

South Korea-based 35th ADA poised for danger

HEIKE HASENAUER

Soldiers Magazine

OSAN AIR BASE, Korea – You know you’ve arrived at a real-world hotspot where the potential for danger is palpable when you see a U2 spy plane lift off and disappear over the horizon and a U.S. Patriot missile battery “hot” crew spring into action.

Soldiers of the Osan-based C Battery, 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery – part of the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade – in their rotation as the battery’s on-call crew, underwent an operational readiness exercise to ensure the “live” Patriot missiles positioned toward North Korea are, in fact, ready to launch at a moment’s notice.

The eight Patriot launchers in C Btry. alone are critical to the defense of the air base where U.S. and Republic of Korea military air assets are located.

The drill tested the crew’s communication skills and response times to complete various technical checks of the missile system to get it up and running in response to a potential missile attack from North Korea, said battalion executive officer Maj. Roland Quidachay.

As part of the launcher platoon, Spc. Daniel Nebrida checked missile switches and ensured the generator that fires the missiles heated sufficiently to do so. Another crewmember checked cable-to-missile canister connections.

The 35th ADA is the only air defense brigade in the Pacific, said Col. John Rossi, brigade commander.

Composed of two battalions of missile batteries that collectively boast PAC-3-level Patriot missile and Avenger missile capabilities, “we’re spread over some 389 kilometers, from the top of the [South Korean] peninsula to the bottom,” added Maj. J.M. Rose, brigade operations officer.

From the brigade operations center at Osan Air Base, unit officials can monitor potential threats via joint satellite images.

These show aircraft locations and missile launches, not only from North Korea but Russia, China and Saudi Arabian training launches as well, Rose said.

(See Page 13 for related photo.)

Energy Awareness Month promotes wiser use of limited resources

J.D. LEIPOLD

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – October is National Energy Awareness Month and this year’s theme, “Energy independence depends on us,” promotes wiser use of limited energy resources, and highlights the importance of energy to the economic prosperity, security and growth of America.

The Army has reduced energy consumption by 29.4 percent since 1985. But “unfortunately, from 2003 to 2005 we increased energy use by 3.5 percent due to the global war on terrorism and a loss of focus on energy conservation,” said Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey.

Because the Department of Defense is the nation’s single largest user of energy and the Army is the largest utilities consumer, Harvey said “we must be a leader in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy products and emerging technologies.”

Myths

According to Don Juhasz, chief, utilities and energy team under the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, “There are myths, routinely held as fact, that inhibit cost-saving practices.”

One such fable is that the Army doesn’t pay for utilities.

“The Army is one of the government’s largest utility customers, spending nearly \$1 billion annually on those costs,” Juhasz said. “Just a 10 percent decrease in utility consumption would lower the government’s expenditures more than \$100 million a year.”

Another myth is that it takes more energy to turn lights on and off than to just leave them on.

“Not so,” according to Juhasz. “It does require a surge of energy, up to 300 percent and one-sixtieth of a second after which the energy flow becomes a steady state. Human reaction time in turning a switch off and on exceeds this by about 15 times.

“A person could stand there flipping a switch off and on and the off-time would offset any energy increase from the on-cycle, he said.

Lamp life is decreased with on and off switching, but because of the time the fixture is off during switching, the overall time between bulb replacement is actually increased by one second for every one second the light is off, so that it takes at least the normal life hours – 20 thousand for a good florescent – to decrease its life to half by constantly switching it off and on.

“The bottom line,” he said, “is it saves utility costs if lights are turned off when a room is unoccupied, even for two seconds.”

Yet another myth is that motor pools and buildings be lit from the outside during darkness per security regulations.

“Only the bunker lights at an ammunition supply point are required to be on during all hours of darkness. All other security lighting is at the discretion of the commanding officer,” Juhasz said.

“It has been proven that pilferage and vandalism

have decreased at military facilities and on school grounds where the lights have been turned out,” he added. “The intruders then have to bring their own lights and can be more easily spotted by security forces.”

Improving energy management

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 charges individuals and government agencies with improving energy management to save money and reduce environmentally harmful emissions.

To reduce energy costs by two percent, as mandated by the EP Act, the Army established an energy campaign plan that extends through 2030.

The Army energy strategy is based on these five initiatives:

- Eliminate/reduce energy waste in existing facilities;
- Increase energy efficiency in renovation and new construction;
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels;
- Conserve water resources; and
- Improve energy security.

Energy Star

Energy Star, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, was created in 1992 to help consumers, businesses and government agencies save money by offering energy efficient products.

A voluntary labeling program, Energy Star identifies and promotes energy-efficient products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Computers and monitors were the first labeled products. Later, the EPA expanded the label to additional office equipment and residential heating and cooling equipment.

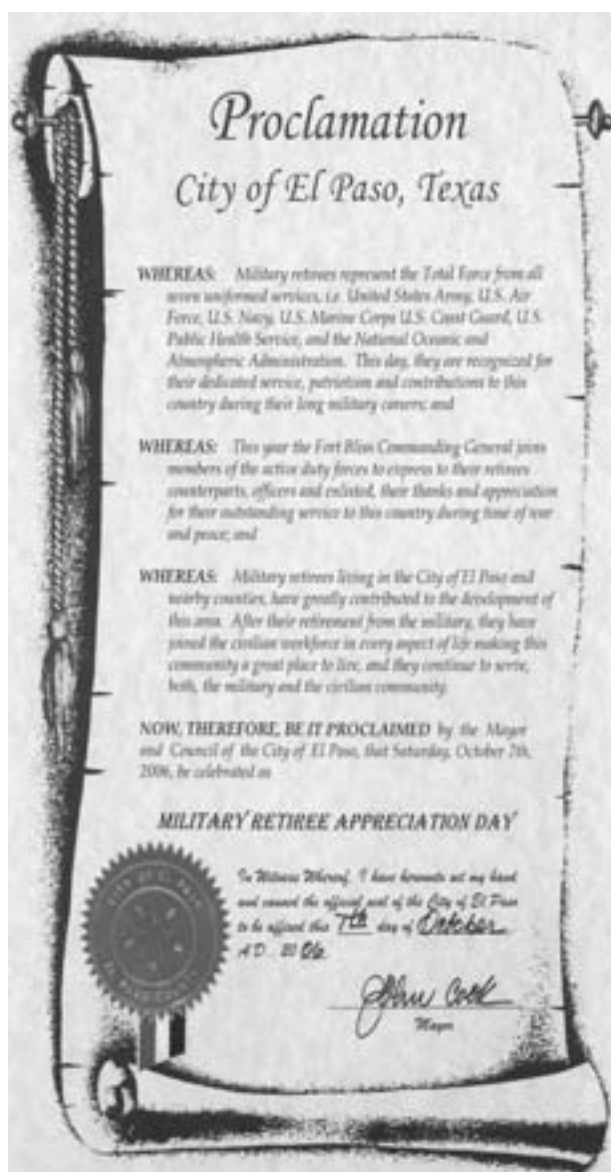
Today, the label is on major appliances, lighting, home electronics and also on new homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Over the past decade, Energy Star has been a driving force behind the more widespread use of such innovations as LED traffic lights, efficient fluorescent lighting, power management systems for office equipment and low standby energy use.

According to their Web site, Energy Star has partnerships with more than 8,000 private and public sector organizations. Energy and cost savings to consumers, business and government agencies in 2005 was roughly \$12 billion. With the help of Energy Star, Americans also saved enough energy in 2005 to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 23 million cars.

Along with energy efficient products, Energy Star also offers solutions to common household problems to help reduce your energy costs. They can offer an online home analysis and assistance along with possible solutions to most home problems including mold and mildew, to dust, damp basements, dry winter air and moisture on windows.

For more information on Energy Star to go www.energystar.gov.

For more information on the Army Energy Program go to Army Energy Program.



Keeping the peace

Maj. Jose Devarona, battalion executive officer for the U.N. Command Security Bn., looks toward the tall gray building that's the North Korean Visitor Center at the Joint Security Area, Panmunjom. The building to his left is the Military Armistice Building. To the right is what U.S. and Republic of Korea Soldiers call the "Monkey House," because North Korean armed guards are said to make rude and threatening gestures from the building when a meeting is taking place in the armistice building.

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