

## AIR DEFENDERS PRACTICE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA

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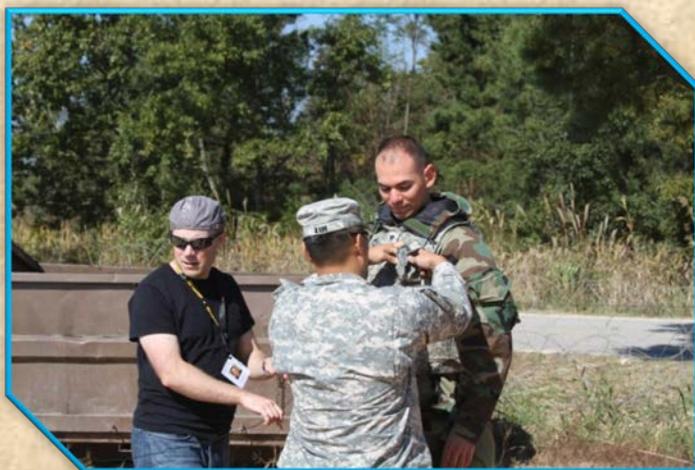
**Suwon Air Base, Republic of Korea** – From October 21 through 26, 2013, “Iron Horse” Soldiers assigned to the 6th Battalion, 52 Air Defense Artillery (6-52 ADA) Regiment, engaged in mock interviews with individuals impersonating media journalists on how to tell the Army story. The practice sessions helped them to articulate their thoughts and conquer any camera shyness they may have had.

*Above, Capt. Edward Ellingson, 35th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade public affairs officer, gives feedback to Capt. Kendrick Vaughn, commander of A Battery, 6th Battalion, 52nd ADA (A/6-52 ADA), after conducting an on-camera interview during the field training exercise at Seosan Air Base on 22 October 2013. (US Army photo)*

Together the public affairs staffs of the 35<sup>th</sup> ADA Brigade and 6-52 ADA, dressed in civilian attire and carrying simulated press credentials, conducted the training during the brigade’s annual field training exercise on Seosan Air Base, Osan Air Base and at Camp Humphreys.

The media is very important to the Army and to telling our story, said 1st Lt. Kim, Seong-Won, a civil affairs officer for 6-52 ADA.

“But many Soldiers do not know how to deal with media,” Kim said. “That is why we planned this exercise.”



*Above left, 1st Lt. Kim, Sung Won, 6-52 ADA civil affairs officer (center), and Spc. Shawn Denham, 35th ADA Brigade photojournalist (left), portraying civilian journalists, prepare Spc. Kendrix Lima (right), a fire controller assigned to A/6-52 ADA, for an on-camera interview training session at Seosan Air Base on 22 October 2013. (US Army photo)*

*Above right, 35th ADA Brigade public affairs officer, Capt. Edward Ellingson (left) and camera man Spc. Shawn Denham, brigade photojournalist; interview Spc. Jeffery Conoley, a fire controller assigned to C/6-52 ADA, during a media engagement as part of the annual brigade field training exercise at Camp Humphreys on 23 October 2013. (US Army photo)*

The media event was designed first and foremost to ensure that Soldiers were always aware of and practiced operational security especially around media sources. Secondly, the training was provided to put Soldiers at ease, becoming more comfortable when talking to journalists during an interview, said Kim. The training was also

intended to help Soldiers meet the information needs for themselves, their family members, their battle buddies and other audiences, as well as support the national media representatives who will be reporting to the world.

While the Soldiers were hesitant to go first when asked for volunteers, once the training was complete it received positive reviews from the participants.

“It was a great opportunity to learn how to deal with the media,” said Spc. Jeffrey Conoley, a launcher crewmember assigned to Charlie Battery.

The Soldiers received feedback on the spot and even got to watch video-taped recordings of their interviews.