

# US Army National Guard Air Defense Artillery Units



*Soldiers from the 263rd Army Air Missile Defense Command and 678th Air Defense Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, graduate the Patriot missile training program at a ceremony held in Columbia, S.C., Jan. 6, 2018. The eight month-long training was conducted by the South Carolina Army National Guard to give air defense Soldiers a better understanding of the Patriot missile weapons system and enhance their capabilities to manage this asset. (Sgt. David Erskine/U.S. Army)*

## 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command is one of the Army's four AAMDCs and the only Reserve Component/National Guard AAMDC.

The 263rd AAMDC in its assignment to U.S. Northern Command has the responsibility for training, readiness and oversight (TRO) for the National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense System and the Deployable Integrated Air Defense System (NCR-IADS). NCR-IADS has provided air defense of the National Capital since 2003 and continues to provide early warning for Presidential travel and National Security Special Event today.

The 263rd AAMDC led culminating training events for the NCR-IADS Task Force (164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade) and the NCR-IADS Shooter Battalion Training Event (2nd Battalion, 263rd Air Defense Artillery). The AAMDC conducted the required operational readiness evaluation (ORE) of the NCR-IADS Task Force. The certification and ORE events were executed as elements of 263rd AAMDC's TRO responsibilities under Operation Noble Eagle and NCR-IADS.

The 263rd AAMDC completed new equipment training and new equipment fielding of the Air and

Missile Defense Planning and Control System in August. The unit will deploy the newly fielded expeditionary equipment at the end of October for Exercise Vigilant Shield 2019. The unit will also complete an external evaluation (EXEVAL) during that same Vigilant Shield Tier I exercise.

Soldiers in 263rd AAMDC executed Mission Command and Exercise Control of B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery and supporting personnel from 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion and 6th Brigade Engineer Battalion (4th Brigade Combat Team Airborne, 25th Infantry Division) during the U.S. Northern Command's Exercise Vigilant Shield 18.7 August through September. VS-18.7 was a proof-of-concept deployment exercise with a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense unit in order to explore possible enhancements to the current homeland ballistic missile defense capability.

Air defenders in 263rd AAMDC conducted EXEVALs for 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in January 2018 and for 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in April 2018.

The 263rd AAMDC operates a Reserve Component Patriot Air Defense Artillery Fire Control Officers (ADAFCO) Course and 140E training and screening program. The Patriot Training Program prepares National Guard Air Defenders for the Active Component Patriot ADAFCO Course, Patriot Enlisted Tactical Control Assistants, and Warrant Officers for the 140E Warrant Officer Advance Course (WOAC). The program has successfully prepared four ADAFCOs to graduate from the ADAFCO Course and three graduates of the Active Component Patriot WOAC/140E Transition Course. This unique National Guard resourced program advances the readiness of Reserve Component Air Defenders and closes gaps in qualified Patriot ADAFCOs.

263d AAMDC deployed its 678th ADA Brigade Mission Command Element to Europe. The command also deployed its C Battery, 2nd Battery, 263rd SHORAD to Europe as the first SHORAD Unit to Europe since the post-Cold War draw down of forces. Both of these South Carolina Army National Guard Air Defense elements participated in live fire and mission essential events to lead the way for future units to deploy and be successful.

🌐 <http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1415673/sc-guard-leads-the-way-with-new-missile-training-program/>

🌐 <http://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/1441252/sc-national-guard-air-defense-unit-validated-for-missions/>



*Col. Richard Wholey, Jr., 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander, South Carolina National Guard and Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Collins, 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade command sergeant major uncase the colors during a ceremony in the Von Steuben Community Center, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach, Germany, to commemorate the beginning of the brigade's deployment to Europe in support of U.S. Army Europe Operation Atlantic Resolve. (Eugen Warkentin/U.S. Army)*

## 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

The 678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade is an air defense artillery brigade of the United States Army, South Carolina Army National Guard. Organized in 2014 and headquartered in Eastover, S.C., the 678th ADA Brigade is the newest air defense brigade in the U.S. Army. The mission of the 678th ADA is to command and coordinate the operations of subordinate air defense artillery battalions and other assigned and attached units in its operational footprint. The 678th ADA Brigade is the only integrated Fires brigade in the Army's inventory and is the first ADA to return to the European Theater since the end of the Cold War. The 678th ADA is stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach on a nine-month rotation in support of U.S. Army Europe Operation Atlantic Resolve and will participate in joint and multinational training exercises throughout Europe with NATO allies and partners. USAREUR forces serve a critical role in advancing U.S. interests and provide a visible symbol of the U.S. commitment to the European regional allies.

🌐 [https://www.army.mil/article/202841/678th\\_air\\_defense\\_artillery\\_brigade\\_uncases\\_colors\\_in\\_ansbach\\_germany/](https://www.army.mil/article/202841/678th_air_defense_artillery_brigade_uncases_colors_in_ansbach_germany/)

### 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery

The 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery maintains mission proficiency through the Artillery Skills Proficiency Test while working diligently through a multitude of firing tables throughout the year. The 1-178th FA is headquartered along the South Carolina coastline and shoulders a heavy workload for the

state's emergency response plan. The 1-178th FA is the Northern Conglomerate lead for Defense Support for Civil Authorities (DSCA) Operations and has responded to state emergencies three of the last four years. Most recently, the 1-178th FA led DSCA efforts for South Carolina in response to Hurricane Florence which proved to be a powerful and long-lived Cape Verde Hurricane that caused unprecedented freshwater flooding throughout the North-eastern landscape.

In response to the impending Hurricane Florence, Task Force 1-178th rapidly mobilized more than 500 Soldiers from seven different units in a coordinated effort that successfully executed 65 missions. These missions included search and rescue, shelter supply, and contractor supply distribution among other traditional support missions. TF 1-178th dispensed 26,000 gallons of fuel across 11 counties that supported nine different emergency operation centers. Additionally, TF 1-178th provided point of distribution security, aided in sand bag operations and supported more than 100 traffic control points.

While conducting traditional DSCA operations, TF 1-178th pioneered the Aqua Dam Project for the state of South Carolina. The Aqua Dam pumped water from the Waccamaw and Black Rivers filling over 2.2 miles of water blivets. The Aqua Dam project was used to redirect water flow around Highway 17 in Georgetown, S.C. enabling the bridges to remain open. The project was an overwhelming success due to the tireless efforts of more than 100 Soldiers from TF 1-178th.

### 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

Air Defenders from the 1st Battalion, 204th ADA spent this past training year focusing on ADA mission essential task list training and preparing to perform their wartime mission. Avenger crews completed multi-mission mobile processor live-fire certifications and Sentinel Radar teams trained to Table IV standards. The battalion conducted an intensive field exercise during annual training focusing on collective training. Over the past year we have had several Soldiers mobilize in support of other units within the state deployed overseas. Currently the battalion is developing our pre-mobilization training plan as we prepare to support operations in the National Capital Region and U.S. European Command over the next couple of years.

First to Fire, Last to Leave!

### 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment began Training Year 18 tasked with the responsibility of being identified as a focused readiness unit (FRU). Beyond this readiness requirement, the battalion was simultaneously assigned missions in the National Capitol Region-Operation Noble Eagle and to Europe as part of the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI). After efforts to accomplish FRU requirements were met, the battalion



*Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery fire a Stinger missile from an Avenger weapon system during a live-fire exercise. (Courtesy photo)*

shifted focus to the two primary mobilization missions, assigning C Battery from Marysville, Ohio, to the EDI mission with the bulk of the Cincinnati, Ohio-based battalion heading to the NCR in Washington D.C.

For the Soldiers and leaders of the reconfigured C Battery, in preparation for their European mission they had just eight months to man the mission, plan air defense design, and conduct Avenger gunnery skills tasks to include ground and air engagements. Soldiers of A Battery, 1-174th ADA Regiment conducted these same tasks for their mission to the National Capitol Region. All this was preparation for the culminating training event at Fort Bliss, Texas, which concluded with the live-fire exercise (LFX) employing the M3P machine gun and the Stinger missile on the Avenger Weapon System. The LFX was a three-phase event beginning with C Battery, 1-174th ADA Regiment conducting ground and air target engagements using the M3P which is an electrically powered .50 caliber machine gun mounted on the turret. Twelve two-person crews successfully qualified in the Fort Bliss desert.

The next two phases were Stinger missile live fire from the Avenger platform for each mission element. Contracted personnel launched Outlaw

remote controlled aircraft for the teams to engage using protocol designed for air defense units appropriate to each mission. The active-duty missions facilitated the allotment of 36 missiles to be fired day and night over a 72-hour period. The battalion achieved an excellent kill rate, earning several coins for air defenders from the leadership of the 1st Battalion (Training Support), 362nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment leadership, Lt. Col. John Redford and Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Enoch. While all crews validated in preparation for upcoming missions, the Top Gun Award went to the crew of Staff Sgt. Nicholas Steed (non-commissioned officer in charge), Sgt. Joshua Thomas (team chief), and Pvt. 1st Class Carson King (gunner). The design and concept of operation was planned, prepared and executed by the master gunners of the 1-174th ADA Regiment Sgt. 1st Class Jason Snow (battalion master gunner), Sgt. 1st Class Savannah Dewey (A Battery master gunner), and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Conley (C Battery master gunner).

The EDI mission is heavily maneuver focused which required the EDI "Charlie" Battery to be extensively evaluated with numerous tasks on 24-hour operations over seven days. The environment and operations tempo provided demanding circum-

stances to test the mettle of the unit. While cohesively building a highly capable team, Capt. Christopher Vasquez' EDI Battery successfully certified on all collective tasks to complete all training benchmarks to finalize movement to their European mission.

The EDI "Charlie" Battery is participating in Operation Combined Resolve XI with several future missions scheduled across European countries. The bulk of the battalion mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle, stationed in Washington D.C. They have the unique opportunity to protect the National Capitol Region designed to assess the Continental North American Defense command region's (CONR's) capability to identify and track low altitude, slow speed aerial vehicles. This joint effort includes experts from the Federal Aviation Administration, NORAD, CONR, the Eastern Air Defense Sector, Joint Air Defense Operation Center (JADOC), and other agencies. Soldiers from the battalion relay observation information back to the JADOC. While air defense artillery had its beginnings in the field artillery, this mission engages the Soldiers of the 1-174th ADA Regiment to connect from the past to the present by implementing their capabilities of modern ADA sensor and defense systems within the NCR at the various posts that were on the front lines of the defense of our young nations' capitol centuries earlier.

Headed by Lt. Col. Keith Melson and Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Belding, the 1-174th ADA Regiment looks forward to successful missions on both fronts with well-trained air defenders and forward leaning leadership. The dual missions are led by the following battery leadership: EDI mission C Battery Capt. Christopher Vasquez with 1st Sgt. Scott Ralls; the NCR mission are Headquarters, Headquarters Battery commander Capt. Justin Roberts with 1st Sgt. Matthew Helmes; A Battery 1st Lt. Aaron Smith with 1st Sgt. Benjamin Wenger; and B Battery Capt. Kyle Wilson and Sgt. 1st Class Lydia Morton.

With the steadfast professionalism combined with the demanding pace of duty, the 1-174th ADA Regiment exemplifies their motto of Tried and True.

Tried & True

## **164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Florida Army National Guard, Blazing Skies**

It was a high operational tempo year for the entirety of the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade of the Florida Army National Guard. It included two overseas deployments, one stateside mobilization, a rotation through the National Training Center and brigade-wide, multi-faceted preparations for future deployments and nine annual training events set for what is shaping up to be an even busier 2019.

In early January, Soldiers with B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, Task Force Spartan, were

mobilized to Kuwait in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. This was the first time since World War II a FLARNG Field Artillery battery deployed overseas to conduct field artillery centric missions. In addition to their day and night missions, Soldiers conducted a command post exercise with counterparts in the Kuwaiti Land Forces, in which they executed rehearsals for mission processing. Task Force Spartan returned home, in early November, just in time for the holidays. In April, the battalion mobilized a second firing element to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

In April, over 30 FLARNG Soldiers under Task Force Apollo mobilized in defense of the National Capital Region supporting the Integrated Air Defense Systems mission for Operation Noble Eagle. The Joint Air Defense Operations Center continues to provide 100 percent ground-based air coverage and reinforced defense of the NCR using both Army and Air Force organizations charged with protecting critical assets located throughout the region. For the seventh time since 2003, the brigade is protecting defended assets and enabling air sovereignty; prosecuting over 156 targets of interest; executing over 1,000 crew drills, participating in seven Falcon Virgos, 70 Dull Spears, 40 Amalgam Arrows, one National Special Security Event, two Winchesters, and trained/certified in excess of 15 Airmen and ground-based air defense battalion teams.

In late April, a Battery+ of Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery earned a rotation through NTC at Fort Irwin, Calif., where they focused on fine-tuning their standard operating procedures for line haul operations, air defense operational troop leading procedures, Sentinel Radar placement and integration with the Brigade Combat Team Air Defense and Airspace Management Cell, and convoy and night operations in an austere environment.

To close out the training year, Soldiers with the

*Soldiers with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade receive mission briefings ahead of their annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla. (2nd Lt. James Lanza/U.S. Army)*



164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade remained steadfast during their two-week annual training in the summer to hone their warfighter skills and field craft in preparation for anticipated mobilizations around the world. In May, 1st and 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery executed a variety of field exercises while simultaneously running .50-caliber M3P machine gun ranges and getting their Soldiers reacquainted with their gas masks in the gas chamber. In June, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery also took to the field to execute battle drills and prepare for future theater-level air and missile defense command and control missions.

[facebook.com/164thADABDE](https://www.facebook.com/164thADABDE)

## 100th Missile Defense Brigade

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade (ground-based midcourse defense) engages and destroys intercontinental ballistic missiles in defense of the United States and designated areas. The unit was activated, Oct. 16, 2003, and is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The 100th Missile Defense Brigade is a unique, multi-component unit, comprising National Guard and active component Soldiers. The total force of the 100th MD Brigade includes assets in six countries and five states, including the 49th Missile Defense Battalion of the Alaska Army National Guard, Detachment 1 of the California Army National Guard, the Fort Drum Security Detachment, Fort Drum, N.Y., and five globally-located missile defense batteries.

Missile defense relationships were strengthened throughout 2018 via National Guard and active-component cooperation. For the first time, Soldiers of the 100th MD Brigade conducted standardized Gunnery Table VIII certifications and operational readiness evaluations of all five AN/TPY-2 (Forward-based Mode) missile defense batteries. These certifications and operational readiness evaluation/exercises tested the Command and Control Battle Management and Communications Sensor Managers and the AN/TPY-2 radar operators of the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Missile Defense batteries located across U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

Soldiers of the 100th MD Brigade also strengthened partnerships across sister services through participation in joint naval exercises, including several ballistic missile defense (BMD) exercises and Resilient Shield 2018, an annual computer-based exercise focused on BMD training.

Readiness remained a top priority for the 100th MD Brigade, as the Soldiers participated in North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command Exercise Vigilant Shield, U.S. Strategic Command exercises Global Lightning and

Global Thunder, as well as internal exercises Guardian Strike and Guardian Watch.

Soldiers of the 100th MD Brigade hosted distinguished visitors from the U.S. government and military organizations throughout the year. Those visitors included: Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Gen. Mark Milley, Gen. John Hyten, Gen. Robert Brown, Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Lt. Gen. Samuel Greaves, Maj. Gen. Stephen Davis, Maj. Gen. Peter Byrne, Brig. Gen. Richard Kim, Brig. Gen. Angela Cadwell and several congressional staff delegations.

Throughout the year, the 100th MD Brigade welcomed media outlets from American news affiliates such as NBC, as well as hosted the unit's first-ever Media Day at Fort Greely, Alaska, with the support of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion. This event included media representatives from local news outlets, as well as Reuters, and Japanese media, due to heightened tensions with North Korea in 2017.

As the Soldiers of the 100th MD Brigade continue to embrace rapidly changing threats and missile defense technologies, the focus remains on defending the homeland and the citizens of the United States from intercontinental ballistic missile attack. *Guard – Engage – Destroy.*

[facebook.com/100thMDB](https://www.facebook.com/100thMDB)

[https://www.army.mil/article/213233/none\\_shall\\_pass\\_100th\\_missile\\_defense\\_brigade\\_marks\\_15\\_years\\_of\\_homeland\\_missile\\_defense](https://www.army.mil/article/213233/none_shall_pass_100th_missile_defense_brigade_marks_15_years_of_homeland_missile_defense)

*The U.S. Missile Defense Agency, in cooperation with the U.S. Air Force 30th Space Wing, the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense and U.S. Northern Command, and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) successfully intercepted an intercontinental ballistic missile target during a test of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the nation's ballistic missile defense system. A ground-based interceptor was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., and its exo-atmospheric kill vehicle intercepted and destroyed the target in a direct collision. (Leah Garton/Missile Defense Agency)*

