

KOREA'S NEWEST ADA BRIGADE COMMANDER MAKES FIRST IMPRESSION

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At left, Col. Thomas Nguyen, commander of 35th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, listens as he is briefed by the 6th Battalion, 52nd ADA (6-52 ADA) Regiment command team. The composite battalion has air and missile defense (AMD) capabilities to defend their designated area of responsibility (AOR).

SUWON AIR BASE, Republic of Korea – The newest Commander of the 35th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, Col. Thomas Nguyen, introduced himself to the Soldiers of the 6th Battalion, 52nd ADA (6-52 ADA), and shared his expectations of the *Iron Horse* Battalion with them during his site visit on 17 July 2013.

“My job is to ensure our readiness on all dimensions,” said Nguyen.

In addition to ensuring that the composite (Patriot and Avenger) unit is ready to *fight tonight*, Nguyen said he also wanted to get to know the Soldiers and their families. Soldiers can expect him to empower them at the lowest level, he said. An honest mistake is permitted as long as it’s not illegal, immoral, degrading, or detrimental to the mission.

Nguyen also has expectations of the Soldiers. Among them, the requirement to treat everyone with dignity and respect, be tactically and technically proficient, and be safe and look out for each other. Topping Nguyen’s list for the Soldiers were the four “Rs” – be in the right place, at the right time, in the right uniform, with the right skills.

At right, Col. Thomas Nguyen, commander of the 35th ADA Brigade, greets the 6-52 ADA (AMD) command teams.



Nguyen charged the *Iron Horse* leaders to take care of Soldiers and their families; ensure training and material readiness; and develop physically and mentally tough warfighters.

“High standards; well disciplined Soldiers and leaders; high morale and esprit de corps; and Soldiers displaying initiative are among the indicators of a good unit,” said Nguyen.

On the other hand, leaders not making the extra effort, abusing drugs, missing deadlines, and exhibiting relaxed military courtesies are among the issues that units must work to alleviate, he said.

Nguyen toured the *Iron Horse* facilities on Suwon Air Base before the meeting with the troops.

Nguyen came to Korea from Carlisle Barracks, Pa., where he graduated from the Army War College.

Prior to that, he was the ADA/ Effects Branch Chief, Human Resources Command Center of Excellence (HRCoE) at Fort Knox, Ky.

His wife and three children accompanied him, and are the latest additions to the Osan Air Base community.

At left, 35th ADA Brigade Commander, Col. Thomas Nguyen, introduces himself and his expectations to the Soldiers of 6-52 ADA (AMD) on 17 July 2013 in Suwon, Republic of Korea.

