

Task Force C-RAM Soldiers engage, destroy incoming enemy rocket

Story by CSM Paris Williams / 3rd Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery / Courtesy Photo / October 2009

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – As the sun set over Camp Liberty, coalition forces began their nightly routine. The Soldiers and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, continue their mission defending the skies over Iraq from inevitable rocket attack.

Suddenly, the enemy fired several rockets targeting friendly ground forces. The Task Force Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar service members stood ready and instantly leaped into action. They sent a resounding “incoming, incoming, incoming” audible alarm throughout the Forward Operating Base within seconds of the insurgents’ assault signaling the troops to take cover. Immediately, coalition forces hit the dirt and headed to bunkers and wherever they could find protection.



Gun Marking: Soldiers and Sailors of Task Force, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar, mark Gun "First" with a "Mortar Kill" from the unit's defense of Camp Liberty.

“I believe this system saves lives and prevent many from injuries here in Iraq,” said Staff Sgt. Rene Jones, an Engagement Operations Center battle noncommissioned officer. “At first, I had questioned this system not knowing its full potential, but now I and many others can sleep easier knowing that they are being protected by a system as good as this.”

The Soldiers and Sailors of E Battery, 5-52 ADA, executed a flawless battle drill. Within seconds, the fire command was issued and the engagement began. The Sailors manning “First” gun went into action firing multiple rounds of 20-mm cannon fire, painting the night sky red with

tracer fire. One enemy rocket was destroyed over the 1st Calvary Division Headquarters building with debris falling to the ground.

“I hope in my future in the Army that I will get another opportunity with this system. I would deploy with anyone from Echo 5-52 again, because I know they will meet the standards appointed above them and they will accomplish the mission in front of them,” said Spc. James Gray an Engagement Operations Center operator.

The successful intercept over Camp Victory, Iraq, was a culmination of skill and adrenaline which sums up the day in the life of Task Force 3-3 ADA.

“Our Navy Sailors recently conducted a [Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority], bottom-line they came here ready to fight. I am so proud to be given the opportunity to lead these highly motivated Soldiers and Sailors,” said Lt. Col. Randall McIntire, the 3-3 ADA commander. “They truly are the best our nation has to offer and they made a difference tonight.”