



Soldiers from A Battery, 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, move their missile launcher to a staging area on the NAMFI range. Once there, the vehicles will be prepped for their return to Germany.



In the dimly lit confines of an engagement control station, Sgt. Christopher Dupont, HQ Btry., 5-7 ADA, keeps a close eye on his radar screen looking for tactical ballistic missiles detected by the unit's radar set.



Working jointly at the JPOW IX intelligence cell, Royal Netherlands Air Force 1st Lt. Frank "Sleeves" Mouwen and Cpl. Jennifer Bare, HQ Btry., 69th ADA Bde., review a request for information from one of the coalition's tactical control stations.



Spectators to the Royal Netherlands Air Force live fire exercise sit in the "glass house" overlooking the range. From this point, the audience has an unobstructed view of the missile launches.



A Patriot missile fired by the Royal Netherlands Air Force leaves the "can" at supersonic speed. Within seconds it destroys its target flying over the Cretan Sea.



PHOTOS BY SGT. JOHN QUEEN

A swift breeze blowing across the missile range brings life to the NATO Missile Firing Installation, NATO, Greek and German flags.

# V Corps Air Defense unit trains in Greece

SGT. JOHN QUEEN

69th ADA Bde. Public Affairs

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SOUDA BAY, Greece – Nearly 130 Soldiers from V Corps' 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade joined a coalition of European air defenders on the Greek island of Crete recently for the ninth installment of Joint Project Optic Windmill.

The Soldiers, most of who are assigned to the Hanau, Germany, 5th Battalion, 7th ADA, spent nearly six weeks throughout March and April on the Mediterranean Island training with their Dutch, German, Norwegian and Greek counterparts at the NATO Missile Firing Installation near the port city of Chania.

The multi-national exercise, planned by the Royal Netherlands Air Force, centered around a mock conflict in which the United States and other nations in the NATO alliance set up and maintained an umbrella of air defense protection for the fictitious country of Turland against aerial attacks from an extremist organization based out of a similarly fictitious country called Verland.

Capt. Joe Davis, assistant operations officer for 5-7 ADA, said the mythical conflict was based on a number of tactical situations that could occur anywhere, at any time.

"We train as we fight," he explained. "Here we faced a more robust threat than we may face anywhere else, but we have to make sure we get the most beneficial training for our operators. If they can face this threat, they'll be able to face any other threat, anywhere we may need to go."

The types of threats the operators faced during the exercise varied on a daily basis in both intensity and diversity.

Air defense has been a part of the United States military's strategy since the Civil War, but today's high-tech threats pose much more of a challenge than the hot-air balloons of the 1800's.

On top of their overall destructiveness, modern-day ballistic and cruise missiles are posing as a potential terror weapon that could be used against populated, non-tactical areas. Guarding against these types of threats plays a key role, not only with the defense of U.S., but with the other member nations of NATO as well. Countering missile attacks has become an overall collective effort.

"We never know when or where we may go to war, or who we're going to go with," Davis said. "Who we train with today, very well could be our allies in war tomorrow."

Considered the premiere air-missile defense exercise in Europe, JPOW is one of the best opportunities for multinational forces to work together. It's also geared to explore and demonstrate NATO air and missile defense operations.

"This is by far the best exercise I've been involved in from a multinational perspective," Davis explained. "We learned how the other nations conducted their defense designs, their planning and how they operate."

Capt. Amy Kleefisch, an air defense artillery fire coordination officer from the 69th ADA headquarters, who worked

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