



PHOTOS BY SPC. BROOKS FLETCHER

A HAWK missile is fired during the Japanese certification exercise at McGregor Range, N.M., Oct 1 through 18.

## 3-2 ADA assists Japanese with HAWK certification

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31st Brigade Public Affairs Office

**A**s a part of Fort Bliss' Red Cycle Tasking, Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery's A and C Batteries supported soldier from the Japanese Army during their HAWK missile systems certification, held on McGregor Range, N.M. Oct. 1-18.

From calibrations with the ranges main control, HAWK tower, to the two radars controlled by the engagement control stations, certification began with an arrangement of harmonization and coordination among the range and the multiple sectors involved in the certification.

The week began with tuning the range's radars with one another, as well as the main tower. This is accomplished by using an F-14 aircraft, which does a fly-by calibration, acting as a simulated hostile, ensuring the sections' air pictures are in sync.

2nd Lt. Cesar Torres, C Btry.'s fire control platoon leader, stated that the purpose of the certification is to allow the Japanese Army to certify on procedures and meet criteria set by their command's standards and report back. And ultimately, to certify that the missiles in their arsenal are functional and suitable for any possible future engagements.

Torres and 2nd Lt. Steve Baker from A Btry., who monitored the ECS's radars, assisted in monitoring

the range by providing the main picture and information to HAWK Tower.

"[HAWK Tower] oversees everyone, all the way through the countdown," said Torres.

Although HAWK Tower monitors the entire range through use of the two radars, ensuring all range actions and activities are in accordance during calibration phase and prior to the live engagement, the ECSs are the 'eyes' for HAWK Tower.

"Without the ECS, there is no certification for the Japanese," said Torres.

Overall, 3-2 ADA's direct involvement requires the battalion to monitor the engagement of the missiles during the certification.

"There are two radar for redundancy, in the event that one fails," said Torres.

"In the event of a bad missile [one which malfunctions and goes off flight path], HAWK Tower has full command and control of the missile," said Torres.

Once calibration is accomplished, range simulates engagement with aircraft, allowing the range to correct any calibration errors.

The following day the range is cleared and restricted, and prepared for an actual live fire of the HAWK missiles.

The range conducts three runs, the first ensured calibration is accurate, and the last two are actual engagements with the HAWK missiles, which is shot at an unmanned aerial vehicle once it enters the weapons engagement zone.

The certification was successful, when the Japanese Army successfully engaged destroyed both hostile targets.

Col. Takashi Hoshisashi, commander of 5th Air Defense Artillery Group, mention his satisfaction with their involvement with Fort Bliss' HAWK annual service practice.

**'In the event of a bad missile [one which malfunctions and goes off flight path], HAWK tower has full command and control of the missile.'**

2nd Lt. Cesar Torres  
C Battery Fire Control  
Platoon Leader



A Japanese soldier returns a HAWK missile launcher after a successful live fire.



After a successful engagement, a Japanese soldier hoists the nation's flag, which is signed by the command.