air and missile defense to strategic assets in the region.

The "Spartan" battery recently participated in exercise "Fast Eagle", which was designed to integrate different types of air defense assets and systems. The exercise was designed to involve different services, such as the Air Force and Navy.

The first step in preparing for the exercise was the integration of the flight missile simulation device or FMSSD system.

This system simulates different types of threats that Patriot units may face while deployed. The integration of the FMSSD went smoothly as the contractors worked to ensure the system functioned properly. After systems were configured, the Spartans validated their systems. Each Patriot fire unit protects different assets, so each system is configured differently to ensure the best protection possible.

Once the Patriot systems were configured, the Spartans began training on different tactical scenarios. These scenarios challenged the tactical abilities at every echelon. The week began with C Battery intercepting multiple tactical ballistic missiles (TBMs) during air battles. Not only did C Battery intercept TBMs, they also participated in simulated biological and chemical attacks. Once the impending attack warning was received, the battery command post notified the Patriot sites of the chemical or biological agent hazard with sirens

After the sirens sounded, Soldiers put on their protective gear and moved to the closest underground bunker for safety. They then notified their commander of how many personnel were in the bunker. When asked how important accountability is, Staff Sgt. Travis Honea said, "Accountability is extremely important because we must have awareness of the battlefield."

The end state of exercise “Fast Eagle” was to ensure the tactical readiness of all air defense systems and interoperability among services, which enabled them to communicate seamlessly and ensure that all targets were identified and engaged.

When asked about the exercise, 1st Lt. Caleb Johnson said, “The Fast Eagle exercise helped to build on my tactical skill set and additional training is always beneficial. I look forward to upcoming exercises.”