

NCO Induction Ceremony

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Gaziantep, Turkey – “No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a noncommissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as the Backbone of the Army”. These are the opening sentences to the U.S. Army Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer, recited by every aspiring NCO and seasoned NCO in the Army. In April the Officers, NCOs and Soldiers of B Battery 3-2 Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade hosted an NCO Induction Ceremony.

The ceremony recognized 14 of B Battery’s newest Sergeants initiation into the time honored corps known as the “Backbone of the Army”. About 300 Soldiers from 3-2nd ADA were deployed last December to Turkey in support of a NATO requested mission to guard the southern border of Turkey from air and missile threats. Since deploying, 3-2nd ADA has been busy focusing on their mission, site improvement, and Soldier well-being. “NCO induction ceremonies are a rite of passage in a Soldier’s career,” said Lt. Col Charles Branson. “There is a certain metamorphosis that occurs when a Soldiers leaves the junior enlisted ranks and is inducted into the NCO Corps.” The ceremony was officiated by the acting Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Enoch, the Commander of Troops was Sgt. Maj. James Thagard, and the guest speaker was the 31st ADA Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Gerardo Dominguez. These new 3-2 ADA NCOs literally earned their stripes during the high-profile deployment to Turkey and set the example for their Soldiers to follow.