

Air defenders munch on past, future concepts

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Monitor Staff

The Office, Chief of Air Defense Artillery hosted their annual ADA Honorary Regimental Luncheon at the Officers' Club Jan. 5.

The event began with a briefing of what the ADA branch has done in the past, how it supported Operation Iraqi Freedom, and of what the future holds as the branch goes through the transformation of the new weapon systems.

"We have great systems coming on such as SLAMRAAM, JLENS, and THAAD, which are all funded programs that are going to take place by FY11. The [1st Air Missile Defense, 44th Air Defense Artillery] guys are doing great work with their outfit in placing a trail for new concepts for an air and missile defense battalion. The battalion is going to employ the patriot and avenger together. This is great history," said Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, Fort Bliss commanding general.

Lennox thanked the current honorary leadership for passing on the history of the air defenders in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and for their participation in energizing young people and serving as role models. He also presented an engraved silver star to four retired regimental colonels who have served for six years or more.

"We have a great future in the branch and I would like to ask you to help us encourage people and tell



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Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, Fort Bliss commanding general, presents Retired Col. Norman Lawrence from the 7th Regiment, with an engraved silver star to thank him for his participation as an honorary regimental leader for the past six years.

them the story of the past and future," said Lennox.

Lt. Col. Jimmy Jenkins, OCADA director, said this was the first time in the history of the Army a branch has managed to fill all the regiments with regimental colonels, command sergeant majors, and warrant officers with the air defense leading the way.

"This event links us with our past. We have folks who have been through it all and can give great guidance and counsel to battalion commanders, sergeant majors, and warrant officers. You bring in these guys and they really give you perspective on what they have been through and life at different times in our branch," said Jenkins.

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