

AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY ANNOUNCES THE 2014 KNOX AWARD WINNER

FORT SILL, Okla. (December 12, 2013) – The Henry A. Knox Award is named for Maj. Gen. Henry A. Knox, the first chief of Field Artillery (FA). The award recognizes both the outstanding active component (AC) Air Defense Artillery (ADA) and FA outstanding battery of the year for exceptional achievement, superior mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence. Nominations are evaluated on tactical proficiency, operational readiness rate, safety, and other key and distinguishing indicators.

The battery selected to receive this award is nominated by their respective battalion and endorsed by their brigade commander. Selections were made following an in-depth evaluation of all nominations by a panel of ADA and Field Artillery (FA) senior officers and noncommissioned officers (NCOs). This year, there were 16 ADA nominations for this prestigious award.

The Fires Center of Excellence (FCoE) and U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School (USAADASCH) has announced the winner of the 2014 Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Henry A. Knox Award for military excellence. The 2014 ADA Henry A. Knox Award goes to:

**Headquarters and Headquarters Battery,
4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery
(HHB/4-3 ADA) Regiment, 31st ADA Brigade
Fort Sill, Okla.**



In preparation for deployment to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR), HHB/4-3 ADA certified two information and coordination central (ICC) crews that also received the Blackjack Gold and Silver Awards during the 32nd U.S. Army Air and Missile Defense Command's (AAMDC's) Standardized Patriot Engagement Assessment of Readiness Report.

The battery continued to showcase its unrivaled technical and tactical proficiency during their deployment as the battery's tactical operations center (TOC) and ICC crews demonstrated excellence by receiving first time "GOs" during Reticle Aim Level-17 (RAL-17) air battle management evaluations. They were also the first to achieve certification in CENTCOM.

The leadership of the 32nd AAMDC handpicked select members of the battery to conduct multiple site surveys and provide the Patriot defense design for the countries of Jordan and Afghanistan. These actions contributed greatly to the success of "Exercise Eager Lion".

Numerous tactical seminars were spearheaded by HHB/4-3 ADA enabling air defense crews across the AOR to hone their skills; improve their knowledge of the Patriot weapon system; advance their understanding of the enemy threats and missile systems; and enhance their awareness of other Joint command and control (C2) equipment and weapon systems.

The battery is credited with the first integration of the U.S. Marine Corps' TPS-59 radar and the Patriot air picture; thereby, increasing early warning capabilities across CENTCOM. The unit was also the first ever, in theater, to establish a radio frequency (RF) link network and battery internal (BTIN) Tactical Digital Information Link-J (TADIL-J) over an internet protocol (IP) network dramatically improving HHB's war-fighting readiness.

With a focus on operational readiness, HHB/4-3 ADA maintained an equipment readiness rate of 98 percent or greater throughout the complete deployment. The battery established three standard operating procedures (SOPs) during the deployment in the areas of site manning operations, logging standards (DA Form 1594), and crew change-over checklist standards, which were also adopted as the standard for the 69th ADA Brigade headquarters. Additionally, HHB/4-3 ADA initiated the practice of evaluating missile reload procedures during operational readiness evaluations/exercises (OREs), which was incorporated into the brigade's ORE SOP.

A unit with extremely high morale, HHB/4-3 ADA is committed to excellence and safety. Soldier and family care is emphasized with an admirable goal of serving, for something greater than themselves. The soldiers and family members of HHB logged more than 1,500 volunteer hours. HHB/4-3 ADA not only met, but exceeded Department of the Army reenlistment objectives for fiscal year 2013 (FY13). In addition, every enlisted soldier assigned to HHB/4-3 ADA completed the structured self-development (SSD) program for their respective grade, and unit members completed a total of 318 college credits.

Newly promoted Sgt. Joshua M. Stoker, assigned to HHB/4-3 ADA, won the 32nd AAMDC 1QFY13 Logistics Hero Award. Staff Sgt. Duane J. Rutherford, also from HHB, was inducted into the U.S. Army Forces Central Command (ARCENT) Audie Murphy Club. On separate occasions, three individual HHB soldiers were selected for recognition as 4-3 ADA's Battalion Soldier of the Month during 2013.

During the year-long deployment, no battery members were cited with DUIs, Class C or higher accident incidents, any positive drug or alcohol violation/incidents, cases of sexual assaults or harassments, equal opportunity (EO) complaints, and/or safety violations while conducting their air defense mission.

During the extremely high-operational tempo of redeployment operations, the unit concentrated on teamwork to accomplish their mission. The unit's redeployment of personnel and equipment from CENTCOM to Fort Sill was executed without safety issues or reportable incidents. Proactive and engaged leadership was the keys to their success.

Regardless of the mission – deployed, or in garrison – HHB/4-3 ADA stood out as the premier active ADA battery throughout 2013. The enlisted soldiers, noncommissioned officers (NCOs) and officers of HHB/4-3 ADA have readily demonstrated their tactical proficiency, operational readiness, standards, discipline, innovation, and leadership that define superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence and are acknowledged as the 2014 Air Defense Artillery Henry A. Knox Award winners.

The Chief of Air Defense Artillery Brig. Gen. Donald G. Fryc and the ADA community, congratulates HHB/4-3 ADA for being recognized as the 2014 Henry A. Knox Award recipient.

Additionally, we'd like to recognize the leaders who acted, when given the opportunity to nominate exceptional soldiers within their command – for leading by example.