

31ST AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

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Article by Capt. Corey Robertson, 31st ADA Brigade Public Affairs



Click on photo at left, to view 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade's Transfer of Authority (TOA) video by Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Wykes, Air Combat Command Public Affairs.

Southwest Asia – The U.S. Army conducts multiple events and ceremonies that are rich in history and symbolism. One such ceremony was held on 7 October 2013, symbolizing the transfer of authority (TOA) within the U.S. Army Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility

(AOR) between the 69th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade Headquarters stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, and the 31st ADA Brigade stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.

To signify the transfer of authority in the AOR the outgoing brigade command team from 69th ADA Brigade formally “cased” their colors until they returned to their home station whereas 31st ADA Brigade formally “uncased” their colors signifying the assumption of the air defense mission within the AOR.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Maj. Gen. Dana Pittard, the deputy commanding officer for CENTCOM. Pittard’s speech focused on the importance of teamwork in order to accomplish the mission. He praised the outgoing commander Col. Brian Gibson on an outstanding job as the commander of “Task Force Lighting” and also welcomed the incoming commander Col. Michael Morrissey and offered words of encouragement for the road ahead.

“First, we did not get to this point alone, our unit benefitted from teamwork which began a year ago as we leaned heavily on the forward deployed brigade, pulling from their experience, culminating in the incredible professionalism we received from 69th,” said Col Morrissey. “Rest assured, the 31st Brigade is committed to sustaining the momentum with a crystal clear focus on war fighting, training, equipment and soldier readiness. We understand there is no room for slack, and equally important we are committed to building our coalition partnership. A relationship built on shared purpose, respect, and pride.”

Col. Gibson welcomed the command team of the 31st ADA Brigade to the “greatest mission, the greatest partners and the greatest joint-service members a unit could ask for.”

The brigade headquarters is deployed as the command and control element for Patriot units operating within the AOR and provides air defense of critical host nation assets.

Original source location: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/115197/31st-air-defense-artillery-transfer-authority>

Video source location: <http://www.dvidshub.net/video/303489/31st-air-defense-artillery-transfer-authority-ceremony>