

MISSILE RELOAD COMPETITION

Article and photo by Spc. Dustin Woods, B/1-62 ADA

Southwest Asia – The best of the best from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery (B/1-62 ADA) Regiment, also known as the “Bonecrushers,” were invited out for a friendly reload competition with their host nation’s counterparts last October (2013).

“Working alongside our host-nation’s military was a great experience, we had a blast watching our everyday operations being put to use by foreign country soldiers,” said Spc. Dustin Woods.

Soldiers from the host nation welcomed the American soldiers with a tour of their Patriot site and explained some of the small differences between their equipment and ours.

“The host-nation soldiers used our training techniques but with a slight twist on their own slightly different equipment,” said Woods

During the preparation for the competition soldiers assigned to 1-62 ADA trained with soldiers from the host nation prior to the beginning of the missile reload competition. Even though this was a competitive event both crews had fun completing the evaluated drills as quickly as possible, while learning from one another and following all safety guidelines and regulations.

“We learned that there are various strategic ways to complete the drill and different steps that can be taken to complete a reload in a hurry while staying safe,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Hillsman.

Overall the reload competition was a wonderful learning experience and the Bonecrushers of 1-62 ADA had the privilege to both teach and learn from their host-nation counterparts.

“1-62 ADA Battalion looks forward to future events with our host-nation counterparts, it offers an opportunity where we can work and compete together and they can see how we operate our Patriot site,” said Capt. Roderick Cooper, B/1-62 ADA’s executive officer.



At left, soldiers assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery (B/1-62 ADA) pose with a Patriot Missile System prior to the reload competition in October 2013. Pictured are (top row left to right) Staff Sgt. Andrew Hillsman, Spc. Dustin Woods, Sgt. Mitchell Humphreys and Spc. Steven Lapoint (bottom, standing) Staff Sgt. Zachary Roy.