

Attack Battery Earns Knox Award

By: 1LT Joshua K. Hutchison



Soldiers and units in the Army compete on all levels; whether it is a physical fitness test a weapons range or a post wide competition. Alpha Battery, 4-3 Air Defense Artillery Battalion, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade has proven they are the best Air Defense Artillery battery in the Army. A Battery also known as "Attack" Battery earned the prestigious Henry A. Knox Award for 2012. The award is given each year to the best active component Army Air Defense Artillery Battery.

When asked how it felt to receive such a coveted award, 1st Sgt. Jeramy Dearmon replied, "The most rewarding point as a senior leader is when your Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers get recognized at this level. This shows how blessed Capt. Palermo and I are to serve with these troops every day. Winning the Knox Award validates their high standards and hard work and substantiates the true value of engaged leadership." Dearmon will receive the award this May at Fort Sill on behalf of the unit. A contributing factor to the success of A Battery, in conjunction with its training program, is its commitment to team and morale building.

In addition to tactical Air Defense missions and operations, the Soldiers and leaders have excelled in numerous other areas, winning first place in the 31st ADA's Gunfighter competition and Garner Cup competition, winning the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command and III Corps Soldier of the Year competition, and completing all their deployment preparations without any safety violations. "The Soldiers, NCO's and Officers of A Battery 4-3 ADA have clearly set themselves apart from all other artillery batteries in the Army," said Lt. Col. Rick Wright. "The Attack Battery commanded by Capt. Don Palermo, has proven their combat readiness and demonstrated their commitment to Leading, Training, Maintaining, and Caring for their Soldiers and Families. They are the Army's premier Air Defense

Battery." Attack Battery continues to focus on training and team building and will continue to challenge and push one another to prove that Attack Battery is the best fires battery in the Army.