

# HQB, 31st Bde. rehearse for **COLOR GUARD**

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*31st ADA Bde. Public Affairs*

As waves of heat rise off the cooking asphalt of a desolate motor pool parking lot, a group of color guard comrades practice diligently assuring that timing and rhythm sync accordingly.

Through verbal commands, Soldiers execute standard and short maneuvers. This array of crisp movements are a part of what is known in the military as drill and ceremony, an important facet of being a color guard Soldier.

Six Soldiers of the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade's Headquarter, Headquarters Battery have been selected to serve as the brigade's color guard during Col. Jeffery Oeser's change of command ceremony Wednesday.

Rehearsing meticulously for over a month, the Soldiers are guaranteeing the formation and its movements are precise and flawless for the occasion.

Staff Sgt. David Livermore of the brigade's electronic missile maintenance office was appointed to train based on his past color guard experience. Livermore oversees the Soldiers' training and ensures proper execution of the movements during the rehearsals.

A position on the color guard is deemed as one of honor, because Soldiers chosen are the individuals who present and carry the symbols of their unit, branch of the military and national flag. For this particular occasion, the III Corps colors will also be represented.

The color guard is formed with the arms bearers to the left of the lowest categorized flag's bearer and to the right of the national flag's bearer.

From reassuring the colors guard is 'dress right, dress,' tight, uniform, and in-step, Livermore stresses the importance of perfecting the movements by making Soldiers start over when a mistake is made.

"All eyes are on them," said Livermore, who added they will also be in the spotlight during the ceremony and must get it right the first time.

As the Soldiers marched on top of the motor pool's heated pavement, which served as a mock parade field, Livermore yelled out commands.

From "forward march," which initiated the movements of the rank, to "colors reverse," alerting each Soldier to perform a series of steps, placing the Soldiers back at their original position, but facing the opposite direction, and ending with "colors halt," notifying the high stepping formation to bring to come to



PHOTOS BY SPC. BROOKS FLETCHER

The 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade color guard includes from left: Spc. Luis Morillo, Sgt. Ekaterina Olchevski, and Spcs. Ronald McWhite, Patrick Riggins, Brandon Benningsohn and Raul Negroao.

a standstill. These were just a few of commands the Soldiers rehearsed thoroughly.

Along with these movements, more elaborate procedures will take place during the ceremony, such as uncasing the colors, left and right turn, and eye right.

The color guard trainees will rehearse until the day of the ceremony, reassuring their performance during the ceremony is perfect, said Livermore.

31st Brigade's change of command ceremony will be Wednesday at Noel Field. An article on the event will appear in the July 27 edition of *The Monitor*.



Staff Sgt. David Livermore discusses procedures and techniques with the color guard trainees.

(Left) Livermore follows every step of the formation, as they execute a 'pivot reverse.'