

TF 3-3 ADA ended their yearlong mission with a Farwell run

Story by Corporal Joel E. Goffinett / 3rd Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery / Courtesy Photo / February 2010



BG JD Johnson, ADC-O, I Corps participates in the Task Force C-RAM run on Camp Victory Iraq.

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – The Soldiers and Sailors mark the end of a successful year long tour in Iraq by hosting a camp run. The “I HEARD THE ALERT AND HIT THE DIRT RUN” stretched 3.3 miles along the scenic landscape of the Victory complex under the protective defense of the C-RAM 20 MM Land Based Phalanx Weapon System.

These great Soldiers and Sailors of Echo Battery, 5-52 ADA deployed to Iraq last year in support of United States Forces Iraq. The “Punisher” Battery provided Indirect Fire Protection to the Victory Base Complex and Sense and Warn capability for several forward operating bases in and around the Baghdad area.

In typical Army fashion the run kicked off at O dark thirty in 32 degree temperatures. But that didn’t stop over 600 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from supporting the C-RAM Soldiers that have spent a tireless year defending them against indirect fire. Several distinguished guests participated in the run. Major General John (JD) Johnson, I Corps, Deputy Commanding General-Operations and Brigadier General Heidi V. Brown, Deputy Commanding General-Sustainment were among the runners.

Three 20 MM C-RAM cannons were used as the starting pistol and the massive salvo could be heard all around the base. The command team of TF 3-3 ADA, LTC Randy McIntire and Command Sergeant Major Paris Williams were on hand with the distinguished Colors of 3-3 ADA to represent the Soldiers and Sailors from their organization that are currently conducting combat operations on 15 forward operating bases throughout Iraq.

“I am very proud of the hard work and dedication given to us from this battalion” said BG Heidi V. Brown, ADC-S, I Corps.

The I STRIKE Battalion will redeploy back to Fort Bliss, TX upon completion of their Transition of Authority to the Dragon Slayers of 5-5 ADA within the next few weeks.