



The Deployable Homeland Anti-Cruise Missile Defense Proof of Concept Operation marked the first time a Sentinel radar, left, and a Patriot missile system, right, were deployed with an Avenger air defense system under a single battery commander.

systems. “I would like to think that Patriot can cover everything. It’s great to know that we can rely on Avenger and Sentinel to cover our flanks.”

Staff Sergeant Robert Riedel, the Sentinel section leader, gained a unique perspective on the operation. Perched high on a peak near Point Mugu in the shadow of an abandoned radar site, Staff Sergeant Riedel’s Soldiers provided data to operators below.

Staff Sergeant Riedel said, “This mission gave us an opportunity to test a lot of our systems and operate in new

environments. I fully believe that this battalion could perform any type of mission, anywhere in the world.”



Captain James B. Brindle is the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade assistant S-3. He commanded the 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, battery team that participated in the Deployable Homeland Anti-Cruise Missile Defense Proof of Concept Operation.

SCANNING

6-52 ADA Uncases Its Colors at Fort Sill

by Keith Pannel

The 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery (ADA), uncased its colors in a ceremony at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on 2 July 2006 as the unit officially stood up as part of III Corps and the 31st ADA Brigade headquartered at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Uncasing the colors means, literally, pulling a cover off the unit flag as a gesture symbolizing the movement of a unit from one place to another. The 6-52 ADA’s previous home was Ansbach, Germany, where it was part of the 69th ADA Brigade, V Corps, U.S. Army-Europe.

“It really felt like, ‘Okay, Fort Sill and the community is ready for you,’” said Lieutenant Colonel Artice Scott, battalion commander. “That’s what I felt as I was given command on the field. We’re here, and we’re a permanent fixture of Fort Sill.”

The 31st ADA Brigade is the new parent organization for the Ironhorse Battalion. Colonel Jeffrey Oeser, 31st ADA Brigade commander, was on hand to help Lieutenant Colonel Scott uncase the colors.

“It’s been a busy and hectic couple of months, making this transition from Europe to Fort Sill, all done with family, pets, and household goods in tow,” said Colonel Oeser. “You all did great!”

The entire 31st ADA Brigade is scheduled to move, along with the U.S. Army ADA School, from Fort Bliss to Fort Sill. The Base Realignment and Closure-directed move, which is expected to get underway in fiscal year 2010, will bring about ten thousand Soldiers and family members to Fort Sill and its host community, Lawton, Oklahoma.

Colonel William Greer, Fort Sill chief of staff, said that during his deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, 6-52 ADA’s Patriot missile systems protected his Field Artillery unit from air and missile attacks.

“Thanks, personally, for your protection. Although you woke me up several times pretty rudely, I did appreciate you keeping me and my Soldiers safe,” Colonel Greer said. “Welcome home Ironhorse Battalion, you look magnificent. May God bless you, the Soldiers, and the families of this great battalion!”

—Keith Pannel is a staff writer for the *Fort Sill Cannoneer*



Command Sergeant Major Michael Banes, right, 6-52 Air Defense Artillery battalion command sergeant major, holds the colors while Lieutenant Colonel Artice Scott, left, 6-52 Air Defense Artillery battalion commander, and Colonel Jeffrey Oeser, 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander, unfurl the flag to establish the Ironhorse Battalion at Fort Sill 21 July 2006.