



*A U.S. Army Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) launching station sits at the ready in Israel, March 4, 2019. The deployment of a THAAD System to Israel is an exercise involving U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and Israeli forces, under the Dynamic Force Employment concept. The exercise builds readiness and interoperability in the region, demonstrates the U.S. capability to rapidly deploy air defense assets globally, and demonstrates U.S. Army Europe's mission to deter potential adversaries and support allies. (Staff Sgt. Cory D. Payne/U.S. Air Force)*

# Factors of success in ADA Global Force Projection Dynamic Force Employment Concept

*By 1st Lt. Michael Davis*

An air defense unit deployed under the Department of Defense's Dynamic Force Employment Concept (DFE) for the first time in early March 2019. This deployment was the first of what surely will be many for America's units with strategic air and missile defense capabilities. This essay highlights air defense's role in the DoD's new DFE concept and identifies the factors that made

this deployment successful for B Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD).

According to the Department of Defense's 2018 National Defense Strategy, the DFE concept calls for a more rapid and unpredictable deployment of forces around the world. The National Defense Strategy lays out a deliberate approach to force posture that is

designed specifically to address global competition against China and Russia. The strategy relies on posturing the force to reflect the strategic priorities of the U.S., and wielding that force dynamically to deter global competitors and regional aggressors. As concern of missile use prevalence from both China and Russia evolves, coupled with threats in the Arabian Peninsula and Iran, air and

missile defense's relevance takes center stage. Many actors can now field a broad arsenal of advanced missiles prompting the decision to rapidly incorporate U.S. air defense capabilities and systems. As part of perhaps the highest profile DFE modeled mission so far for U.S. Army, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade deployed a THAAD battery to Israel. The deployment was true to the stratagem by being operationally unpredictable. The successful deployment of THAAD system's in Israel was made possible by an excellent combination that involved adherence to the Sustainment Readiness Model (SRM), expert battery leadership, and focused training on unit movement operations (UMO).

B-2nd ADA's mobilization was a far cry from the norm principally because of its departure from the predictable rotational schedule inlaid in the Army SRM. B-2nd ADA faced many challenges, chiefly the issue of time. Typically, units receive their orders to deploy months in advance, yet Imperial Brigade's adherence to the DFE concept directed that B-2nd ADA's mobilization be reduced to 45 days. In stride, B-2nd ADA was able to meet the Army SRM's guidelines for mobilization in the train/ready cycle well before its actual call to arms. B-2nd ADA achieved a baseline level of decisive action proficiency and ability to deploy in an extremely compressed timeline. The unit relied heavily on the use of Army-wide processes such as Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises (EDREs). These EDREs made the unit eligible to be certified by quickly meeting several requirements that included pre-deployment training, gear staging and the initial steps toward unit movement operations. Additionally, B-2nd's training posture was in-line with the Army's train/ready cycle which smoothly facilitated the unit's transition through both bureaucratic and logistical hurdles that could have potentially crippled its mobilization.

Implementation of mission

command by capable leaders was a central force for 11th Brigade's ability to dispatch a THAAD battery autonomously in theater. As a seasoned commander, B-2nd ADA's battery commander, Capt. Samuel Baldwin capitalized on the wealth of knowledge at hand from experienced warrant officers and within the enlisted ranks to direct the movement of his Soldiers, equipment and supplies in a considerably short time frame with zero issues. Only through his ability to provide purpose, direction and motivation to his troops was this feat remotely possible. Following the initial receipt of orders to deploy, B-2nd ADA's leadership initiated focused-training for air, sea, rail, port operations and in-stream unloading. He also provided expert guidance that synchronized the various personnel, sections and agencies to the unit's compressed movement timeline.

B-2nd ADA had a simple unit movement process for its rapid deployment. This was made possible exclusively because of the established systems afforded by Fort Bliss' robust mobilization infrastructure. Fort Bliss holds the distinction of being one out of the only two Mobilization Force Generation Installations (MFGI) in the United States. B-2nd ADA made great use of its facilities to take advantage of its mobilization stations to conduct its pre-mobilization training to prepare Soldiers for the pending deployment. Soldiers appointed for unit movement operations went into action to spearhead the bulk of the processes that included internal unit inspections, documentation of the battery's rolling stock and containers as well as familiarization with the specialized air assets needed for specific THAAD equipment movement. UMO's also performed the roles of liaisons within Fort Bliss' mobilization and deployment division as they utilized their civilian counterparts' logistical and administrative support to streamline Soldier readiness processing re-

quirements, Rapid Fielding Initiative and unit transportation requirements. B-2nd ADA's use of Army doctrine, regulations and UMO techniques complimented by EDRES and other deployment systems allowed the rehearsal of movement which in-turn enforced processes that made the deployment easier.

The THAAD system's deployment to Israel capped a stunning finale brought to fruition exclusively by a series of calculated moves that included handpicked commanders, around-the-clock communication and semi-autonomous agency by the B-2nd ADA (THAAD) battery leadership. The Department of Defense's DFE concept was designed to showcase the military's agility to react to potential adversaries. In a contemporary sense, B-2nd ADA's ability to mobilize and deploy when called upon provides an example of the legitimate expectations of the DoD for units' capabilities in accordance with modules of the SRM. Staunch leadership and the ability to coordinate, synchronize and resource at the unit level is the benchmark that is expected of all service members in command positions. B-2nd ADA was successful exclusively because of its expert use of mission command and adherence to the SRM that drove focused training for pre-deployment and the overall mission at hand. The 11th ADA Brigade is indeed the most deployed and largest air defense organization in the world and its' ability to support contingent operations that require operational defensive coverage is noteworthy as a result of B-2nd ADA's accomplishment. Eleventh ADA Brigade has been steadfast in the dynamic force employment and readiness of Patriot and THAAD weapon systems whenever the need arises.

*1st Lt. Michael Davis is an air defense officer currently stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas. He has served as a Patriot platoon leader and a Patriot battery executive officer. He currently serves as an assistant S-3 officer at the 11th ADA Brigade.*