

Air and Missile Defense Exercise

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The Bravo Battery “Bandits”, 4th Battalion 3rd Air Defense Artillery, participated in the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade’s Air and Missile Defense Exercise, or AMDEX, in December of 2012. B Battery is currently deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and is postured to protect defended assets against air and missile threats. This recent exercise helped build and strengthen U.S. Army relationships with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Forces and greatly promoted regional stability. The main objective of the exercise was to develop and exercise coalition tactics, techniques, and procedures for defense against air and missile threats. GCC Air Defense Force Soldiers traveled to B Battery’s Headquarters to train and fight alongside U.S. Soldiers.

The exercise was conducted throughout the U.S. Central Command airspace and resulted in 100% successful engagements of all tactical ballistic missiles threatening defended assets. This exercise helped to solidify the ability for regional defense forces to transition from shaping operations to active defense of the region. Capt. William D. Burch and 1st Sgt. Carl A. Paddie, B Battery’s Command Team, lead the charge in building relations between their unit and the local GCC Air Defense Force commanded by Captain Yasir. “Training alongside CPT Yasir’s Soldiers has broadened our tactical knowledge and assisted in our overall knowledge of the defense of this host nation,” said Capt Burch. B Battery Soldiers have previously visited host nation fire units but this was the first time air defense Soldiers from the GCC visited B Battery.

“The Soldiers learn from each other’s strengths and weaknesses to help build stronger bonds as well as tear down those barriers of communication that may exist” stated B Battery Executive Officer, 1st Lt. Julian Rodriguez. The AMDEX concluded early December and encompassed over one thousand U.S. personnel and numerous Soldiers from the GCC Nations. AMDEXs are regularly scheduled training

events focused on synchronizing and exercising AMD efforts and capabilities and remain a critical training opportunity for the Air Defense community. "It's not every day that we are called upon to perform our tradecraft with our Allies. This was an event that I will long remember throughout my career," said 1st Lt. Steven Jaskowiak, B Battery Tactical Control Officer. Every member of the Bandit Battery played a crucial role in this exercise. From the Battery Commander on down, all Soldiers reacted to 'mission injects' that tested the Bandit's war-fighting ability. "This was the first of many tests that Bravo Battery will face throughout the deployment, the challenge is to stay fit and ready," said B Battery 1st Sgt. Carl A. Paddie.