

THANKSGIVING 108TH ADA STYLE

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Spc. Christopher Pate, Pvt. Lisa Diluna, Sgt. Wayne Vandever, Pvt. Victoria Walters and Spc. David Gamble won 10 individual medals for the displays that decorated the "Spartan" Dining Facility Thanksgiving Meal at Fort Bragg, N.C., held on Nov. 26, 2013.

Fort Bragg, N.C. – For soldiers and family members of the 108th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, Thanksgiving is more than just a day and a turkey dinner. Yes, there is the traditional Thanksgiving meal; however, during the week there is also the Fort Bragg Best Dining Facility Competition and the much anticipated game of flag football known as the "Turkey Bowl."

The commander and command sergeant major of the 108th ADA Brigade, Col. Edward J. O'Neill, and Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, as well as other leaders within the brigade, started the festivities off by serving up plates of the traditional Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2013. Many of the newer soldiers to the Army seemed shocked to see their leadership behind the serving line.

At right, Col. Edward J. O'Neill and Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Foley, commander and command sergeant major of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, serve soldiers and family members during the Brigade's Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2013 at the Spartan Dining Facility, Fort Bragg, N.C.



The food was not the only hit of the day. The "Spartan" Dining Facility's Hollywood themed decorations also received rave reviews and 10 award medals. The five-member team worked extra hard beginning two weeks prior to the event, to ensure everything would be ready.

Sgt. Wayne Vandever, a food service specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 108th ADA Brigade made remarks about how proud he was of his team.

“This was the first time that three of the soldiers competed in a competition, and for them to place in the individual category was good,” Vandever said.

The next day there was a downpour but the weather did not stop the Spartan soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 4th ADA (3-4 ADA) Regiment (Airborne) and 1-7 ADA from competing for the coveted title of Turkey Bowl Champion. Female soldiers also competed in a powder puff match.



At left, soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery (3-4 ADA) Regiment (Airborne) and 1-7 ADA did not let the rain deter them from playing in the Turkey Bowl held on Wednesday, 27 November 2013.

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Paul, noncommissioned officer-in-charge (NCOIC) of HHB/108th ADA Brigade Operations, also spoke on the caliber and determination of the soldiers within the brigade.

“Rain won’t stop competitive soldiers and it is always a good time when soldiers can represent their units,” stated Paul.

Esprit de corps events and the continuance of traditions, like a Thanksgiving meal and the Turkey Bowl, ensure that the soldiers of the 108th ADA Brigade are mentally and physically fit, as well as bonded to their battle-buddies for deployments worldwide in defense of the U.S. and Coalition/friendly forces and critical assets.

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